

ST MARYS HALL ASSOCIATION



Newsletter 111
2010/2011

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

COMMITTEE

Hon President and Hon Chair:	Mrs. Susan M Meek
Hon Vice Presidents:	Miss N Olwen Davies Mrs. E Olive Leslie Mrs. Clare Feaver Mrs. Teresa Broadbent Mrs. Pamela James
Old Girl Governor:	Sophie Bowles
Hon Secretary and Hon Editor:	Penny (Titheradge) Harrison
Overseas Members Rep:	Gigi Chan
Hon Treasurer:	Diana (Markham) Sijpesteijn
Committee Members:	Virginia James Robina Methven Akiko (Shaw) Hickey Charlotte Sabel Jodie Graham Alice Rawdon-Mogg Olive Ridge Jo Stubbs
Member / Shadow Hon Secretary	Kathy Howard
Archivist:	Sue Carnochan

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Dear SMHA member

No sooner had we published 2010's Newsletter – in fact even before it was posted on the website – than we started to receive more News from you. As we also have exciting news to share about 2011's General Meeting and about the artefacts and memorabilia from School, as well as an update on St Mark's Chapel we have decided to publish an interim Newsletter.

We are deeply indebted to

Janet (Summerscale) Jones, in Canada, who kindly offered to print and send Newsletters to Sheila Waller, also in Canada, who can't access them. Miriam (Coleman) Delorie, in South Africa, who has offered to print and post Newsletters to Clare (Waddell) Borchardt, also in South Africa, as she can't access them.

Clare Urwin, who offered to print "as required" from now on and also printed a copy of edition 110 for Clare Feaver

Jan (Launchbury) Johnson who not only printed and posted 13/14 copies of edition 110 to O.G.'s but also bound and presented them beautifully

Kate (Steiner) Tordoff who also printed and posted 13/14 copies

Sally (Buck) Watts and Alex (Russell) Hobson, who have offered to print and post future issues.

Sue Meek who printed a copy of edition 110 for Robina Methven.

Their assistance and generosity has meant that the cost of creating and sending the Newsletter this year has been NIL. The creation and maintenance of the website is less than the previous annual costs of a Newsletter so we have been able to move into the 21st century at a saving to SMHA. What an achievement – and all due to YOU. If anyone else can offer to assist then it will plainly lessen the burden on those identified above.

Finally, thanks to Susanne (Nicholls) Rea who volunteered to proof-read Newsletters for us (and picked up several typos in this!)

THANK YOU ALL.

Your Committee has discussed the position of Honorary President and recommend to you that Sue Meek is offered the position of Honorary Life President in recognition of her work both as Headmistress and during the very difficult past few years. We are sure you will wish to endorse this offer at the General Meeting. If you would like to serve on the Committee, which will be elected on 18th June, please contact the Secretary by email to discuss this. Nominations close on 31st March 2011

SMHA committee

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

Announcement of 2011 General Meeting
The 92nd General Meeting of SMHA will take place at 2 p.m. on
Saturday 18th June at
St George's Church, Kemp Town, Brighton BN2 1ED

All members of SMHA (Life, Associate, Hon. Associate) are warmly invited to attend (only Life Members may vote).

Lunch is available before the meeting, pre-booked, using the form below. Please return this, with your payment, no later than 31st March 2011, to Penny Harrison, Apartment 5 Liber House Olympian Court York YO10 3UF. Cheques should be made payable to SMHA. Lunch at St George's Church can't be purchased on the day, so if you would like to join us please ensure that you send your form back in good time!

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Welcome and School Prayer
3. Remembrance of those members who have died since the 2009 meeting.
4. Report from Hon President and Chair on the work of SMHA Committee since the 2009 meeting
5. Report from Hon Secretary
6. Report from Hon Treasurer

7.0 Voting:

The Committee asks Life members to adopt the following

- (a) Accounts of SMHA for 2010, as correct (to be published on website before 31st March 2011)
- (b) Constitution of SMHA as revised and published below

7.1

The Committee asks Life members to vote to elect

- (a) Sue Meek as Honorary Life President of SMHA
- (b) and up to 11 Life Members to serve on the Committee for the period to the next General Meeting of SMHA**

8. Any Other Business.

To be followed by SMHA Prayer and close of meeting

** Nominations so far received:

Penny Harrison	Diana Sijpesteijn	Virginia James
Alice Rawdon-Mogg	Olive Ridge	Jo Stubbs
Kathy Howard	Jodie Graham	Robina Methven

n.b. Officers will be chosen from the Life Members on the newly elected Committee at a meeting of the Committee held immediately after the General Meeting.



St Mary's Hall Association

Constitution Draft for approval at SMHA General Meeting 2011 (item 7.0 (b))

Objects

1. The objects of the Association shall be to link former Pupils and Staff of St. Mary's Hall together and to serve as a source of support, both spiritual and practical, to former pupils and staff.

Membership

2. All former pupils and all past staff of the Hall shall be eligible for Life Membership. Former pupils and former staff shall be eligible for Associate Membership but shall not be entitled to vote.

2.1 Life Members are entitled:

- (i) to full access to the SMHA website
- (ii) to vote at General Meetings
- (iii) to stand for office of SMHA
- (iv) to vote for officers of SMHA
- (v) to vote to dispose of the surplus funds in the event of the Association being wound up

2.2 Associate Members are entitled:

- (i) to limited view of website
- (ii) to contact the Secretary to ask to have their details passed to other Members with whom they wish to establish/re-establish contact.
- (iii) to upgrade to Life Membership at any time by paying the appropriate fee

Subscription

3. Each Life Member shall pay a Life subscription, the amount of which shall be determined from time to time by the Committee. The amount of subscription, if any, for Associate Members, shall be determined from time to time by the Committee.

General Meetings

4. The Chairman shall call such General Meetings of the Association as may be necessary but not less than one every three years. The Chairman must call a General Meeting if at least twenty Life Members of the Association ask him/her in writing to do so.

Notices of Meetings

5. The Secretary shall notify Members, by placing a notice on the website of the Association and in writing to those UK* Life Members who have specifically informed the Secretary of their wish to receive all Association documents in this way, of the time and place of the General Meeting as early as possible and at least a month before the date when it is to be held. Notice of the Agenda of a General Meeting shall be given with the notice of the Meeting and no other business shall be transacted at such a Meeting. Life Members shall have the right to vote in person at the Meeting or to email or post their vote to the Secretary to arrive at least one week before the Meeting. Life Members may also nominate a fellow Life Member to cast a proxy vote at the Meeting. They must give written authority for this to said Member.

*n.b. Overseas Members are entitled to opt for this for the years 2010-2012 only.

Management

6.
 - 6.1 An elected Life Member of the Association shall be the Honorary Chairman of the Association.
 - 6.2 An elected Life Member of the Association may be elected to fill the office of Honorary Vice Chairman.
 - 6.3 The other officers of the Association shall be:-
 - (a) An Honorary Secretary (elected Life Member)
 - (b) An Honorary Treasurer (elected Life Member)
 - (c) An Honorary Editor (elected Life Member)
 - (d) All ex Headmistresses of St. Mary's Hall shall be honorary Vice Presidents of the Association.
 - (e) An Honorary President

[(a) and (c) may be the same person but must be different from (b), however wherever possible these posts should be held by separate individuals.]
 - 6.4 The Association shall be managed by a Committee which shall consist of:-
 - (a) The Chairman, Vice Chairman (if any), President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor.
 - (b) Up to six other elected or co-opted Life Members.
 - 6.5 The Officers and Life Members of the Committee shall be elected for a period of office of three years and shall be eligible for re-election for a second term. A decision on whether subsequent periods or re-election should be possible will be reviewed by the Committee before the date of the General Meeting in 2014 and the Constitution will be re-drafted to reflect this decision by that date.
 - 6.6 Elections of Officers and Committee Members shall take place at the General Meeting.
 - 6.7 The Committee may co-opt up to four additional Life Members to serve for any period between General Meetings.
 - 6.8 The Committee shall meet at least once a year. The Chairman or Secretary shall call such a Meeting by contacting Officers and Committee Members and notifying them of the time and place for such a Meeting at least one month prior to the date that it is to be held. Notice of the Agenda for the Committee Meeting shall be given with the notice of the Meeting. Committee Meetings may be held in any convenient manner including remote conference calling. The quorum shall be four.
 - 6.9 The Committee may appoint sub-Committees. The Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary shall be ex-officio Members of all sub-Committees. In the event of the Chairman not wishing to serve as Chairman of a sub-Committee, the sub-Committee shall appoint its own Chairman.

Accounts

7. The Treasurer shall present an annual balance sheet to 31 December each year together with details of all income and expenditure for that year to the Committee. All such annual accounts since the previous General Meeting shall be reported to Members at the next General Meeting. The accounts maintained by the Hon. Treasurer shall be examined by a suitably qualified individual who is not a Life Member or Associate Member of SMHA.

Investments/Bank Accounts

8. The Treasurer shall seek approval from the Committee for the opening of all new bank accounts and the purchase of any investments by the Association. All bank accounts must have a second Officer or Committee Member as authorised signatory on the account.

Expenditure

9. The Committee shall be responsible for determining the regular expenditure of the Association in terms of arranging General Meetings, reunions and general communication with Members. Expenditure of up to £500 may be made with the agreement of any three Officers. Expenditure of between £500 and £1500 must be pre-approved by the Committee. Any other expenditure in excess of £1,500 shall be first approved by the Life Members at a General Meeting.

Amendments

10. Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted to a General Meeting of the Association and shall be adopted if two thirds of the Life Members present or voting in accordance with 5, above are in favour. Notice of any proposed amendment shall be advised to Members with the Notice of the General Meeting.

Communications

11. Notices of Meetings and other communications shall be made available to Members by the means stated in 6, above.

Data protection

12. The personal data of Members will be used by the Association for purposes of maintaining the list of Members in accordance with the rules of the Association. In addition, details of Members who have given their permission for this may be viewed by Life Members on the SMHA website.

Winding up

13. In the event that the Life Members vote to wind up the Association they will be entitled to vote as to how any surplus funds will be distributed whether it be to those Life Members, a charity, or charities, or other body.

**Tear off slip for lunch booking
(may be photocopied or otherwise copied out)**

Please book me (number of tickets) for lunch, to be served at St George's Church, from (noon – 1.15 p.m.) at a cost of £12 per ticket to include a glass of wine or soft drink.

(Tea/Coffee/soft drink will be provided free of charge at 1.30 p.m., prior to the meeting)

Name (print).....

Address for tickets to be posted (if possible please enclose an s.a.e. or give an email address for tickets to be emailed to you)

I enclose my cheque for £12 in full, advance, non refundable payment.

I understand that if my tickets do not arrive it is my responsibility to contact SMHA to make enquiries and that I will not be able to purchase lunch at St. George's Church on the day.

Signed.....

Date.....

Return this slip with your cheque to
Penny Harrison, Apartment 5, Liber House, Olympian Court,
York YO10 3UF,
to arrive by 31st March 2011

Roles and Responsibilities of Officers of SMHA
All Officer roles are Honorary

Chair

The Chair will:

- have a complete knowledge and understanding of the Constitution of the Association
- provide advice, guidance and assistance to Committee members in supporting the strategic aims, objectives and activities of the Association.
- Chair the Committee Meetings and General Meetings
- ensure meetings are appropriately organised in a timely and professional manner by the Committee Secretary in accordance with the Constitution
- ensure the Association's funds are appropriately managed by the Treasurer in line with the Association's Constitution (see "Treasurer").
- represent the Association as and where necessary and appropriate as requested by the Committee.
- encourage and ensure that Committee Members deal with Committee matters in a timely and appropriate manner.
- help to identify potential new Committee Members in conjunction with the Secretary
- act as an additional signatory on bank and similar accounts, as one of the three authorised signatories.

Deputy Chair

The Deputy Chair will:

- Cover for the Chair in all activities
- Assist the Chair in all activities

Secretary / Editor

(a) **Committee Secretary – normally the role of the Secretary**

The Secretary will:

- Act as secretary to the Committee, calling meetings as required/requested, circulating information, attending and minuting such meetings
- Provide information to Committee Members between meetings, ensuring an open channel of communication at all times
- Act as an additional signatory on bank and similar accounts, acting as one of the three authorised signatories, and banking cheques received from new members or advertisers, providing details of these to the Treasurer on a regular basis
- Support the Chair in all Committee matters

(b) **Membership and web – may be the role of Secretary or Editor**

The Secretary or Editor will:

- Update the master-sheet and the web database in response to information provided by members / new members
- Refresh and update the web pages in conjunction with the web-editor on a bi-monthly basis and ensures members are aware of updates

(c) **Newsletter – role of Editor**

The Editor will:

- Seek out News and other information to edit the annual Newsletter
- Complete the Newsletter and turn it into a PDF which is then placed on the website
- Contact members who have agreed to print Newsletters and ensure they are sent to those who request hard copies

The Secretary will:

(d) **Undertake any other reasonable duties as requested by Chair/Deputy Chair**

Treasurer

The Treasurer will:

(a) Keep the books of the Association in accordance with the Constitution

- bank any cheques received and pay any expenses incurred on a timely basis.
- keep a detailed record of the income and expenditure of the Association in the form of a cash book. This should be reconciled regularly (and at least annually) with the bank statements. All supporting documentation to be retained for at least 6 years.
- produce an Income and Expenditure account and Balance Sheet ("the Accounts") to 31 December each year.
- submit the Accounts together with the cash book and all supporting documentation for annual review by a suitable qualified independent person in accordance with the Constitution.
- provide a copy of the Accounts to the Secretary for inclusion in the annual Newsletter to be sent to Members.
- maintain the Association's bank accounts to maximize interest and reduce charges
- regularly research deposit interest rates and make recommendations to the Committee for the best place to deposit surplus Association funds.
- arrange for completion of all bank mandate and similar paperwork to ensure that the Treasurer, Chair and Secretary are authorised signatories – Treasurer plus one other to sign all cheques etc.
- liaise with HMRC as required with regard to the tax position of the Association's income.

(b) Undertake any other reasonable duties as requested by Chair/Deputy Chair

Further information re: 18th June 2011

Parking:

Parking is possible (four hours) at the Marina, then catch the number 7 bus to school and walk down to St George's Church

It MAY be possible to park in the former school grounds. We will advise this nearer the time.

Visits:

After the Meeting we hope that it will be possible to visit St Mark's Chapel to see where much of our memorabilia is displayed and to view progress towards what we hope is our new and hopefully permanent focal point.

We have also obtained agreement from Roedean for members to visit the school to view our Archives. Thanks to Roedean for this – and to Sue Carnochan, Archivist, for all her work.

Portraits of the Elliott family formerly at SMH are now housed in a permanent exhibition in the Brighton Museum in Royal Pavilion Gardens [opening times on Saturdays 1000-1700] if you wish to view these.

Tea:

Sue Meek has most generously offered "a cuppa" to any members who would like to drop in at 26 Eaton Place Kemp Town from 4.30 – 6.30 p.m..

Members of the new committee will be there until around 5.30 p.m..

Postal / Proxy Votes:

If you wish to vote by Post please contact the Hon Secretary for details. If you wish to give a Proxy Vote to a Life Member who is attending please contact them AND the Hon Secretary to arrange this.

NEWS FROM HONORARY PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS

MRS. SUE MEEK

Dear Friends,

Following the very encouraging Committee meeting in Brighton in June, there have continued to be informal gatherings of SMH pupils and staff throughout the summer. At the end of the academic year, the 'SMH' Year 11 at Roedean invited both the SMH staff who transferred to Roedean, and those of us who didn't, to their Leavers' Dinner at La Piazza in Hove, which coincided with the first match for England in the World Cup! Needless to say we were all very vocal, but our exuberance did not seem to frighten away other diners!

It was good to have the opportunity to celebrate Y11's achievement in having overcome the challenges of changing school in the middle of their GCSE courses. It was not an easy transition, but with the outstanding support of Olive Ridge as their tutor, they did their best and we wish them well as results day approaches. Three students plan to stay on for the sixth form at Roedean and the rest have places at sixth form colleges in Brighton and Lewes. One or two are taking an early gap year while they consider their options.

On July 3rd ex-boarders and staff gathered at St George's Church to celebrate the life of Val Withers. Val had planned the service with Father Andrew when she was in the Martlets Hospice, so we enjoyed her favourite hymns and readings and felt the occasion was a fitting farewell to a dedicated and committed Housemistress. Many staff and girls were there. Sophie Bowles came up from Cardiff and sang God Be In My Head with the choir. Linda Pang travelled from Warwick University, Deputy Head Girl Alice Heans and Sabine Van der Sande came down from London. The church provided tea and there was a big collection for Cancer UK. Pamela James also attended.

To update you on the school site : the Royal Sussex County Hospital will shortly take up residence in the main school buildings, using the boarding houses for trainee doctors and nurses. They are leasing the accommodation, but it was interesting to read in the Argus recently that an application has been made by the Hospital to the Government for a loan of £10 million to purchase SMH Senior School.

Before Roedean finally vacated the site, I wrote to the Bursar, as requested by the Committee, to ask if he would consider returning the items of furniture and portraits, which had been moved to Roedean and which mean so much to us as an historical archive, but are of little monetary value. Olive Ridge also kindly made an informal approach, as she was on site. I am delighted to tell you that these items have now been returned to us, but as we have yet to find a permanent home, they are stored safely in various places around Brighton. My spare bedroom is choc a bloc and so is Sue Carnochan's loft!

Progress regarding St Mark's Chapel is frustratingly slow, but as Roedean has been dealing with the school site first, we hope that we will be able to move this forward in the Autumn. Father Andrew has been stalwart in these negotiations, supported so ably by Margaret Ellis. We are so grateful for all their efforts on our behalf. If and when the Chapel is returned to the parish, we have been offered storage spaces for our archives from

which we will be able to make exhibitions on the school's history. It will also provide us with a much needed 'home' for meetings and reunions.

Sue Carnochan continues to work energetically on researching past pupils and answering enquiries. The obituaries to an illustrious alumna and Headmistress Margaret Gray as reported in the Times and Telegraph in July sent us into a flurry of excitement as Sue discovered her name in the registers and the fact that she had been a clergy daughter and Head Girl! (I wonder how many Head Girls become Headmistresses!)

I have been regularly in touch with Rev Martin Broadbent, husband of Headmistress Teresa, who has kindly kept me up to date with Teresa's progress since the onset of her illness at Easter. His news of Teresa appears below.

I do urge you to keep sending news and photographs! You are the Association and for it to thrive we need to keep the lines of communication alive and kicking! The next milestone date for your diaries is Saturday 18th June 2011 in St George's and we need a good turn out to elect a new Committee and plan the way ahead – as well as having some fun meeting up with old friends. Don't forget that if you are not yet a Life Member it is never too late to become one!

To finish, may I pay special tribute to Olive Ridge who has now concluded her long teaching career. Mike Wells, who was my first Deputy and Olive, who was my last, celebrated her wonderful achievements over lunch at Hotel du Vin a few weeks ago. I know that many pupils who benefited from her generous and wise counsel will want to join me in wishing her every happiness in the 'next stage', whatever she chooses that to be! She has been an absolute tower of strength, particularly during the past difficult year and I am personally extremely indebted to her for her support. We are so pleased she has agreed to be put forward for the Committee having been co-opted this year.

My thanks to the Committee - and especially to Penny Harrison for all she does to keep us on track – and warmest wishes, as always, to you all.

With affection
Sue Meek
SMH Headmistress 1997 – 2009, SMHA Hon President
(Current SMHA Hon Chair)

MISS OLWEN DAVIES

Olwen writes that she is enjoying her garden (but not the weeding) and the company of her family – now including two small great nephews.
SMH Headmistress 1965 – 1973, SMHA Hon Vice President

MRS. OLIVE LESLIE

Kathy Howard has spoken (29 July) to Olive Leslie's sister, who told her that Olive is very poorly. Every time they think she is getting worse, she bounces back; she is in surprisingly good spirits though, despite being so unwell and blind. There is a full time Carer, so Olive is well looked after, and any news on St Mary's Hall is read out to her. Her sister thanked us for keeping in touch.

SMH Headmistress 1973 - 1981, SMHA Hon Vice President

MRS. CLARE FEAVER

This summer, Clare writes that she has continued to be involved in the festivities at Chichester Cathedral, and has enjoyed a visit to Lake Como which she hadn't been to before. Clare also met up with Anne Williams, who taught Maths and was a housemistress. Clare would be pleased to see people from SMH - provided they ring her up first to see if she's around.
SMH Headmistress 1981 - 1988, SMHA Hon Vice President

MRS. TERESA BROADBENT

On Maundy Thursday Teresa Broadbent fainted at home and a brain scan showed a colloidal cyst in an awkward place in a drainage channel of the brain. The operation to remove it at Frenchay Hospital Neuro Unit was successful, but a couple of weeks after the operation she suffered a blood clot in the brain. This led to a second 6 hour operation and she was initially paralysed down the left side. She has slowly recovered and on June 21st she was transferred to the Bath Neuro rehabilitation Unit at the Mineral Water Hospital. She is now able to walk normally, her long term memory is functioning properly and her short term memory is slowly improving. We hope she will be discharged some time in September. The hospital staff agree she is making a remarkable recovery.

SMH Headmistress 1988 – 1991, SMHA Hon Vice President

MRS. PAMELA JAMES

One of Pamela's old pupils [whom she taught at Steyning Grammar, before she came to St Mary's Hall] contacted her to ask if she would like to go to the Antiques Roadshow filmed recently at Brighton College. The pupil, Geoffrey Munn, is a very successful jeweller and is currently in Bond Street. He told Pamela that when she arrived there was likely to be long queue, and advised her to march to the head of this queue and sit at the table with him while he did his inspections/valuations - which she did! Pamela said that she thoroughly enjoyed the day, seeing all the various items that people had brought. She was also delighted to encounter Jenny Hurst (formerly a PE teacher at SMH).

SMH Headmistress 1991 – 1997, SMHA Hon Vice President

Obituaries

Sheila (Higham) Bovill, (1947-1953) died 21 May 2010 following a long courageous struggle with cancer. Left to mourn her are her husband, three sons, family and friends.

Rosemary (Nolda) Matthews (1953-1960) died 15th June 2010. She had advanced bowel cancer diagnosed in February 2010. Sadly missed by her daughter, Lottie, family and friends.

NEWS*NEWS*NEWS of former pupils

Dr Maha Taysir Barakat, who left in 1986 to go to Cambridge, was awarded an OBE from HM the Queen in the 2010 Birthday Honours list.



Maha's sister Hoda told us about this and we contacted Maha to ask her for some information.

She wrote "This was a huge surprise, a real privilege and extremely humbling. The honour was for services overseas in public health, education and research, and relates to the work we have been doing in setting up and running the Imperial College London Diabetes Centre in Abu Dhabi. This centre is an affiliate of Imperial College London, from which I am seconded. Maha interests lie in the same field as Hon. Treasurer Diana (Markham) Sijpesteijn and they are now in touch with each other.

Susan (Harris) Roller, who resigned as Hon. Treasurer, SMHA, in June, was presented with a gift of garden centre vouchers by the Committee on behalf of SMHA in recognition of her very hard work in this role. Susan wrote "Please thank all the Committee for their very generous present and also kind words of thanks. I really enjoyed my stint as SMHA Treasurer, even though there was a bit more work involved than I originally envisaged! I do wish the Committee every success with keeping the Association going and hope to be able to attend future reunions in due course.

I lost a couple of shrubs and a rose last winter so I will probably use the garden tokens to fill those gaps. I love having a garden with several plants that people have given me as they give me ongoing pleasure and I look forward to nurturing some SMHA plants in due course.

Many thanks and all the best."

Wendy Foster got in touch with Penny (Titheradge) Harrison this summer and joined Penny, Diana (Markham) Sijpesteijn, Jackie (Brasher) Leask, Susan (Corringham) Medley and Rosemary (Haylock) Batts for a mini reunion in London early in September. Wendy has been teaching since she left college and has been Head Teacher of Millhouse Infant School and Nursery in Basildon for 14 years. Wendy's partner, Phil Shaw, is an ecologist and wildlife photographer whose interests include running photo tours to Africa. (www.naturephotopro.com)

Heather (Heald) Johnson wrote after the publication of the last Newsletter: "Congratulations on a great magazine, what a lot of work you have done to produce so much of interest. I particularly enjoyed the Archivist section and also Sue Meek's letter, plus of course news of old girls who were at the school in the 1950s.

A point I must make" (Heather continued) "is that I read carefully the information given by the Chairman of the Governors regarding the reasons for the closure of the school and also the way it was handled - how different to the school that my granddaughter attends. In early June all the parents and staff of her school received e-mails, not from the Board of Governors but from the Provisional Liquidator, to say that the school was to close at the end of this term, 29th June and that parents were expected to find their own placements for their daughters. It seemed unbelievable that this could happen, no one had an inkling there was trouble, not even the headmistress

and it appears that no effort was made to join up with any other schools. You can imagine the distress and the rushing around to find places for the girls. Fortunately Lauren has secured a place but I know of other girls, one about to go into 4th year who still has no place - dreadful. Thank goodness the Governors of St Mary's Hall did all they could to secure places for as many girls as possible.

Mention of Dr Beynon brought back many memories, he was our family doctor as well as the school doctor and my parents enjoyed his visits to our house, my parents were very sad when he retired.

In the Newsletter, Mary Howell Davies mentioned a record she has found. I must look and see if I still have the one made by the choir of the 'Happy Wanderer', it was great and I can still remember the tune although I was not in the choir."

Mary (Rand) Abbis wrote to say that when she was in Sussex recently with Lucinda (Tudor) Hassell they went up to Devil's Dyke and "amazingly got chatting to a lady and her dog (as you do!) and this lady lived in Sussex Square, right next door to St. Hilary. She had been there for 28 years and happily had no complaints about noise from the Hilary borders! She said everyone had been shocked at the school's closure, and also told us that half of Hilary was being converted into one complete house and the other half into 4 apartments." (Ed. I can confirm this – Diana Markham and I visited in June and thought they looked very swish!). Mary and Lucinda also drove past SMH which Mary said she thought looked very sad with all the 'for sale' signs up, although it was good to see the junior school referred to as Roedean Junior School at St. Mary's Hall. She hopes they continue to keep it like that.

Lynn (Benjamin) Tulip wrote to say she had found the website database very useful. Earlier this year she met and partnered Mary (McEwan) Hayhurst in a tennis match –"and she was my form teacher! Now I know where she lives I can contact her again! She played brilliantly - quite put me to shame."

Deb (Cohen) Deller contacted us recently. She attended SMH from 1959-1967. She asked for news of Marilyn Stead, Rosemary Lyons, Glynis Cox, Miranda Storrard, Rosemary Scully, Sally Felton and Angela Gillies; Barbara Edwards, Shuk-Tak Liang and Rosemary Bellamy. The database will put Deb in contact with both Rosemary Scully and Rosemary Bellamy, but we could not give her up to date details of the others...can anyone assist?

Deb writes that soon after leaving SMH, she joined a history degree course at Royal Holloway College, University of London. After graduation she went to work in a Local Education Authority. In 1973, she started working as a Careers Officer based in Worthing, and went to live with her parents in Hove. In April 1974, she moved to Brighton Careers Office, and worked there until she had a stroke in 2002. Deb married Clive Deller in 1977. Since she took early retirement in 2003, they have spent a lot of time in their flat on Spain's Costa Blanca. They have 2 sons, Geoffrey, 29 who married an American girl last year and moved to Atlanta, Georgia where he is working as an Investment Banker. Michael, 26, works as a qualified Mortgage Adviser and has two children with another on the way. Mike's wife, Sarah, has a Wedding Boutique called Sara D in Lewes which Deb commends to O.G.s!

Since Deb's email we have made contact with Rosemary (Boorne) Gillies (hoping she might be the "Angela" referred to by Deb) who wrote to let us know that she has worked at Worthing Hospital for the past 13 years, and previous to that for a GP surgery for 8 years, and initially at Hammersmith Hospital before having her family. Rosemary says "I have always loved hospital work and should perhaps have retired 2 years ago, but am still working full-time to help my youngest daughter get through her training to be an Architect." Several O.G.s are working, or have worked, within the NHS -including your Hon Editor and Hon Treasurer – it must be part of the "service" ethic so well instilled in us!

Miriam (Coleman) Delorie wrote "I was quite sad to log into my office computer this morning and see that St Mary's Hall is no more. We used to play rounders and netball with Roedean and there is a school in Johannesburg called Roedean. I was at St Mary's in about 1953 from 7 – 14yrs of age and boarded (my mother Margaret (Young) Winifred and her sister Frances Young were also old girls before me. I was in Babington House facing the sea. I would like to get in touch with Christine Cocks who was at St Mary's at the same time as me." (Please let us know if you can assist).

"I left England in 1967" Miriam continued "and lived in Zimbabwe for many years. In 1982 my husband and I moved to South Africa and we have been living here since 1984. My memories of St Mary's under the headmistress, Mrs. Conrady are very clear and your email this morning brought me back to my classroom seat – the orange juice and current bun at breaktime...it all doesn't seem so long ago at all!"

Miriam contacted Clare (Waddell) Borchardt by phone before sending her the Newsletter and dropped us a further line to say "Clare and I had such a nice chat...I think she thought she was hearing things when this strange woman said she was an old girl of St Mary's!!! So I'll send the newsletter and anything else you want to send me for her...I was so interested in the newsletter – I actually hadn't read it when you sent it originally and now I've printed it out...it's so beautifully put together and brings back a host of memories. Clare remembered Miss Conrady and Miss Wynn...and the dragon at the San!!! Isn't it so strange that when we are older, the younger days suddenly come flooding back and are so clear"

Susanne (Nicholls) Rea wrote that she has recently attended a Rotary Conference in Canberra. Her Facebook friend in Pakistan - RTN Jaffri had asked her to personally thank the World President for setting up a specific Foundation Fund for aid to flood victims in Pakistan. She thought that the opportunity would be unlikely however it came up quite easily. Ray Klinginsmith was very gracious and listened to the message from Pakistan.

Since then she have had the DG for Pakistan and Afganistan become her Facebook friends as well as a Rotarian in Canada.

A lot of the Conference centred on the importance of communication within Rotary and that the Public Image for Rotary needs increasing and changing from a Club for older men who meet for lunch!!

Also had the great opportunity to see the Australian War Memorial Museum, a Winery called Poachers Pantry that was a great venue for lunch and the wine label "Wily Trout". Susanne, who lives in Cairns, Australia, added that she saw kangaroos, deer, galahs, cockatoos and lambs - just for a change!

Margaret (Jones) McCall wrote to thank us for her hard copy of the Newsletter on behalf of all veterans of snail-mail only. "I am a relatively spry 87 now and still enjoy life and have lots of interests, especially in grandchildren these days. Just as I have lived in many different countries so do they, now. Some of my contemporaries, I think, will want to know of the death of Cilla (Priscilla Stoner) Forbes just after Christmas.

Cilla's son, Nigel Kennedy, came back to England to play his violin at her funeral, accompanied by his young Polish wife. Cilla was at SMH from 1932-1939, as I was. Another of my era is Elizabeth (Kennedy) Phillips who still lives on the family dairy farm in Tanzania. Her sister Rosemary, also at SMH, died some years ago."

Margaret continues "I also remember Pat Carr's name and was interested in her News. I wonder if anyone has news of Margaret Schurr who I know was a hospital Matron at some point in her career"

(Ed: I replied to Margaret with contact details of some of her contemporaries but have not been able to track down Margaret Schurr, although Google identifies her as the author of at least two publications "Leadership and the nurse: an introduction to the principles of management" and "Nurses and Management : what is it all about?" in the 1960s and 1970s. A contact at the Department of Health is also unable to assist.)

Please do let me have your news and that of your old-girl-friends;
it's always a pleasure.

Please would those of you who "Facebook" also mention our website
and encourage alumnae to get/keep in touch with us?

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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.