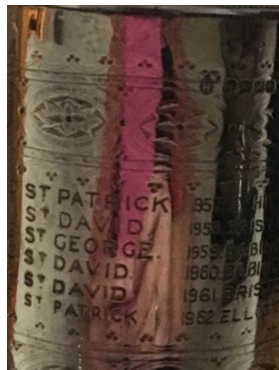


ST. MARY'S HALL ASSOCIATION AUTUMN e-LETTER

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

Dear Friends

Welcome to the Autumn newsletter. During the last couple of months I feel as if I have stepped back into a Victorian household as one of the kitchen maids who has been tasked with cleaning the silver! In July, I met Sue Meeks on a very windy morning and she handed me two boxes filled with a number of very black items, namely some (if not all) of the school trophies. Luckily I didn't have to do it all in a few hours, but then the Victorian silver would never have been allowed to become so tarnished I am sure. I have been rubbing away with the Goddards, an old toothbrush, soft cloth and, of course, latex gloves, and if I say so myself, they have polished up quite well! I am in the process of getting some of them valued and will have more news about what we are proposing to do with them in the next newsletter.



Team News

We have managed to hold our second virtual Skype Team Meeting last month with everyone managing to join in with the exception of Diana who experienced a local connectivity problem in the wilds of Yorkshire, but she very ably managed to email her reports in so the rest of us could continue with her views expressed as well.

The Minutes are now on the website if you want to know what was discussed.

Talking of the website, **Sue McDonagh** and **Lis Eastham** have been doing a lot of tidying up in the back rooms of the site, and generally trying to make it all more user friendly. If you haven't logged in to have a look, please do so: www.smhassociation.org – Login details at the end of this newsletter. Feedback/suggestions are also very welcome – it is, after all, your website too!

Finally, on Team News we are sorry to announce that **Diana Markham** has decided to stand down as Treasurer at the end of the Financial Year, 31 December. Diana has been in the role since 2009 but has decided that it is now time to step back and let someone else take on this role. We are extremely grateful for all she has done for the Association over the last eight years, not only on the accounts but for her input into the management of the Association as well.

On the plus side, **Sian Spencer**, one of our two Team Members, has agreed to step into **Diana's** shoes, so you should not even notice the seamless handover.

A vacancy has, therefore, arisen in the Management Team for the Association for a new Team Member. The requirements are:

- To be available to respond to a monthly email which sets out / progresses the annual work of the Team
- To pick up and achieve discrete piece(s) of work as agreed with the whole Team as part of the annual agenda.
(Both these are time sensitive and out of respect for other Team members, all of whom juggle i.e. jobs/voluntary work/families and social lives with what they do for the Assn. you are expected to be proactive in achieving within deadlines which are agreed in advance).
- To be available for two Skype calls (each around 1-2 hours in length) in Spring/Autumn of each year

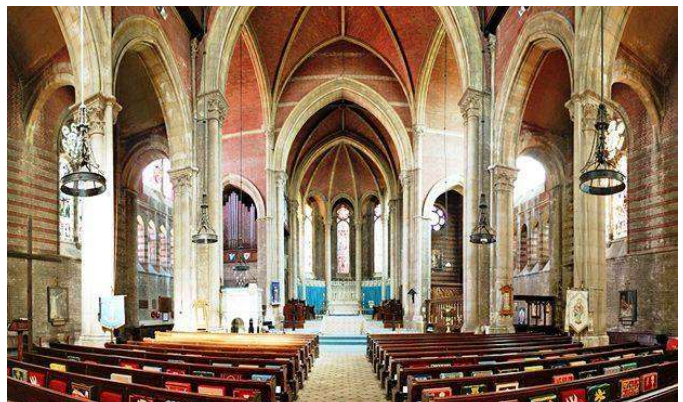
As the current Team is biased towards more 'senior' Old Girls we would be very keen to attract someone from those who left after 1980 but anyone with the will/wish to assist is warmly invited to contact the Team Manager, Penny, on FB, Messenger or email: smhaenquiries@gmail.com as soon as possible.

*****Forthcoming Events*****

Carols at St Mary's Church, Brighton

As announced in the last newsletter, we are delighted that SMHA members have been invited to join the congregation at this lovely Service on **Sunday, 10 December at 5 pm**. One of our Team members, **Sian Spencer (Williams) 1967-1977**, who has been instrumental in making all the arrangements for this event, will be reading a lesson.

St Mary's Church has a long connection with St Mary's Hall. Henry Venn Elliott was the founding minister of the church and founded St Mary's Hall whilst he was





there. The church holds the portraits of the Elliott family on long term loan from SMHA together with several other artefacts from the school.

There will be a reception in the Church, following the service, and Father Andrew would be delighted if we will all stay for this.

If you would like to attend, can you please let me (secretary@smhassociation.org) or **Sian** (sianspencer@yahoo.co.uk) know – ideally asap, but by 20 November so that we can let the organisers know a rough idea of numbers for the catering. This Service will also be open to the public so it is not ‘our own’ reunion. If you and

your friends want to go on somewhere else for a get-together following the Service, please feel free to make your own arrangements. I understand that there is a pub over the road serving food into the evening.

Just to note – parking is at a premium in Kemptown! You will need to allow for two hours parking (up to £5/hour). Nearest carparks are Church Street, North Road or the Marina.

CAR SHARE: If you would like to attend but have difficulty getting there on a Sunday, or if you are intending to go and would be happy to give a lift to someone, can you please let Sian or me know and we can try and marry you up. I have already had an enquiry from someone in Lancing who would love to attend but doesn’t want to drive in the dark.

100 Club

July 48 entries

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| 1 st Margaret Ellis | No 62 |
| 2 nd Debbie Swales | No 34 |

August 32 entries

| | |
|---|-------|
| 1 st Sue Carnochan | No 46 |
| 2 nd Hilary Briegel-Jones | No 13 |

September 44 entries

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 st Shirley Read -Jahn | No 3 (September VCR Competition Winner) |
| 2 nd Daphne Bonner | No 65 |

The **100 Club** raises funds for helping towards the day to day running of the Association going forward. One number, which is allocated to you, will cost you just £12 for entry into all the Draws from January to December (for £14 you can have an entry from November 2017 Draw to December 2018 inclusive), and if you are feeling very lucky you can buy up to 10 numbers in total. 50% of the proceeds from each draw go to the Association and 50% is given back in prizes to the members so you could cover your initial expenditure in one 1st prize win. If you would like to join please contact: secretary@smhassociation.org for more information or go on the website <http://www.smhassociation.org>. **PLEASE NOTE:** From

January 2018, the Draw will be held on the 15th day of the month rather than the last day. This will allow us to reflect the Draw more accurately in the monthly accounts.

News of Old Girls ...

Zoe Clarke was amazed to see a message addressed to her mother, **Sheila Kathleen Clarke (Swayne Powell)** on the Facebook VCR a couple of months ago. Zoe reports that her mother started at SMH January 1949 and left July 1954. She was Deputy Head Girl in her final year.

She returned in the September of 1954 to December 1954 as assistant matron at Hillary Boarding House.

In May of 1955 she began her nursing training and obtained State Registration in 1958 in Leicester. She was married in January 1960 to Norman Clarke and continued part-time nursing until Easter of 1965. Her son was born May 1965 and daughter in May 1969.

The family all emigrated to South Africa in September 1981 and are still living in Port Elizabeth.

Sheila is still in touch with Marylou Greenway (Saunders) and Fiona Carter (Mc Walter) – *Note from Secretary: Marylou and Fiona are not on the Association database. Zoe, can your mother reconnect them with us?*

Sheila does not have an email address and is not 'on' Facebook, but would love to get in touch with any Old Girls from her time at SMH. Zoe's email is the contact and can be found on the database on the website or from smhaenquiries@gmail.com.

What a coincidence – An email exchange between Margaret Ellis, 1967-1975 and Jessie Redfern (Armstrong), 1958-1966

Margaret Ellis writes *"When I received the last SMHA newsletter I spotted **Jessie Redfern's** name, which spurred me to send her an e mail.*

*Whilst **Jessie** left SMH in 1966 (having been the form mistress of Transition) and I started in Prep form in Jan 1967 so our paths never crossed. **Miss Lawes** was taking Transition by then and **Mrs Farmer** the Prep form.*

*When I moved up to Transition, I found a book on the shelf with my mother's maiden name in it – Joan Hawkes – and, after a bit of research at the time, we found that **Jessie** had put it there.*

*As that was 50 years ago, my memories were a bit hazy so I thought I would see what **Jessie** could remember. As it happens she knew exactly what I meant and takes up the story."*

Jessie wrote back to say: "How strange our paths should have crossed like this. When I left in 1966 I left behind some books I thought might be useful to the teacher who replaced me. I remember one book well. It was full of educational stamps with a transparent cover to each page. Some of the transparent pages had become torn which was a shame, as it was such a nice book. I am afraid the youngsters who looked at the book were careless and allowed the pages to tear.

Miss Hawkes worked in the same office as my father. I didn't actually know her but she knew I was a teacher and gave several books to my father to give to me.

I was very happy at SMH. **Mrs Farmer** had lost her husband and as she was a trained teacher, **Miss Conrady** created a small class just for her. She loved her work and it gave her that interest to help her make a life again. **Kathleen Farmer** was a good friend to me and I kept up with her for many years. She got married and in time went into a home with her husband. When **Miss Conrady** retired, she went into a home. After she died, **Kathleen, Mrs Parsons, Laura Bristol** and I went to Seaford to attend her memorial service. We then had a meal together to chat. I remember all these things vividly. I also went to **Mrs Farmer's** funeral in Hove."

This encouraged more e mail exchanges between the two ladies and **Margaret** responded: *"My mother used to talk very fondly of her working life, which she thoroughly enjoyed at London Assurance. She was not so happy to be evacuated to Brighton when war broke out though. Having said that, if she had not come to Brighton she would not have met my father and I would not be here!!!! Did your father transfer to Brighton in 1939?"*

Jessie: "Thank you for your interesting email in reply to mine. Yes, my father worked for the London Assurance (now "More Than") at the Elephant and Castle, London throughout the 30's. He was transferred to Brighton at the beginning of the War. He was just too old (thirtyish) to be called up so he had to cover the work of several men while he was at Richmond Terrace. My mother and I stayed in Croydon until 1944 but then the flying bombs became so severe in London that we decided to go down to Brighton and join him (he had been joining us for the weekends as the train service from Brighton to Croydon was not too bad). We found a flat on the Front with double windows because it was so windy. My hair was never in order while I lived in Brighton! The beach was covered in barbed wire and mines so no one could go on the beach. I expect your mother knew that he played the violin very well and that he won a cup at the Dome for playing the second movement of the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto. My mother told me that Valerie Morrow, who lived next door to me in our flats, eventually married the Revd James (the vicar of St Marks).

My first job was in Eastbourne in 1949 and then I taught in Ashford School (Kent). All this was before I joined the Staff at SMH in 1958. I arrived with **Laura Bristol, Ruby West** and **Lili Hauser**. **Kathleen** had interviewed me as **Miss Conrady** was away when I visited the School.

I transferred from Croydon High School to Brighton and Hove High School when we went to Brighton to live. At the end of the War we returned to London and I studied at College."

Margaret: *"My mother told me that they used to take it in turns to do "fire watch" at night, which I assume was from the Richmond Terrace building. She also said she did not like going to down to the basement as there were very large rats down there.*

My mother said she was put on "men's work" when many were called up but, when she wanted to join the Wrens, they put her on reserved occupation.

My mother was musical too, had singing lessons and was a member of the St Peter's festival choir. St Peter's church was just opposite the office. Coincidentally, I now ring the bells there on a Sunday morning.

You mentioned Rev James – he christened me at St Mark's in Dec 1957. I have a feeling that his wife died when she was quite young and that his daughter went to SMH."

Jessie: "It gets more interesting all the time!!! I expect my father did fire watch but he never mentioned rats (... unbearable and horrid ...ugh). Apparently rats can be tamed and make very good pets. Yes, I know St Peter's – a white interesting looking church as well. I remember going down a road from the railway station which reached all that part of Brighton. I am sorry your mother was put on "reserved occupation" when she wanted to join the WRENS.

It's right in the back of my mind that Valerie died young. She had an older sister called Pamela but I had lost touch a long time ago."

Summary from **Margaret**: *"So, even though Jessie and I have not knowingly met, it would appear that we have links going back over 70 years. It has been wonderful finding out about each other and the history of our parent's working lives. I am sure there is still more information to uncover. What a small world."*

Great Story too! We are delighted that Jessie has found SMHA on Facebook and joined the Virtual Common Room, where 29 of the girls she taught are delighted to see her there!

Liz Males (Cockburn) 1948-1959 has written with the latest news of the whereabouts of **Judy Coate (Pope) 1950-1959**. After **Judy's** husband died in Renfrewshire in 2011 she took up more church work and moved to Southampton to be near her son and family in the parish of North Stoneham & Bassett. **Judy's** contact details are available on request or on the database on the website.

Liz said that they both came to the re-union in 2013 and were the only day girls in the upper sixth In 1958-1959 and have kept in touch ever since.

Alice Halliday (Kimpton) has written: "I was at SMH **1959-1964** initially as a day girl and then as a weekly boarder/boarder in Hilary House with **Miss Barr** as Housemistress. I too was greatly impressed by **Miss Farmer**. She was a lovely person who always breathed a breath of fresh air whenever she came into a class room. She was always immaculately dressed and made up – a good role model! I always enjoyed her teaching, and I don't know if it was a result of those lessons that I have spent many years travelling and working as nurse and midwife mostly in Africa – South Africa, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia – also in India and Australia. Travel brings an awareness of the world and the suffering of so many people and consequently an appreciation of all that we are privileged to enjoy in our own country.

Other staff members I remember:

Mrs Ellsworth? a rather pretty 'fey' English teacher who I believe had recently been widowed so perhaps was forced to teach. She was so encouraging.

Miss Jackson liked me as I was well steeped in Biblical knowledge!

I was terrified of **Ms Webb** the French teacher who took the first stream. Although I had had a French governess before coming to SMH, and so had a good knowledge of French, she put me into the lower stream. I cannot remember the name of that teacher but I think she was colour blind as she would often wear pinks and reds together!

Miss Bristol was a delight as was **Mrs Eggleton** but I only did Latin for one term.

Miss Bolton taught us History in an upstairs room near the library. I still remember being inspired by Charles Darwin's discoveries in the Beagle and writing an essay on it. It was marked with a B!

Miss de Brune taught us cookery on the ground floor of Elliot House. I still scrub chopping boards as she taught us and run cold water after washing up to cleanse the UBend! I heard she went off to be a nun.

I always used to feel sorry for the music teacher, **Miss Hauser** who was Swiss, I think, as we were always so naughty in her class! We used to sit on the benches in the Hall.

What was the name of the rather terrifying Deputy Head to **Miss Conrady**? She was an English teacher. I never felt **Miss Conrady** got to know us girls and I remember her as being rather remote.

Who was the red-headed music master who directed us in Brittan's St Nicholas which we proudly performed in St Peter's church in Brighton. I still have a LP with the cover signed by the choir members who took part. I was an alto and sat next to **Penny Gardiner (Buck)** **1961-1965** who was much more musical than I was, so was a good 'lead'!

Also, what was the name of the very austere Matron in the San!?

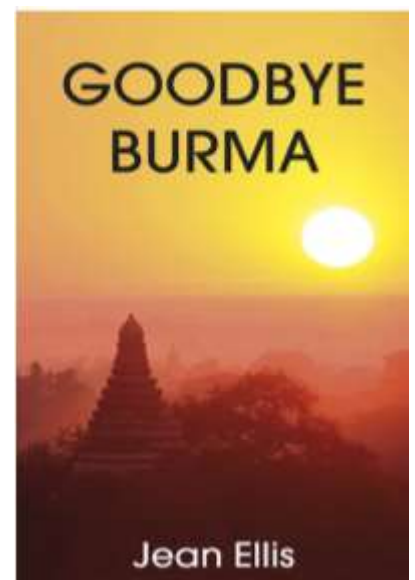
And who was the science/botany teacher at the time? My love of drawing was initiated through all the careful dissections and labelling of flowers and insects. I am able to describe pollination, to anyone who is receptive, as a result of those lessons. We used antirrhinums and sweet peas in class.

I do not remember who taught maths but I was put in the RSA arithmetic class – I always regret not being able to do maths

So many of our teachers were unmarried. One's memories are so strong in these school years. I left school at 16 and went on to work in two Settlements in the East End of London, initially at the Blackfriars Settlement for Michael Sorenson who was a Quaker and prison reformer, so we had many ex-prisoners who came for help and direction, and then for a somewhat rotund Social Group worker, Mr Lumley in Bethnal Green. He used to squeeze into his Messerschmitt three-wheeler car to drop me at the station. One day there was a large explosion as his naughty boys had put a contraceptive on the exhaust pipe!"

Jean Ellis (1954-1963) writes: I moved to Bexley in Kent about four years ago to be near various relatives, and still be close enough to London where I've lived since the 1960s, apart from a few years overseas. In January this year I went to Myanmar – a long-awaited visit, in part to trace the different places that my mother's family lived before they evacuated during the Japanese invasion in World War II. This jolted me into finishing a fictionalised memoir, Goodbye Burma, based on real events and my family's documents and memories, about their long trek out of Burma through jungles and across mountains to the safety of India in 1942.

Goodbye Burma has just been published and is available at www.goodbyeburma-book.com from November. I'm also going live with a new website www.write-memoirs.com offering assistance to other people who want to write up their own stories and life experiences.



This extract from the “Non Nobis” Newsletter of St Catherine’s, Bramley, near Guildford, provides a fascinating insight into what happened to some of our Girls who were evacuated there when our own buildings were taken over by Canadian Troops in WWII. We have most grateful to St Cat’s for allowing us to use it.

BACK TO BLACK-OUT

In January, as part of their history topic about WWII, the Prep School, L3 girls spent the day reliving the war years at St Catherine’s – singing songs in the cellar, visiting Bramley station to be evacuated, playing traditional party games and creating a blitz picture.

We were delighted to welcome back Marjory Bayliss, a pupil at St Catherine’s from 1939-1946, and a teacher at the Prep School from 1960-1989. During the war, Marjory and her sister Audrey had to be day girls as all of the boarding beds were filled by pupils evacuated from St Mary’s Hall, Brighton. The girls loved hearing about the air raid shelters running next to the Sanatorium (now the music school). Air raid practices happened regularly and Marjory can still recall the strong small od damp earth in the narrow trenches and the rubber smell of the gas masks. She clearly remembers the day the bomb fell on the railway station and how they all hid under their desks on hearing the enormous crash. Everyone was fascinated to hear about the evacuees who had stayed with Marjory’s family – especially the naughty one!



Later in the day the girls were shown various artefacts and photos by Rosemary (nee Munn)(1960) and Richard Christophers, now the St Catherine’s volunteer archivists. The girls tried on helmets, sounded the air-raid alarm clacker and watched our film of the Bramley Home Guard marching through the grounds of the School. It really helped bring history to life for the girls.

We hope to see lots of the war years’ alumnae back at St Catherine’s on 23rd June for the Golden Girls Reunion (30s, 40s and 50s leavers).

Postscript: During the Easter holidays we were also pleased to be reintroduced to Anne Waters (Esdaile)(1946), one of the evacuees from St Mary’s Hall, who returned to the school for the first time since 1946. We are looking forward to meeting her again in June.

Jean Ellis 1954-1963 has also written to me about her trip to Brighton this past summer: “I was visiting a friend in Brighton and stopped outside what used to be the main entrance to Babington House. I was in the middle of explaining to him that it had been my school boarding house when the owner of the basement flat came out. She had heard me and was intrigued and wanted to know more about how the building had been used before it became flats. She invited us in and it was a very strange experience to wander around the different parts of the basement - the kitchen where we used to make cocoa on Sundays, the prayer room and a really spooky room at the back that we used to go down to sometimes. The basement was still a bit strange, I thought, but the owners loved it.”

After reading the last newsletter, **Megan Warner 1955-1961** was prompted to have a look at the website www.smhassociation.org to see what was there. She was interested to see that the spelling in the school motto of 'Honor' underneath the school badge, is the American version, and wondered whether that was correct. I contacted **Sue Carnochan 1994-2009**, who was the school archivist for a number of years – always easier to let someone else do your donkey work! – and she could only tell me that she had looked up HONOR in her Latin dictionary and found HONORA----HONORIS = HONOR, so the founding fathers must have used the Latin derivation not Anglo Saxon!! She went on to say that it would be interesting if **Timothy Elliott**, a Governor of the school and descendant of **HVE**, could find the article he wrote on the motto. Nothing ventured I then contacted **Timothy** and he very kindly supplied me with Appendix One to his history of the school (which can be read in full on the website), which is a very interesting read and hopefully answers your question **Megan**?

Appendix 1

THE ST MARY'S HALL MOTTO

“BEFORE HONOR (IS) HUMILITY”

The biblical origins of the motto are well-known. I quote from the King James version:

Proverbs - Chapter 15, verses 32-33:

32. *He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.*
33. *The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.*

Proverbs - Chapter 18, verses 11-12:

11. *The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and as an high wall in his own conceit.*
12. *Before destruction, the heart of man is haughty and before honour is humility.*

However, what is less well known, perhaps, is the quotation's appearance in John Bunyan's *“The Pilgrim's Progress”* (1678/1684). It occurs in Part One when Christian and Faithful are exchanging experiences, notably about what Christian calls here the “Valley of Humility”, previously termed by him the “Valley of Humiliation”. In Part Two, the valley is exclusively referred to as the “Valley of Humiliation” [*“the best and most useful piece of ground in all those parts”*] where it is discussed at some length. It is thus curious, in what seems to be interchangeable terminology, that Christian refers to it here, and only here, as the “Valley of Humility” – a term which, as you can see below, Faithful adopts. I cannot find anyone to support the contention that the semantic alternation is significant. (What Faithful himself would have chosen to call it later is idle speculation because he is soon to be judicially and brutally murdered in Vanity Fair.)

Faithful: *Yes, I met with one DISCONTENT, who would willingly have persuaded me to go back with him; his reason was, for that the valley was altogether without honour. He told me moreover, that there to go was the way to disobey all my friends, as PRIDE, ARROGANCY, SELF-CONCEIT, WORLDLY-GLORY, with others; who he knew,*

as he said, would be very much offended if I made such a fool of myself as to wade through this valley.

Christian: *Well, and how did you answer him?*

Faithful: *I told him that although all these that he named might claim kindred of me, and that rightly - for indeed they were my relations according to the flesh, - yet since I became a pilgrim, they have disowned me, as I also have rejected them; and therefore, they were to me now no more than if they had never been of my lineage. I told him moreover, that as to this valley, he had quite misrepresented the thing; for **before honour is humility**, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Therefore, said I, I had rather go through this valley to the honour that was so accounted by the wisest, than choose that which he esteemed most worth our affections.*

What is at issue here is the overtly moral progression involved in Christian's journey towards the Celestial City and the depiction of humility/humiliation as coming sequentially as well as morally before "honour". The key word is 'sequentially': remember that the full title of Bunyan's work is "The Pilgrim's Progress from This World to That Which Is to Come." (The retention of the spelling "honor" is puzzlingly and unnecessarily idiosyncratic, if not even pretentious in the twentieth century.)

A bigger problem for the theologian (and the sophist?) lies in the apparent interchangeability in Bunyan's mind between "humility" and "humiliation". But Bunyan, perhaps unconsciously, helps us to achieve a better understanding in Part Two when Christian's widow Christiana and their four sons, accompanied by Great-heart, meet the Shepherd boy in the "Valley of Humiliation", and he seems to draw the threads together for us:

Now, as they were going along, and talking, they espied a boy feeding his father's sheep. The boy was in very mean clothes, but of a very fresh and well favoured countenance; and as he sat by himself, he sang. Hark, said Mr. Great-heart, to what the shepherd's boy saith. So they hearkened, and he said:

*He that is down needs fear no fall;
He that is low, no pride;
He that is humble, ever shall
Have God to be his guide.....*

The reference given at this point by Bunyan is to St Paul's epistle to the Philippians chapter 4, verses 12-13:

12. *I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.*

13. *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

As to the questions why and when the motto was adopted by St Mary's Hall, history has not revealed the full answers. There is no record that I can find of this "motto" among the Founder's papers and writings; Bateman is silent on the subject in his biography. The Trustees' minutes make no reference to it, which suggests that it was never a matter for consideration: there was, apparently, no "Day One" motto. All we know is that it appeared towards the end of the Nineteenth Century.

"The Pilgrim's Progress" was a very widely-read book at the beginning of the Twentieth Century. Paul Fussell, in *"The Great War and Modern Memory"* (OUP 1974), bears striking witness to this; it features in Scott's account of his polar expedition (the Great Barrier being referred to by the expedition as the Slough of Despond). Earlier, the Clapham Sect, to which the Founder's family had actively belonged, were admirable, even self-conscious, exemplars of Bunyan's Work. I believe, therefore, that we should take a fresh look at the Motto's significance.

The oppositional interpretations which I have heard promoted from time to time over the years – and to which I have to confess I thoughtlessly subscribed – of humility being preferable to honour seem, in the light of Bunyan's influential text, to be less than adequate. In Bunyan's text, Humility has to be experienced before Honour may be properly achieved.

The Motto has far more virtue if considered from within *"The Pilgrim's Progress"* than it does as just one of many appropriate Proverbs plucked at random from the Bible.

Still on the website, **Lis Eastham (Ferguson) 1969-1976** has been working hard, tidying up and trying to catalogue items a little more clearly. She came across a picture of this young girl. Wondering who she was, **Lis** and **Penny** started investigating. They established that Mrs H R Williams of Bath was the rather eminent photographer who took the photograph of the student, one **Caroline Harriet Marie Stuart** when she was a young adult.



(This led them down a side track which provided a fascinating insight into photography in the mid-Victorian era and its suitability for women! It also provided a link between Mrs HRW and Friese-Greene, (one of the inventors of cinema) <http://historyofbath.org.uk/.../Survey%20of%20Old%20Bath> which begged the question as to whether there is a connection here because Wm Friese Greene had a photographic studio in Brighton after he left Bath!

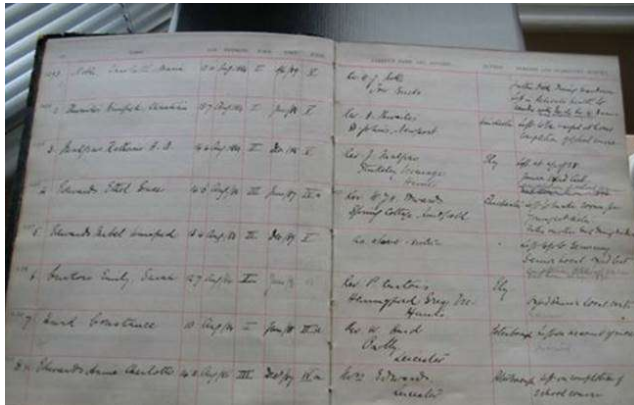
CHMS

appears in the 1891 Census, aged 17, a scholar at St Mary's Hall, Kemptown, Brighton. A search into



Ancestry.com found her born 1874 in

Mundon, Essex. She was married to Charles Henry Spurrell, in 1903, but sadly died in 1904 and is buried in All Saint's, Huntingdon. She had a son about a month before she died, so it could be related. Her father was a Vicar in Mundon, Essex. Lis has left a message for her descendant re the photo we have of her as a girl.



A search of the School Registers found this: Entry 18 in the Register "to 1888", Stuart, Caroline H M. Age when starting school 12.7. Entered into form II, March 1886; left from Form VI June 1892. Father Rev. W Stuart, Mundon Vicarage, Maldon, Essex in the Diocese of Rochester. The Leaving Notes are very difficult to read, but the best guess is: Left 1892, Senior ?R A...? Cert. 1889. Higher Level Certificate Cambridge, 1892,

Grade ?R & B. (Research tells us the first year that School Leaving Certificates were in being in this country was 1888 so SMH was well in the forefront in this).

Charlotte Elliott Remembered



1St Andrews Church, Hove

On September 20th, a group of Americans from California, visited Brighton to follow in Charlotte's footsteps. They were tracing English hymn writers. I was asked to help with the guiding, as I had done four years ago. I was involved in the initial planning before they arrived. I met them at St. Andrew's church, Hove and introduced them to the churchwarden. They then stood in the choir stalls and sang "Just as I am" with their own organist accompanying them. It sounded very moving. They

then went outdoors to photograph the Venn

Elliott tomb which had been cleared of



St Mary's Church, Brighton



St Mary's Church, Brighton

ivy. Charlotte is buried there. We then went by coach to Brunswick Square, to photograph the family home in which Charlotte had composed many hymns. Venue three was "Lunch in the Laines". Next the coach took us to St. Mary's, Upper Rock Gardens. where brother Henry had been vicar and Charlotte would have worshipped. Again, they sang "Just as I am" to the sound of the magnificent Bevington Organ, which they enjoyed very much! Finally, we were taken to ST. MARY'S HALL, to look at the red tiles which stood under Charlotte's Arbour. They are not easy to see these days because the hospital building firm have placed two metal containers on top!! However, I was able to show them photos of the original wooden structure, with girls standing around it. So ended their trip, which I think they appreciated very much.

Sue Carnochan

CONGRATULATIONS to

Margaret Ellis and Sam Tyler who have recently married: Margaret Ellis (1967-1975) learnt to ring the bells at St Mark's church in Brighton in 1971 and Sam Tyler learnt to ring at Hailsham in 1984. They met in 1984 through ringing and on 27th May 2017 they were married at St George's Church in Kemp Town, Brighton.

St Mark's has close links with SMH having become the school chapel when it closed as a parish church in 1986. Margaret helped to teach many of the SMH girls to ring the bells during this period.

St Mark's now belongs to St George's church, which is continuing the SMH vision to turn it into an arts centre. **Margaret** and Sam still ring the St Mark's bells regularly on a Thursday evening.

Here is a photo of the "happy couple" and also one of the cake. You will notice it has four bells on it, the same number of bells that are at St Mark's!!



Margaret also comments that she has (at the time of writing) rung bells with **Kathy Howard (1967-1976)** twice in the last couple of weeks. **Kathy** was in the year below **Margaret** at SMH.

And Congratulations to Vivien Thompson who is 90 years old on 16th October. Her daughter-in-law **Helen Thompson (Carden) 1976-1980** has written to let us know. She says that **Vivien** was at SMH in 1933 but believes that she had to leave when the school closed down in WWII.

Shout Outs

Anne Valentine (Bethell) 1953-1959 has asked: "Would you be able to put out a request to find Josephine Chadwick. She would have been there in 1959 which was the year I left. My brother has just sent me a photo of her, taken that year with my Mother, so she must have come to stay! It took me some time to think who "Jo" was, written on the back of the photo!!" Happy to oblige **Anne** 😊

Anne's year still hasn't been able to trace Felicity Thomas, known as "Fizz", all they know was that she was a social worker in the Midlands. Not much to go on! They have been able to trace 14 who meet once a year for a reunion, but the others who are missing are obviously not on the OG list:

Gilvray Corker
Wendy Goff
Ann Braid (I think she went to Australia)
Deanna Bennett (she had a younger sister at the school)
Susan East
Tessa Jackson
Janet Phillips

All the above would have been at the school between September 1953 and 1959. A tall order, but you never know someone might know of their whereabouts.

Mandy Knight (who is not on the Association database!) with the help of **Jane Fowlie (Badger) 1965-1972** is trying to get in touch with anyone from their year at SMH for a possible reunion. They were in first year in 1969 /1970, so now all about 60. If you are interested in getting together, please email me secretary@smhassociation.org and I will forward on to **Jane**.

Sam Oakshott (SurrIDGE) 1979-1981 is asking if anyone is in touch with Annabel Middlemass. She would love to hear from Annabel. Also, Sue Standing who was her tennis partner. Sue was backstop in their rounders team and Annabel played 1st post.

Mary Panter (Noble) 1967-1971 has asked: I'm trying to find Deborah Eborn or Libby Levisieur or Susan Fears.

Reunions

Very recent gathering – 7th October – of the 1984/1986 Leavers. From L-R: **Marguerite Oxley (Cook) 1980-1984**, **Alex Robson (Russell) 1978-1983**, **Gilly Morgan (Loder) 1977-1985**, **Lisajane Caesar (Nash) 1979-1986**, **Lucy Warwick**, **Tania Hurt-Newton**, **Sarah Marks (Green) 1978-1984**, **Louise Tozer (Goodsell) 1977-1986** and **Bekakpo Clark 1979-1986**.



Looking good ladies!!

Sue Hall (Long) 1963-1970 photos this summer with **Melanie Rose-Fyne 1967-1976** and with sister **Victoria Johnson**. Sent to me inadvertently, but shamelessly used nonetheless as they were destined for the website!



Olivia Gordon Nedeham-Browne 1950-1955 posted this photo in the Facebook Virtual Common Room. It shows entire school taking part in a fitness display on the tennis courts for Founders Day in 1954.

Looks pretty impressive! Now, that would've been my idea of 'Physical Exertion' at school, not running to the pier and back or playing lacrosse in the rain and wind!!!



Fundraising ££££££££££££££££

The following photos, which have featured in previous newsletters, will be on sale from 5 November 2017 until 30 November 2017 on a “first come, first served” basis. I am afraid that any unsold after this date will be humanely shredded. Please email me at secretary@smhassociation.org stating in the subject line:

Autumn Photo Number ?????? and your address.

Please do not email BEFORE 5 November (UK time) to allow all members to receive the newsletter. Any emails received before that date will be rejected. Only ONE photo per email bid. If you are successful, I will send you details of how to pay.

Photo #1 £3.00 incl p&p



Photo #2 £3.00 incl p&p



Photo #3 £3.00 incl p&p

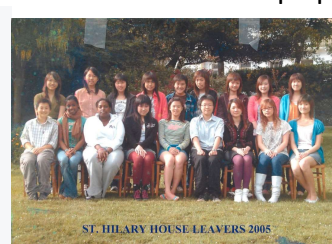


Photo #4 £2.00 incl p&p



Photo #5 £2.00 incl p&p



Photo #6 £2.00 incl p&p



Photo #7 £2.00 incl p&p



Photo #8 £2.00 incl p&p



Photo #9 £2.00 incl p&p



N.B. #7 is a bit fuzzy!

Also available for £2 plus postage, single copies of productions by Gloucester House, Elliott House and Roedean Juniors:

DVDs: 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010

VIDEOS: 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006

Same rules apply as above – email on first come, first served basis from 5 November.

Feedback from previous newsletters

Jo Stubbs (Podd) 1977 – 1984 contacted me after the last Newsletter. She said “I’m glad Katie Lower and Hazel Hawtin contacted you re the photographs - I recognised the ‘First Kids in Space’ - the girls were in my class which was called Lower Prep II (equivalent to Year 4 today) at the time. I think she covered most of the names, though the girl on the far left could be Katie Rousso (not sure if I’ve spelt that correctly!) Anyway, that brings me to one of the photos in this month’s letter ... the two harassed teachers are myself (I was still **Miss Podd** back then) and Mrs Pam Moss.



We joined SMH as teachers in 1995 and left in 2010 - we’re both still teaching! I will check with Pam, but I think this photograph was probably taken after the performance of ‘First Kids in Space’ - it was performed in the Mary Bryan Hall which was next to Elliott House - it would’ve been the late 1990s, possibly Summer 1997. Mrs Aviss worked on the production with us - I’m sure she would be able to shed some light on the other photos too. I might be able to give you a few details about the other photos and if I can’t, I know some ladies who can!



Hope that is of some interest - I’ll try to remember to email any info re the other photos before the deadline for the next newsletter! Nice to see that Jan Johnson is back on board - she was in my year at school.



Sarah Chalmers (Johnson) 1989-2003 wrote “I have just been reading the latest SMH newsletter when I stumbled up the summer photo of lots of us on the school field in our summer dresses - and I am one of them! It is not a younger whole class, however, as my younger sister is also in it, who was two academic years below me, so it is a whole mix of ages, possibly to greet the visitor at the back in the pink (much taller than all of us!!) I cannot identify everyone (and I think some people probably weren’t in mine or my sister’s years), but I can do some!! My mum **Tina Johnson** was the school registrar from about 1996 until the school closed, so she has helped as well.

Ok, I’m the one second in from the left, with the blue headband and the frown. I was **Sarah Johnson**, but am now **Sarah Chalmers** and I was at SMH from 1989 til 2003 (aged 4 to 18!!) My sister, Nicola Johnson, is the little smiley one smack in the middle, in the white hairband, and she was there from 1990 (I think) until 2005! She has her arm around Anita Dillon (her year group) and between/behind them is **Victoria Stalker 1990-1991** (my year group). To the right of **Victoria**, with dark hair, is Natasha Conn (my year group) and in front of Natasha and Anita is Athena Georgio (Nicola’s year group) The far right, standing up, with the fly away hair, is **Charlotte Ridge 1989-1995** (Nicola’s year group) whose mother was **Mrs Ridge!!** The little girl with her arm around **Charlotte** is Lucy ??? but neither Mum nor I can remember her surname. The only two we can do from the front are two from Nicola’s year - **Georgina Tunbridge 1992-2003** is far right next to the blu-tack bubble, and Katrina Stalker is

third from the left, in just her school dress, next to the girl with the cardigan around her shoulders.

We reckon I am about 8 in this photo and **Nikki** is about 6, which makes it the summer of 1993 if we are correct (or possibly 1992).

Since leaving SMH I have not actually left school! I did a Masters of Maths at Durham university, a PGCE in Maths at Sussex Uni, got married, and went back to school as a teacher. I am currently one of the Assistant Head's at Ratton School in Eastbourne with the full title "Assistant Head, Lead Teacher for Maths and ICT" As I said earlier, I was at SMH for my entire childhood, as was my sister, and Mum worked there all the way through my secondary school. It was like a second home to me, and I know I would not be the person I am now without that place!

As a final name, the photo of the two teachers - the one on the left is **Jo Podd/Stubbs 1977-1984** and I can't remember the one on the right!! The head leaning in to the right-hand side of the photo I believe is **Pamela James**, when she was headmistress! I don't know why the teachers are getting flowers - but I wish someone gave teachers flowers now!!

Thank you for this trip down memory lane!

Alex Tabor (Lyons) 1997-2007 has written: "I have some names for your mystery photos.

No1. from left to right bottom row:

Me, Mira Patel, Naomi Pine (now Mason) Rachel Cockett, I think Verity Carr (cannot see her face) Helen Hudson (now Brasted), Helen's mum was also a teacher, Kate Hudson.

Top row from the left: Mayumi Momen (not sure how it was spelt) Zara Miller, Stephanie Moss (still best friends, her Mum Pamela Moss is holding the flowers



in the last photo and was my Year 7 teacher I believe in Elliot) **Phoebe Williams-Hine (Hine) 1996-2005**, Hannah Metcalf, Samantha Sinar (now Mitchell), **Elizabeth Bodkin 1996-2007** (still best friends and her mum Cynthia Bodkin, now passed had some role at SMH) and Lorraine Hughes (now Walters). I'm guessing this photo was taken '99 or 2000. Not sure where but waiting to hear back from **Steph** and she has a better memory than me! Loved seeing this photo. Great times!



This is a picture of my wedding 27th May 2017, it's a school friends photo, left to right **Abigail Williams 1992-1997**, Rachel Strong, **Me**, Stephanie Moss and Elizabeth Bodkin."

Comment from Secretary – Alex, the girls named who are not in '**bold**' are not on the Association database, and not reading this newsletter. If you are in touch with any of them, do ask them to contact smhaenquiries@gmail.com to reconnect with us.

Mystery Photos #3

Playtime?



A happy trio and great scenery, but who are these lovely people? What is the play, and when was it produced?





A Summer production I feel,
with very exotic costumes,
but when did it happen?
What was it and who is
featured?





A Nativity Play,
but when was it
performed and
who are the
major actors? It
looks as if it was
probably
performed at St
Marks but do you
know differently?

AND FINALLY, JUST A REMINDER ...

Please do have a look at the website. We have been doing some tidying up and generally making it work better - www.smhassociation.org – have a look and let us know what you think. All comments/suggestions happily received!

Logon: smhmember
Password: elliott18362009

Please note that this information is confidential to SMH Association members only, and to preserve data protection legislation, should not be passed to anyone else. If you have SMH friends who are not receiving this email, it means that they are not members. If they would like to be – it's FREE, ask them to contact Penny Harrison or me so that we can ensure that they are correctly registered, thereby keeping every member's data protected.

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

Enjoy the rest of your Autumn or Spring whichever hemisphere you are in and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a great New Year! Closing date for any submissions for the next e-letter is 31 December.

Best wishes

Jane

Jane Watson (Amherst-Clark 1963-1971)



Email: secretary@smhassociation.org
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Public Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Marys-Hall-Association/265334070191137>
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