



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

GREAT BRITAIN NEWS



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This edition includes reports from inputs to our most enjoyable GB Conference, held at the Hydro Hotel, Eastbourne, from Friday 8 to Sunday 10 April 2016. The theme was 'Education for Everyone: Expanding Minds', and our State President and her team are to be congratulated on the range of speakers who shared their thoughts with us on this topic.

We have fewer members than in previous years attending the International Convention, to be held in Nashville, Tennessee, in July this year, and it is therefore even more important than usual that I receive reports (and photos!) on the summer activities held by each Chapter, plus of course any other contributions members wish to make. Please read Diana's report on our Questionnaire on GB News (page 14) and think what you could contribute. We shall be repeating this exercise on another occasion, to try to ensure that GB News continues to be of interest to all members.

Any contributions to GB News Autumn 2016 by the end of September please, text in Word with photos attached separately.

dbillam@hotmail.com

Cover collage by Dagmar Ullmann, our German guest, other photos by Barbara Kern, Lavinia Soul and Bettina Kulsdom.

Kathy Hodgson

STATE ORGANISATION PRESIDENT 2015—2017



As I write this, a week after our state conference, I reflect upon the success that can be achieved when people work together to a common purpose; this was so apparent last weekend, not only in the organising of the conference itself, but through the work evidenced by our speakers. For those of you who missed the students from Pestalozzi – wow! Inspiring doesn't even begin to cover the feelings they induced as they spoke so eloquently and movingly.

There are reports of many of the activities in this edition of GB News – thanks to the chivvying of our editor! – which I am sure will give you food for thought. Don't talk about food – many of us returned several pounds heavier, following the wonderful meals we enjoyed.

Our greatest challenge is, as it has been in recent years, maintaining and increasing membership. As State President I have seen this manifest itself in a reluctance for people to take on positions of responsibility at both chapter and state level. This could be for a number of reasons, but if we continue to recycle personnel it must eventually lead to a reduction in numbers. I call on all of our chapter presidents to encourage their members to become involved at a greater level. Many of us know – I certainly do! – of the many opportunities that DKG can offer.

The start of my biennium has, of course, been saddened by the severe illness of two of our most loyal and hardworking members – Dorothy Haley and Kate York, incredibly both with the same illness. For two such vibrant and globetrotting women, both recipients of the European Achievement Award, to have their worlds turned upside down surely is nature at its most cruel. I spent some time visiting Dorothy before she travelled down to Devon to be near her niece, and to see her so changed was heart-breaking. Neither must we forget the wonderful Loetitia Stone who passed away last July. Happily, Kate continues to make excellent progress – by the time you read this she should, hopefully, be home from hospital.

This July, I am looking forward to my very first International Convention, in Nashville, Tennessee. The cost of the trip is prohibitive to many members - £1000 plus, just for the flight – but five intrepid travellers will be representing GB.

Expect to see us complete with cowboy boots and Stetsons upon our return! I heard recently that I have been accepted on to the Leadership Management Seminar (aka Golden Gift) at the University of Texas in Austin; this is also in July so it will be a very busy month for me. Check the accent when I return.

I won't say becoming State President has been like taking a duck to water – this duck doesn't swim too well! However, with the support and kindness of so many of you, my doggy-paddle is at least improving. You see – everything is possible in this world.

Kathrin Hodgson

**MANY CONGRATULATIONS
TO KATHY HODGSON!**



Kathy has been selected by the Golden Gift Fund Committee to be a participant in the Leadership Management Seminar to be held at the prestigious McCombs Business School at the University of Texas (Austin) this summer. The Business School is rated as one of the very best in the U.S.A.

The Golden Gift Fund was set up in 1979 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Society and since then it has funded members to have this Leadership Training. Many members apply for a place and those who are accepted highly value the experiences they have shared over the two weeks of the seminar. Those who are chosen are selected for their perceived potential to lead; within the Society, in professional life and in the wider community.

Participants learn by interacting with each other and are led by very accomplished instructors. Subjects covered include: Negotiating skills, Personality and Management Styles, Conflict Resolution and Taking Advantage of Technological Progress. The two weeks is interspersed with outings and activities. Not a minute is wasted! There is a lot of fun and comradeship. Friendships are made for life.

We have been fortunate in GB in that several of us have experienced this 'all expenses paid' professional course. Imagine taking part in a high powered seminar in a foreign country? We congratulate Kathy on being chosen and we trust that she has a most memorable time at UT. We know that she will fully enter into everything on offer. Don't miss the bats, Kathy.

After Kathy who will be the next one to apply?

Gloria Redston (Gamma Chapter)



We are very pleased that Ronnie Wagstaff has agreed to become our new State Treasurer. Thank you, Ronnie!

DKG INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2016

There are currently rather fewer members of DKG GB State planning to attend the International Convention 2016 in Nashville, Tennessee, than usual. As you see on page 4, Kathy, our State President, has also been selected for the Leadership Management Award in Austin, Texas. Reports of these exciting events will appear in the next edition of GB News in September 2016.

REPORTS FROM THE GB CONFERENCE

HYDRO HOTEL, EASTBOURNE, 8—10 APRIL 2016

The Hydro is a favourite hotel for locals, for instance for clubs having lunches or dinners. It has splendid views over the sea, and the conservatory at the front overlooks lawns and gardens, an excellent place for a morning coffee or afternoon tea. The food is excellent, with a good range of menus expertly produced and presented. The desserts cover a wide range of delights! The bedrooms are a good size, and well equipped.

For our `traditional` Sunday morning tour, we went to the Towner Gallery. This is owned, and has recently been refurbished by, the local Council, who have done a great job. It has some permanent exhibitions, and a good range of touring exhibitions, both supported by events such as talks and workshops. `Recording Britain` exhibits a range of paintings and prints which were commissioned at the outbreak of the Second World War, to record the changing landscape of Britain. Sir Kenneth Clark commissioned artists to paint `people and buildings of characteristic national interest`, both rural and urban. The whole collection, now held by the Victoria and Albert Museum, numbers 1500, of which 49 are on display here. There were also works by contemporary artists.

On permanent display are a number of watercolours by Eric Ravilious, who lived locally. He was invited in 1939 to be a `war artist`, and unfortunately was on an RAF mission in September 1942 in Iceland when his plane disappeared. The exhibition includes a number of paintings of small local RAF airfields, with planes and tents.

The gallery holds an Annual School Exhibition, which this year had the theme `Walking the Line`. Schoolchildren of all ages had interpreted this theme in different ways, using a variety of media. There were artist-led workshops, discussions and research which resulted in an impressive range of works. The exhibition space is big enough to do their efforts full justice, and the schools must be very pleased with the way they are exhibited. Eastbourne is lucky to have such an enterprising gallery at its disposal.



Diane Billam (Gamma Chapter)



The desserts at The Hydro were works of art in themselves, much enjoyed by all (including Birgitta Wichmann, our very welcome guest from Germany!)

(Photos by Barbara Kern)

We were honoured to have our International President, Dr Lyn Babb Schmid, with us at our conference as International Speaker, and hope that she found her visit both interesting and enjoyable.

Lyn shares a moment with Gloria Redston, Gamma Chapter Member.



MIGRATION: EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE?

Louise Fahey is a teacher with 20 years experience. She worked with 'Off the Record', a Croydon-based organisation providing free support for children and young people, and then on a Comic Relief funded project dealing particularly with young refugees, asylum seekers and forced migrants. She asked us to consider what we would take with us in their circumstances: money, documents, photos of loved ones, mobile phone? Then to come up with a definition of a refugee: difficult to distinguish. For instance, it is not enough to have come from a war zone: you must be able to prove there was an individual risk to you. The UK is one of the top destinations for child trafficking: of 3266 people recently trafficked to this country, 982 were children. And they are the ones we know about. We are wrong to think that children get permanent 'leave to remain': it is not unknown for failed asylum seekers to be extracted from class in school.

The journey these children have made can have taken up to 2 years to get here: it is estimated that 40% of those who start the journey actually make it to the UK, and around 30% die on the journey: we have all seen the pictures. Agents lock children into refrigeration units, and one boy survived being locked into a toolbox with two other people, both of whom had died. Lunar House in Croydon is a focus for assessment of asylum claims. The initial interview takes place with an appropriate interpreter. Those thought to be under 16 are assigned to foster care, 17 or over to supported independent living with adults. Going to school is frightening for these children, with everything strange and alien. Emotional needs may mask other learning difficulties, and in any case many of these children have never been in education before, or the trauma they have suffered may have obliterated what they had previously learned. They have lost family, friends, their country, culture, religion. Most people go through a number of stages: shock, denial, anger and guilt, despair and depression, before hopefully arriving at acceptance with the right support.



Louise showed us a number of visual aids which she has used in supporting these children. She had been thrilled when Ikea produced an 'ethnic' Russian doll (left), and instantly bought a stock of them! Each successive inner layer was slightly different, arriving finally at a tiny baby in the middle, which was much cherished by the children. Louise used them with children to get them to talk about their feelings, as each layer exhibits slightly different emotions.

Louise spoke of the impact working with these children had had on her. Imagine losing everything and everyone you have known, and ending up in an alien place after a horrendous journey, where you are not necessarily welcomed. The process of adjustment is so difficult for them: they have to manage their fear of authority, often well-founded after their experiences, cope with finger printing and the initial interview, are often re-traumatised by telling their story, coping with paperwork and being age-assessed, coping with conversations through an Interpreter, and waiting for an initial decision on their asylum claim.



How would we cope with this experience?

Marian Bowles (*Gamma Chapter*)

MUSICAL INTERLUDE



Carol Dawson entertained and enlivened us with a musical interlude, which was much appreciated by all.

TRAVELS DOWN THE MISSISSIPPI

The Mississippi is the 4th largest river system in the world. It wends its way from its source at Lake Itasca in Minnesota, for more than 2 ½ thousand miles, to the Gulf of Mexico. The mere mention of the Mississippi River evokes personal impressions of American history and culture, I think of cotton fields, slaves, the Civil War, and the Civil rights movement coupled with romantic notions of paddle steamer rides and *lazy* days of fishing on the banks! For nearly an hour we joined Dorcas Rogers on her journey down the Mississippi by way of the Great river road, and just as she found that many of her ideas about “Mississippi”, changed during the her trip as she discovered new things, so did mine as I listened to her engaging talk.

Well chosen photographs, gave us our first sight of the river, narrow and shallow, with stepping stone across it, and except for the fir trees, it could almost have been the brook which flows through the village in Northants where I was born. No levees, no vast width with sandbanks, which I see in my minds eye. This was the untamed wild part of the river, nature’s landscape that Dorcas and Ray enjoyed for two weeks before arriving in Minneapolis, where their first sight of a lock made them realize that man was taking over the control of the flow.

Further downstream, a photo taken at the confluence of the Mississippi and the Wisconsin, fitted more my idea of an enormous river, but all is not as one imagines it to be, for here the river is dammed to produce the wide floodplain, making it falsely large!

Photos, of “the Old Crow Wing”, burial mounds and a wagon connected us to the early history of the region. The confluence of the Old Crow Wing and the Mississippi creates a natural ford where the Dakota Indians would cross the water, while the burial mounds dating from 900 BC were reminders of the First American People. The Wagon, a replica of the wagons used by the Mormons to flee Nauvoo in 1844 as the result of the violence meted out to them from the surrounding population, opposed to their way of life.

An image of six large grain silos in the guise of a “six pack of lager” introduced us to the industry of the region, some of it still flourishing but much having disappeared leaving towns which would be dead but for the free ferry across the water linking them and providing a route for enterprise. We heard of their journey through the vast fields of corn and sugar cane to reach St Louis where there is

no need for locks as the river is deep enough for boats, however, flooding means these are replaced by flood walls often painted with huge murals.

South of St Louis the plantation and slavery aspect came into the narrative. We all wondered what Dorcas and Ray were doing staying two nights at the “Shack Up Inn” amid the cotton fields of Dogtrot, until we were told that it was a hotel created from former share- cropper’s shacks! Not five star, but clean and comfortable. Next, was Vicksburg and traces of the Civil War with a mural depicting the work of the 6 Sisters of Mercy who closed down their school for the duration, to tend the injured on both sides. Then, on to Natchez and the start of the sunken trace to Nashville, a path worn over 300-400 years by people walking back home after selling their goods including the rafts used to transport them downriver. Two hundred and fifty more miles found our adventurers in New Orleans, where they inspected the symbols left by the search and rescue teams during the 2011 flood. Finally they reached Venice, the furthest they could travel by car.



Linda Carr thanked Dorcas for her presentation

After the photos had brought to life both the history and geography of the river basin for us, Dorcas described what she had learnt about slavery and Civil Rights from the journey.

Focussing on slavery Dorcas and Ray chose to visit the recently opened Whitney Plantation, a museum offering a unique perspective on the lives of enslaved people, much material drawn from the Federal writers project 1936 – 1938, which produced both written and audio transcripts from first hand experiences of the slaves still alive at that time. We listened to some of the audio-accounts. They were alarming and unnerving. Voices from the past telling how 10 yr old girls were forced to have babies to produce slaves to sell and descriptions of cruel beatings and how children from the age of six were expected to pick and carry cotton as well as look after the babies. Yes, I was ready to learn but I did not like being taught.

Finally, Dorcas gave us a short insight into the people who raised the issues of civil rights in America. Some I knew of, others were new to me, such as Louisa

Barnes, a Mormon, who had been left to fend for herself, when her husband was sent abroad. In 1846 she was voted to lead the Mormon women on the trail to Salt Lake City. One resolution from her group before leaving stated, "If men wish to hold control over women, let them be on the alert. We believe in equal rights." She has my respect! We learnt of Dred Scott, a slave whose argument for freedom triggered the Civil War and of the 1838 "Trail of Tears" so named because of the devastating effect on the Cherokee nation, who were forced to give up their land and walk a thousand miles to a new settlement in Oklahoma. We heard of the 300+ day Bus Boycott, the result of Rosa Parks refusing to give up her seat to a white man, and of the balcony where Martin Luther King was assassinated and much more.

I cannot emphasise how much I enjoyed the talk and I know that everyone I spoke to felt the same. Brilliant, Dorcas, I wish there had been time for more and that we could have discussed many of the questions racing through my brain as you told your story.

Lavinia Soul (Alpha Chapter)



*Bettina Kulsdom (above)
and
Dorcas Rogers (lef)
showed some of their
Beautiful work
at the conference.*

COMMUNICATION IN OUR TIME

Do you remember when you talked for ages on the phone to a friend and then said, "See you in half an hour then." My Dad used to be furious with me. "That just put pounds on my bill and what will you have to talk about when she gets here?"

Now we look at our grandchildren (and maybe you are guilty of this, too) and wonder why they need to have their phones/tablets apparently attached at the end of their arms. We can phone, text, email, Twitter, FB, Skype, or even write a letter or meet for a cup of coffee! Yet somehow, in spite of all these forms of communication, it doesn't always work. It seems that it is no longer possible to phone any service provider, be it electric, bank, or insurance without the need either to wait on the phone, press lots of options or phone several times. I wanted to check the balance of my investments last week and confirm that my new investment cheque had arrived. After all the "options" I got to speak to someone. Put on hold, I had to listen to unbearable music and finally be told to phone again tomorrow. No chance of speaking to the same person the next day. Oh no! All through the same rigmarole of security questions only to be told the cheque had been with them for ten days - just not scanned on to the system.

Texts are great. "See you on the beach in five minutes." That saved walking across the caravan park and works well. As long as I have my phone in hearing range and the text doesn't get lost in the ether for a few hours. I can send out group texts or emails. All thirty seven members of the art group can be emailed with one shot. But did they all get the message? Ah! Now that is a problem. How do we respond to emails? Do we always respond with a "Thanks, got it", or "Ok" or with an actual answer? Or are we so inundated with long lists of emails that we read them and move on? The sender is waiting for an answer, the recipient is too busy/uninterested/forgets. Surely it is considerate or polite to answer. What do you do?

I throw this out for debate. Let us on the Communication Committee know what you do. It will be interesting to see who takes up the challenge.

Bettina Kulsdom (*Communication Committee*)

GB NEWS QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you to the 14 members who completed the GB News Questionnaire. Although statistically a good result, in reality it was not a lot to go on. Almost all the respondents read everything, but a few did not enjoy every article. From this it seems we have a couple of 'pointers' regarding arts and conferences.

The suggestions on the other hand were very interesting, and as well as giving Di a well deserved pat on the back and giving some very positive response to GB News as it is now, there were some very good ideas.

I have just taken a few points that members wrote about. These included:

- * Education is our main focus. What's on in the education world which may impact on educational thinking and practice?
- * The importance of regular items. Conferences can be overdone.
- * More members to be involved and write about their own interests, commitments and experiences. Themed articles are a good idea, plus possibly someone doing a regular column.
- * Recipes from other countries that we have visited on conferences.
- * Book review: One per edition.

We will do a similar questionnaire after the next issue and would really appreciate a response from everyone! (Please e-mail me for the full list of suggestions at dkg.info@yahoo.co.uk),

Diana Bell (Alpha Chapter), *Communications Committee Member.*

Note from the Editor: I'd like to add my thanks, on behalf of the Communications Committee, to all who contributed. It is very useful to get this feedback, and we shall repeat the exercise. From the suggestions summarised above, it is clear that we do need members to send in contributions on educational matters. Of course many of our Chapter talks cover this, and we always try to make sure that we report as much as possible on topics covered there.

What kind of themes would you like to see, apart from the educational matters already referred to? We always need to remember what kind of organisation we are, but there is room for special interests as well. We also cover outings, always a good source of photos – everyone likes to see them in GB News, but I can only include what I have been sent!

Do let me know if there are other questions you would like included in the next questionnaire, and don't forget that we are always open to suggestions if you wish to make them.

Diane Billam (State Editor)

ALPHA CHAPTER REPORT

In January we met at Dulwich Hamlet Junior School where Joan Carroll's daughter, Alison, gave us a very interesting view on her life and work in Jos, which is in the Plateau State, Nigeria. (Note: the full report was included in the conference papers). Her husband is from that area. She worked in an orphanage which cared for children that other institutions would not touch, and formed a choir there. We also heard about the plight of women in need.

Later she was at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue as a liaison officer, working out which projects could be done. She found that it was useful that she lived in the community. She explained about the distribution of tribes, and tribal loyalties, and the multiplicity of languages. Also about the mix of religions, Christian and Muslim, and the effects on the country more recently of the rise of Boko Haram. We learnt a lot from her first-hand experiences that we would never have done otherwise. Her talk showed us another world.

February's visit to Leighton House, Kensington, was to see the art works and collections of Lord Leighton. He had built this house and studio and there is some fascinating décor, part of it in the Arab style. The exhibitions - 'Pre-Raphaelites on Paper' - continued Alpha's study of this and the Arts and Crafts movement.

Our latest meeting, in March, saw a good turnout for a return to more educational matters. 'Education Question Time'. My grateful thanks to Joan Carroll, who has ably assisted as Vice President cum Secretary, and to Unity as Treasurer. For the next biennium, Barbara Kern will continue as Chapter President. We welcome Penny Kinnear as Vice President. Joan will continue as Secretary, and Unity will continue as Treasurer.

Barbara Kern (*Chapter President*)

Future Meetings:

21 May: Visit to Bletchley Park, site of the WW2 code breakers + lunch and tea.

18 June: 'Down on the Farm', a talk by Debby Brand about residential farm holidays for urban children. This particular scheme was set up by the author, Michael Murpurgo. This will take place at Holy Trinity Church, Rotherhithe, which is opposite Surrey Quays Farm.

4 – 10 July: Our annual visit to the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition which showcases leading edge science experiments from schools, universities and institutions. Thursday **7 July** is the likely date. **Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 July:** A weekend visit to historic Harwich, arranged by Dorcas Rogers, visiting the Old Town, with guided visits to the historic lighthouse (1818) and to the Electric Palace Cinema (1911), one of the oldest operational cinemas in the UK. Most of this will take place on the Saturday. On Sunday there is a visit to the Napoleonic Redoubt Fort of 1810. Guests are very welcome too, but you will need to arrange your own travel and accommodation.

EDUCATION PANEL: ALPHA CHAPTER; 19 MARCH 2016

At the Executive committee meeting held in January it was agreed we did not know enough about the problems facing educators today. DKG needed to invest more on hosting meetings with a focus on key educational issues to create wider knowledge of, and publicity for, the Society and support for teachers. Through anecdotal evidence we had identified “bullying in the work place” as an issue of concern and Diana Bell was already developing a website supportive article on ways for teachers to deal with this problem. At that meeting Alpha chapter reported that their March meeting had the discussion topic of “Teaching Today” and offered to widen its scope of discussion and hold it as a combined chapter meeting with a “Question Time” style debate led by a panel of educators. This meeting took place at Dulwich Hamlet Junior School as reported below:

Object of meeting: To identify current educational issues and causes for concern in the U.K. educational system.

Aims: To report on findings to Annual conference to enable development of ideas and practical strategies DKG could offer in dealing with such issues.

Panel: **Claire Purcell** – recently appointed Head of School in successful inner London junior school that is part of a multi-academy trust. **Diane Billam** – Long serving governor of prestigious Kent grammar school, renowned for its science research specialism and linked as support to other schools in the area. It is currently under pressure to become an academy. **Elisha Wagstaff** – Year 6 class teacher with two years’ experience in challenging inner London primary school. **Janet Carroll** - After 1 year out of teaching Janet joined an outer London primary faith school in September 2015 as Deputy Head. The school had been graded as “requires improvement” at its last Ofsted inspection and currently has an Executive Head but only an interim Head Teacher.

Claire identified the following issues as currently most challenging: **Technology** is evolving so rapidly schools cannot keep up with changes and cost of replacement of resources, and there is the massive issue of e-safety. Increasing risk of cyber bullying. Also too easy for staff to be contacted at all times by colleagues, parents, pupils. One advantage, when problems, complaints arise, emails offer an evidence trail of actions, decisions etc., taken. **Social/Emotional needs and mental health issues** have increased hugely in recent years with heavy demands from parents as well as children. Time-consuming and calling for specialist knowledge and skills from staff.

Diane reported the most urgent issues for governors as follows: **Funding:** obtaining financial support for schools to develop projects, conduct research and support linked schools to maintain their outstanding performance is vital. There is no longer any specialist funding, and 6th form funding from the government has been substantially reduced . Governors spend increasing amounts of time searching for funding streams. **Governor skills audit:** the government requirement that schools conduct a skills audit of governors to ensure they have a range of specific skills e.g. marketing, finance etc. is causing difficulties. Many schools, particularly in poorer areas, have difficulty recruiting governors with required skills. It is voluntary work, very demanding in time and heavy in responsibility. A poor governing body can reduce the Ofsted grading of a school.

Elisha has serious concerns about the following: **Workload** amounts to a constant overload that means working through weekends and in holidays with pressure to run revision classes and extra-curricular activities. Constantly available via email. Little opportunity to strike any work/life balance. Lack of support from senior management increases difficulties for younger/inexperienced staff. **Pressure** on both children and staff from constantly raising target levels. Non-attainment of required target levels affects teachers' pay. In poorer schools like Elisha's cuts in funding of 10% in last financial year meant school was unable to afford necessary resources to help improve achievement, such as revision guides for year 6. **Social and Emotional problems:** very high levels of pupils with social/emotional difficulties affecting learning and achievement, needing specialist help and resources.

Janet identified the following issues as currently most serious: **Constant change:** governmental demands and changes in curriculum priorities. New curriculum brought in 2 years ago raised bar of expectation without support of clarity on those expectations. Still only an interim assessment framework available but current year 6 pupils will be tested on new curriculum. Climate of accountability makes pressures on new, younger teachers daunting and causes senior staff to manage with a demanding rather than a supportive style in order to meet latest targets. **Recruitment** has reached crisis point at all levels in education. Experienced and young teachers are leaving the profession because of increasing demands, constant change and workload. Currently only overseas teachers with limited stay in U.K. are applying. Rapid teacher turnover is creating instability and lack of applicants for senior posts means quality of leadership diminishing.

During the discussions which followed these presentations, recommendations were suggested which could improve the current situation:

1 Encourage schools to become academies to give them more autonomy and enable them to forge links with other local school, perhaps as a multi academy trust. This would give opportunities for sharing resources and expertise. It would also improve recruitment and retention of staff. They would be able to recruit on “Train locally” and “Teach First” schemes as well as develop potential leaders through “Leading form the middle” and similar in-house training.

2 Have people who could intercede between teachers and government policy makers to develop a model of implementation of change so that there is clarity of understanding for all concerned.

3 Recognise that what makes teachers leave the profession is not challenging pupils or difficult areas. The major issue is poor management and lack of support from the head teacher and senior staff. Good in-service leadership training is essential.

It was agreed by all who attended that this meeting had been a stimulating and worthwhile occasion, which raised many issues for DKG as an organisation to consider how and where we could offer practical support to educators in all branches of the system. The profession is clearly under great stress and good quality practitioners are being lost to teaching. Help is needed urgently.

Joan Carroll (Alpha Chapter)

BETA CHAPTER REPORT

Sue Blackburn gave a PowerPoint presentation and talk about her experiences in British Columbia. This talk had been postponed from the previous year because of family illness and a house flood, so we were looking forward to her sharing her impressions of this part of Canada.

Her descriptions and photos were stunning. - placid lakes and the mighty Rockies, the elk, orcas, sea otters, sea lions and birds including vultures and bald eagles. There were also a few urban shots to remind her how cities had become built up since she had last been there.

Sue was also re-visiting relatives who had emigrated to Canada because of their perceived lack of opportunities in this country. Her aunt and uncle first went out in the mid 1950's, returned briefly in the early 60's and after a couple of

years went back to fresh food, better prospects and the fantastic natural environment of Vancouver Island with its Pacific Rim Cloud Forest and untouched natural resources.

Some cousins were not too keen for Sue to go whale-watching on the grounds of conservation – too many sight-seeing boats threatening the ecology. However, she did take a trip on the Leviathan Two, the whale-watching boat that afterwards overturned with loss of life. We shared with Sue, that when we saw the news report, that we had thought for a moment that Sue was still in Canada – and then realised, with relief, that she had already come home.

Our summer meeting will be to the National Trust house once owned by the D'Oyly Carte family, near Brixham.

Jess Curtis (*Chapter President*)

A DAY WITH THE VOICE CARE NETWORK

Last March I attended a one day workshop run by the Voice Care Network, an organisation which promotes voice care, skills and vocal health to educational and training systems. Most of us, as teachers, have experienced difficulties with keeping our voices in good order at some point in our career. Today, many teaching hours are lost through loss of voice. Too often teachers have had to be referred by their GP to voice clinics and speech and language therapists. A recent survey of voice issues indicates that 73,000 working days were lost in British primary schools in one year alone, with an estimated annual cost to those schools of 15 million pounds.

The Voice Care Network takes workshops directly into schools to teachers and support staff trainee teachers, NQTs and staff in primary, secondary and tertiary education, offering strategies to prevent voice problems and avoiding voice loss. Since 1980 the Network has provided voice workshops to over 60 local authorities. All members of VCN are qualified voice trainers and/or speech and language therapists. Those of us who attended this day were there to take part in training to learn how the workshops were presented for teachers and support staff.

The morning session was led by Yvonne Morley, voice teacher, vocal coach and VCN Tutor, who was herself the embodiment of the good presentation skills she was imparting to us. She introduced us to examples of how to communicate interactive, practicable workshops to boost vocal capability and clarity in the classroom; how to prepare the body and breathe for sustained voice use to

boost vocal capability and clarity in the classroom; how to prepare the body and breathe for sustained voice use to minimize voice strain. Examples also included practical exercises on the following:

How to use the voice in a positive and calm manner to help manage pupil behaviour; warming up of the voice; building resonance (instead of shouting); building energy and vitality in delivery; understanding the impact of vocal tone on listeners – for example - the experience of a child in having their name said with force or indifference when a register is called. Many of us remembered the impact this had on us as children.

In the afternoon we had practical experience and guidance from Claudette Brown, a pioneering senior mentor in education. Her leadership in adult and family learning opportunities made her an ideal communicator in strategies and ideas for supporting learners. She gave us practical puzzles to solve in assembling and ordering of words and shapes which we all enjoyed – enabling us to experience some of many helpful ways to impart enthusiasm, engage interest, and make learning fun and stimulating.

In exploring, and remembering how children learn, we recognised that Claudette's exercises had invited the child in us to come to the fore, and we could make a link with our experience and the way a body of teachers could be approached with imagination and creativity. This was an interesting and enjoyable day. In addition, wearing two membership hats of DKG and VCN leads me to think about the possibilities of making a connection between the two organisations.

Jess Curtis (*Beta Chapter*)

HOW TO BE A FOOD STYLIST

Like all lively speakers, Sue began her talk with a memory that evolved into her present occupation – the maths teacher whose `punishment` to Sue was for her to talk for one minute about rice pudding. Her mother's recipe followed and an interest in `domestic science` was kindled. School visits to, for example, The Design Centre, led to training in Home Economics at Sheffield Polytechnic.

Jobs with British Gas as a Home Service Advisor and The Milk Marketing Board as a Dairy Product Advisor found Sue addressing (and entertaining) large audiences. She decided to spread her wings as a freelance recipe writer and stylist. Some amazing assignments followed, many abroad, and with well known

celebrity cooks. There were some quirky requests: a first class trip to Dubai, to help in the production of cookery videos, required a search for a container large enough for a whole goat to be cooked in the desert. Keith Floyd asked her to cook a Texan dish marketing his sauces: she had to wear a Stetson, chaps and a check shirt. Styling and writing for Floyd led to assignments with Penguin for a series for Weightwatchers. She went to Alaska to cook and style for a book on wild Atlantic salmon. She has worked in California (almonds) and Italy (Parma ham). She said that many cookery writers are not all stylists, and she really enjoys this part of her work, creating a story round food presentation. She works for 'My Weekly' as well, where her step by step recipes are masterclasses in presentation.

We were greatly entertained. Ros presented her with a plant, and Sue presented each of US with a beautifully styled Atlantic Wild Salmon cookbook.

Sandra Blacker (*Gamma Chapter*)



VISIT BY GIRLS FROM THE PESTALOZZI VILLAGE



We had had an interesting, soul-searching day at our conference. After a delicious dinner it was time to sit back, relax and enjoy the visit of the students from the Pestalozzi Village. For those who do not know, Pestalozzi was founded in Switzerland after WW2 for children who had been displaced by the war and who were living in refugee camps. The founders named the community after an eighteenth century educationalist, Johan Heinrich Pestalozzi. In 1959 a similar village was established in East Sussex. Today Pestalozzi provides scholarships for academically able students for whom secondary education has been denied because of poverty or lack of facilities. The students come from Nepal, Indonesia, Belize, India, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Uganda, Bhutan and the Tibetan communities in exile.

Sue Walton (CEO of the Village) and Pestalozzi's resident volunteer Andrea Ruiz Ruiz from Spain, brought seven of the students along to entertain us. After an introduction from Sue, Arpana Nepal told us of her life in Nepal, of her experience of living in the Pestalozzi Village and her expectations for her future. Three national dances were then performed. Following this, we heard from Tsungai Mujera about her life in Zimbabwe and then from Belizean student Adisha Elijo about her life journey and her expectations after leaving Pestalozzi.

All the dances, gracefully performed, had been beautifully choreographed by one of the older students and were a combination of traditions from the students'



own countries, seeking to illustrate the empowerment of women from ethnic minorities, We were impressed by the confidence of these young people. They all had great ambitions of what they were going to achieve, not **if** but **when!** We were very amused when one of the students told us she was going to Paris to buy her clothes when she was famous!

Being confronted by a room full of teachers did not faze the students, they happily, and confidently, chatted to us individually. We were left in no doubt that these hard-working, ambitious young ladies would certainly achieve their chosen pathways to success.

It was a most enjoyable evening and a perfect ending to a successful conference

Evelyn Goodsell (*Gamma Chapter*)



NEVE SHALOM, OR WAHAT AL-SALAM

Our speaker was Janet Naim who described a very special, unique village in Israel called Neve Shalom (in Hebrew), Wahat al-Salam (in Arabic). Unlike other villages in Israel, this village community was established jointly by Christian and Arab Israelis in 1972; its citizens chose to live together democratically without political affiliation. The land was leased from the Latrun Monastery which had been in 'no man's land' in 1949. Bruno Hussar, the founder, dreamed of creating a village where Jews, Arabs and Christians could live faithful to their own beliefs and to those of others. There are now sixty families with plans to expand (there are 300 families on the waiting list). Funding is by means of grants and donations from international organisations (eg. The EU.) There is some funding from the Israeli Government.

The interest for DKG is that the children in the village are educated bi-nationally in kindergarten, primary school and junior high. Administration and teaching are shared equally, children are taught in both languages. Thus each child learns through his or her culture and tradition, whilst respecting and recognising the culture and tradition of others. The hope is to pave the way for peace and bring about change by emphasising shared values through the curriculum. No religion is taught (In the village there is no synagogue, mosque or church—just a peace

centre called The House of Silence - a pluralistic Spiritual Centre). Non-resident children from surrounding villages come to the school. Older secondary age children attend school outside the village for which they are carefully prepared; they are trained in critical thinking and learn to speak up against unfairness and injustice. In addition to the compulsory schooling, there is The School for Peace which was set up to counter the dangers of extremism by discussing emotional reactions and attitudes to conflict particularly the Israeli-Palestinian problems. Groups and organisations from other countries participate in courses run by the School for Peace. There are other institutions in the village for meeting and socialising which enhance the philosophy and ideals of the community of respect and understanding, equality between Jews and Arabs, grassroots peacemaking and awareness raising. Janet's talk left us feeling hopeful that there are Oases of Peace in the Middle East where through the children, coexistence will grow.

Sandra Blacker (Gamma Chapter)

GAMMA CHAPTER REPORT

Firstly I have to mention the inspiring conference in Eastbourne. Many thanks to Kathy and her team who very ably orchestrated the weekend. This made for a most enjoyable weekend for all. It was good to have visitors from other countries and a great pleasure to meet Lyn Babb Schmid, our International President. The contribution of the chief executive of Pestalozzi and some female students was extremely moving. It reinforced our connection to them and the importance of students around the world to be fully educated. Being in a hotel by the sea was a real treat as Sunday was a beautiful day to walk to the Towner Gallery. There we found a magnificent exhibition of children's art from schools in the surrounding area. We couldn't have found a more fitting end to the conference.

Our last talk of this year at Beechwood by Janet Naim recalling her visits to the Peace Village in Israel painted a very strong ideal of hope for the future. Apart from a couple of technical hitches we have had a successful year of good speakers. Sandra and I hope to meet up with the facilities manager at the school soon to thank her and hopefully negotiate another year of Saturday meeting in the sixth form study room.

We're looking forward to the visit to Sheila's house on **17th May** for coffee and lunch as well as her husband Harry's talk in between. I wish to thank every member of DKG who has encouraged, supported and endeavoured to keep me on track. I look forward to working with Carole Stirling over the next two years to create a variety of activities and good speakers to carry on from those that encouraged me to join this unique organization.



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