

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS  
**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA**



**Spring 2022**

*Volume 18 No 2*

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	As always, contributions are always welcome. To me by 30th September please, as usual in Word, attached to an email. Photos in jpg format always add interest.
Front cover:	
Pictures of Greenwich, ready for our outing on the 13th August.	
Thanks to Lavinia Soul for the photos.	The next edition of GB News will be the last I shall produce. After ten years and thirty copies we need someone new! I would of course do everything I could to help whoever takes over. Diana Bell, our webmaster, who knows the system well, would also help if required.

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## State President's Report



Sadly, it has been another year of uncertainty. Although restrictions with the Pandemic have eased, we have been unable to return to 'normal' Chapter meetings. Members have been rather hesitant to meet 'face to face' so virtual meetings have continued.

However, our wonderful Planning committee, Anne, Penny, Joan, Carole and Dorcas have not let us down. They have, once again, organized interesting and diverse meetings. A virtual walk around the East End of London in the footsteps of the Suffragettes: a trip to the Globe Theatre to hear about the life of an actor and comedian: more seriously, the Kindertransport and Women's safety. We were able to share all these talks with our Sisters in Europe and the USA.

Unfortunately we had to cancel our Conference once again. Penny and Joan had worked very hard to find a convenient venue in London in which to hold it. Sadly, due to lack of support, it had to be cancelled and an AGM, which we have to hold, is going to be on Zoom on April 23rd. at 10.30 am. Please do try to support this as it is your chance to voice your views on hopes, and wishes, for the future of the Society.

On April 20<sup>th</sup> at 5.30pm we are very fortunate to have a talk by an eminent scientist, Christina Astin. She is passionate about getting girls interested in science. She has appeared on 'Tomorrow's World', Radio Kent, and is the Kent secondary school advisor on science. You can look her up on the Web.

Now is the time to apply to be on Committees - here and on the International.

I really do recommend you do so as it is a great opportunity to travel, learn more about the Society and our Sisters in other countries

I do hope that, as we return to normality, we all make a great effort to increase our Membership. It is so disappointing to see how low our numbers are. If we all make an effort to bring one new member to our next meeting, it will make such a difference.

If any of you have decided to attend the International Conference in New Orleans do contact me as I shall be going and perhaps we could arrange to travel together.

Here's hoping for good weather during the Summer as our planning committee are arranging various visits to places of interest for us.

***Evelyn Goodsell*** (GB State President)

### **DKLG International Convention**

The **2022 International Convention** will run from **July 12th – 16th 2022 in New Orleans.**

Register for the convention on the DKG Website at [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org) and secure your hotel reservation.

The convention agenda is packed with speakers and sessions, providing a variety of opportunities. Electing new international officers and voting on proposed amendments to the governing documents are Society business matters that will take place at the convention.

Enjoy networking with women from across the globe while enjoying the sights and sounds of an exciting city! Experience the city as DKG members participate in the Society's first in-person convention since 2018. Many activities are available throughout New Orleans, such as the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, the National World War II Museum, and a steamboat ride on the Mississippi. A walk around Jackson Square is a must. Tours of Mardi Gras World can give visitors an up-close and personal experience of the floats and costumes; purchase a ticket to the DKGIEF event to be held there to enjoy it with other convention attendees.

Text copied from the [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org) website.

## **The Role of the DKG GB State Executive Committee**

The role of the Executive Committee is something that most members probably know little about. Actually it is the most important committee within each country or state within DKG and is responsible for all the decision making relating the Society's activities and development.

The membership of the Executive committee is composed of the State President as Chair, State Treasurer, Executive Secretary, Chapter Presidents and all past State Presidents. It meets three times each academic year, in September, January and March/April. In normal times it has been the practice for the GB Executive committee to hold these meetings in a committee member's home alternately in Alpha's or Gamma's area on Saturday mornings. As the agendas are usually long about two hours is usually needed to deal with all the items listed. So, as many members have had to travel a long distance to attend, a "bring and share" lunch is organised by all attending to relax after all their work is done and before they journey home. Of course this pattern changed during 2020-2021 to Zoom virtual meetings, which were very efficient, and will be used in future if bad weather or any other problem prevents a physical meeting taking place. Committee members have, however, appreciated a return to our traditional pattern of meetings this year.

The committee receives written reports from the Treasurer, all committees, and chapter presidents. It deals with all financial matters, reviews all Society events and plans for the future. It deals with awards, involvement with DKG events in Europe, U.S.A. and all other countries in the Society. During the pandemic the Executive committee authorised the setting up Zoom links to maintain contact with GB members by setting up a series of virtual meetings with speakers from this country and overseas inviting members from Europe to join in. This has proved to be a very successful development to DKG activities and has been taken up by the European Forum and our Regional Director who has run a programme of meetings from each of our European countries. The Executive committee is always seeking to develop the activities of DKG, increase the membership and develop links with other countries within the Society.

***Joan Carroll (Executive Secretary)***

## Evacuees

Over lunch after our last Executive Committee Meeting we had been discussing the current situation in Ukraine. In particular we had been encouraged to hear about the 90 orphans who had just arrived in this country en route to Glasgow, where they would be kept as a group. Their first request had been for a visit to the Harry Potter exhibition!

This led to a general discussion about evacuees, in particular from those of us who had that experience ourselves, or our families. We undertook to write something for the next edition of GB News, and I would very much welcome contributions from any other members.

Usual Word format, please, attached to an email, and if you have any relevant photos that would be even better!

**Diane Billam** (*State Editor*)

## We need another editor for GB News!

The next edition of GB News will be the last I shall produce. After ten years and thirty copies we need someone new! I would of course do everything I could to help whoever takes over. Diana Bell, our webmaster, who knows the system well, would also help if required.

At the moment I use the programme Publisher. If our volunteer had this programme already installed they would find it easy to continue with another document. I understand that similar publications can be produced using Word, which is of course a very common programme for laptops.

I would produce a list of what needs to be done and when, and would be happy to meet up to discuss any points. I hold the library of previous editions going back to 2001, which makes very interesting reading. We have done so many interesting things together, and it is good to have a record so that the experiences can be shared.

So please come forward and do your bit for our organisation. Do contact me to talk it through, if there are any points you wish to discuss.

**Diane Billam** (*State Editor*)

## Chapter Presidents' Report

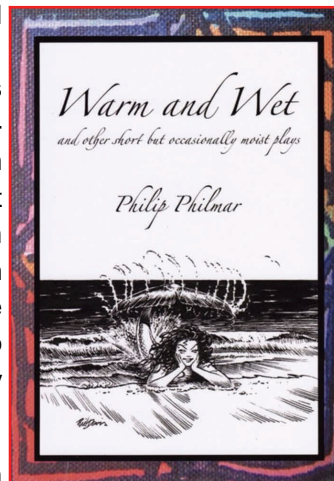
Alpha and Gamma Chapters continue to enjoy joint meetings on Zoom, thanks to Anne Goldstein for her never-ending range of contacts.

Our January theme was Theatre, when we had two speakers.



Sue Posner, a retired Assistant Head teacher, taught Drama for many years until she retired in 2015. She became involved in the "Shakespeare for Schools" project and eventually applied to be a volunteer at the Globe Theatre which has approximately 600 stewards. The Globe has been running for 22 years now and Sue described what a day at the Globe entails. Contrary to the expectation of it being traditional, it is very experimental with "Blind Casting", actor role reversal (Hamlet as female and Ophelia as male), signed performances for the Deaf and "Relaxed" performances for Autistic audiences.

Phil Philmar, actor and stand-up comedian, told us how he first got into acting. Originally he was encouraged to join a character modelling agency - "Ugly Modelling" which started in 1969. They wanted anyone who looked like "ordinary" people. Eventually, he started doing TV commercials which he enjoyed. His CV includes a range of TV commercials and three Tim Burton films. As he admitted, he tends to play a lot of "baddies" and showed us a scene with him (in tuxedo) holding a disguised camera on a cushion in the James Bond film "No Time to Die". For a while he did "stand up" comedy in order to work his way to getting an Equity card. He has started writing poetry and short comedy plays.



At our **February** meeting Anne did a presentation on the "**Kindertransport**". She described the horrors of "Kristallnacht" with Jewish homes, Synagogues and businesses being destroyed, and the thousands of people who were arrested and sent to prison camps. We learnt about the many heroic people who were involved in deciding to protect the children



which resulted in 10,000 mainly Jewish children from Austria, Poland, Czechoslovakia and surrounding regions were saved from Nazi persecution. Anne introduced us to "The Beacon" in Happy Valley, Rusthall, Kent which was home to many of these children.

At the end of the presentation we heard Anne's friend Sonia reciting a poem relating to the impact of Kindertransport. In all a very evocative and poignant presentation.



Our very topical **March** theme was "**Women's Safety**". We heard from Caroline Auckland, President of the Tunbridge Wells Soroptimists Society which started in 1946. Caroline told us that the Soroptimists stand up for women and follow the UN's "GOALS" - 17 goals to transform our world. There was a lot of discussion between DKG members relating to current events in the news, regarding women whose safety had been affected. There were also personal recollections from members of times when they themselves felt vulnerable when out alone, especially at night.

In all we have had a very full and exciting programme this term thanks mainly to Anne and Sandra with their extensive contacts and Anne for all her hard work in organising the actual meetings. I could not have managed without her. It seems such a long time since we've all been together at a 'regular meeting', face to face. Let's look forward to a time when that can happen again.

Our Joint Planning Committee will be convening shortly to organise meetings for May to July (dates to be agreed) with the possible general Theme of "Holidays". There is also the possibility of arranging a joint face-to-face summer event – Garden Party?

**Penny Kinnear** (*Alpha Chapter President*)

**Carole Stirling** (*Gamma Chapter President*)



## PROPOSED JOINT ALPHA & GAMMA SUMMER OUTING

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022

### River Trip

The cheapest one-way river cruise is from Westminster to Greenwich with “**Westminster to Greenwich River Thames Sightseeing Cruise**” departing every 30 minutes 10am to 4pm. Duration of trip is one hour. Arrive to board 15 minutes prior to departure. Cost for Seniors £9 (Adult £13). Tickets to be booked in advance with free cancellation up to 24 hours before. Maximum 10 tickets can be booked on one application. (Current booking goes to mid June and will be updated).

### Things to see and do at Greenwich

**Royal Observatory** open 10am-5pm. Cost £10 Concessions, (£16 Adult). Must be booked in advance.

**Cutty Sark** open 10am-5pm. Cost £13.50-£15 Adult. Must be booked in advance.

**National Maritime Museum** open 10am-5pm. **FREE**

**Queen's House** open 10am-5pm. **FREE**

**Old Royal Naval College** – **FREE** entry to grounds and buildings. Admission to the Painted Hall £13.50. Guided tours can be booked in advance.

**Greenwich Market** open Mon-Sat 10am-5:30pm.

Includes:- Handmade Gift Ideas,  
Arts & Crafts,  
Homeware & Accessories  
Street Food from around the world  
Vegan and Gluten Free food

**Queen's Orchard** open 9:15am-4:45pm **FREE**

Greenwich Park has two cafes and one coffee stall.

NB For those not wishing to travel by boat, there is a train from London Bridge to Greenwich which takes 8 minutes.

\*Lunch arrangements tbc nearer to the date.

## Eulogy for Mary Wardrop



Mary's daughter, Alison, sent us this which she had written for their local paper. It gives a range of appreciation from her local community and colleagues, additional to what we included in our last edition. Here it is.

### Submitted for publication by Alison Davies

Tributes have been paid to the former headteacher of **Southborough** Junior School, Mary Alison Wardrop, who died peacefully on November 4, 2021, aged 84.

Mary was born in Catford, South London in 1937, grew up in **Sevenoaks**, and attended Walthamstow Hall School and then completed teacher training at Bishop Otter College in Chichester. She lived in Hawkenbury for 43 years, before moving to be closer to her daughter's home.

During her career as a primary school teacher, she worked in Downham, Plaxtol and as a deputy head teacher in East Farleigh and finally served Southborough Junior School as headteacher for 15 years. She was a dedicated and diligent headteacher at school level, a Primary Advisory Head for Kent County Council and involved internationally in Delta Kappa Gamma, a Key Women Educators' organisation speaking in the USA, Sweden, The Netherlands and Iceland on Primary Education and Citizenship.

Mary was married to Nick and they celebrated their ruby wedding anniversary in 2000. Nick and Mary were active in promoting their community within Tunbridge Wells, contributing to the founding of the Hawkenbury Village Association. They produced a newsletter, encouraged the council to provide dog waste bins in the recreation ground and improving the children's play area with more diverse equipment.

They campaigned for appropriate planning for a local school encouraging town planners to consider the wider impact on the neighbourhood.

Nick helped to produce the Neighbourhood Watch newsletter until his unexpected death in 2004. Mary continued to deliver it locally until she was no longer able to, through reduced mobility.

Mary was invited to serve on the Sherborne Close Housing Association committee, as member and then as chair, which she faithfully did for around ten years, taking a keen interest in the residents' welfare, attending many events and activities.

She was a member of Christ Church Southborough and served in various ways until, through ill health, she could no longer drive. Mary then attended Hawkenbury URC where she had many friends from Sherborne.

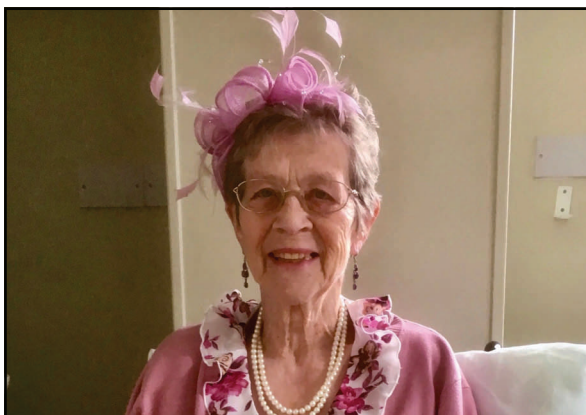
Mary was nominated to attend a Buckingham Palace tea party with the Queen in May 2019, for her commitment and service to her community. She was privileged to attend the last tea party to be held, to date, prior to the Covid pandemic and had to attend in a wheelchair having broken her hip four weeks previously.

Richard Akehurst, chairman of the Sherborne Close management committee, said: "I am sure I speak for all past and present committee members, staff, contractors and residents to say how thankful we all are for her leadership and many hours of service to the committee and the Close. For this we say a heartfelt thank-you."

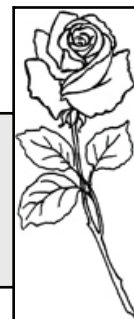
Kate, scheme manager for the Sherborne Close Housing Association, said: "She will always be lovingly remembered and missed."

Chris Vellenoweth, a family friend of over 60 years, said, "A reflection on Mary's life - one that was truly devoted to her family and service in the community. Someone who gave more than she received."

Mary Wardrop leaves a daughter Alison, a son David who lives in Oregon, USA, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



Mary dressed up  
for a Garden Party  
At Buckingham  
Palace



## DKG Meetings with a Theatre Theme

### Stewarding at The Globe Theatre



Anne introduced her friend Sue Rosner, who told us about her experiences acting as a steward at The Globe Theatre. Sue told us how she got into volunteering, following her retirement in 2015. She originally trained as an English teacher, and specialised in Drama.

She had realised early on that a career as an actor was not for her: At her all girls school Sue had played Colonel Pickering in *Pygmalion*! She had very much enjoyed working as Head of Arts in a school in East Ham. The Globe Theatre ran a Shakespeare for Schools project, offering free tickets for students in London Schools during February and March. Sue spoke to a steward at one of the performances about becoming a steward herself, and was

directed to the website. She applied, was accepted, and went through an extensive induction process.

It takes 600 stewards to run the whole programme, 35 for each performance. There are a number of duties, such as showing people to their seats, making sure nobody uses their phone to take photographs, and does not sit down if they are 'groundlings' standing around the perimeter of the stage. There are up to 700 groundlings at any one time.

Stewards are well looked after: There is a room with refreshments. The season runs from April to October, and there is a social occasion for stewards at the beginning. 'The show must go on' regardless of the weather. While some children on trips can misbehave, especially if not monitored by their teachers, there are many who find the whole experience wonderful and magical. This makes it all worth while. The actors also take plays into schools as part of the educational programme.

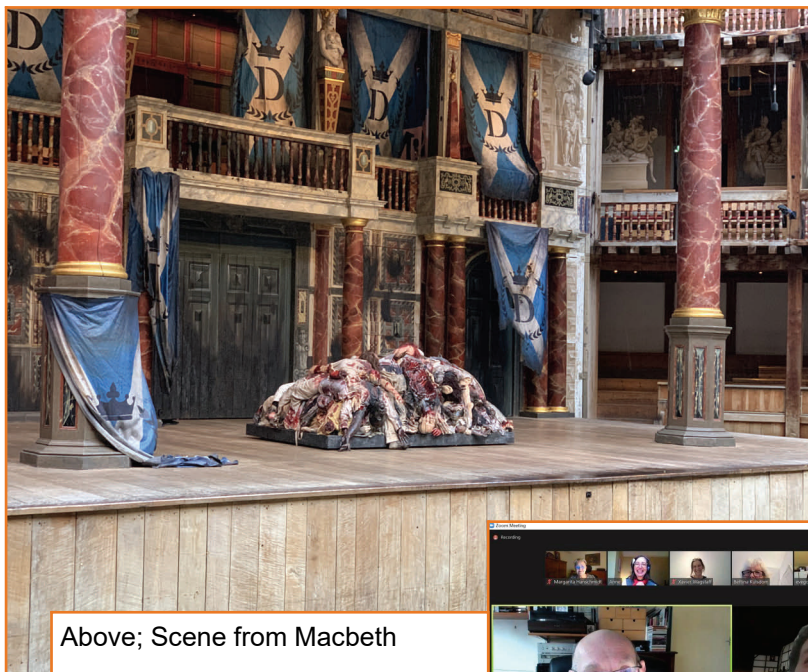
which resSue very much appreciated the work of Emma Rice as Artistic Director, but some stewards hankered after the days of Mark Rylance, and disapproved of the changes she made. There is a range of performances for different audiences: some with sign language, some 'relaxed' performances for those with special needs, such as autism. There is a special performance on April 25<sup>th</sup>, Shakespeare's birthday, when actors take a 'sonnet walk' around the streets of Southwark. As a steward Sue has seen Shakespeare plays she did not know before. Ms Rice introduced speakers and lights, sacrilege to some, themed events such as 'women in power', and role reversal with women playing male parts and vice versa. The Globe is also used for concerts. The commitment for stewards is 12 sessions per season, and Sue tends to do a matinee and evening performance on the same day, so that she does not end up at St Paul's underground station in the rush hour! She has met some really interesting people, and volunteers are always passionate about what they do. The Sam Wanamaker theatre, indoors and candle lit, is used in the winter. Sue remembers one performance which concerned the partition of India, and got talking to an Indian couple, who told her their daughter was on stage, in what turned out to be a main part. They did not want her to see them in case it put her off, and later Sue found out that they had come all the way from Hong Kong specially to see her performance, and were going back the next day.

Like many theatres, the Globe was streaming performances during the lockdowns. Sue said she had thoroughly enjoyed her experience there, and made some very good friends. Margarita had one question at the end. She said she had visited twice with students and wondered what happened if it rained? Sue said performances proceeded: no umbrellas allowed in the audience, but they did sell waterproof ponchos! The cast also got wet of course. Sue said the names of stewards are listed in small print on the back of the programmes. Stewards are invited to the final dress rehearsal of each performance.

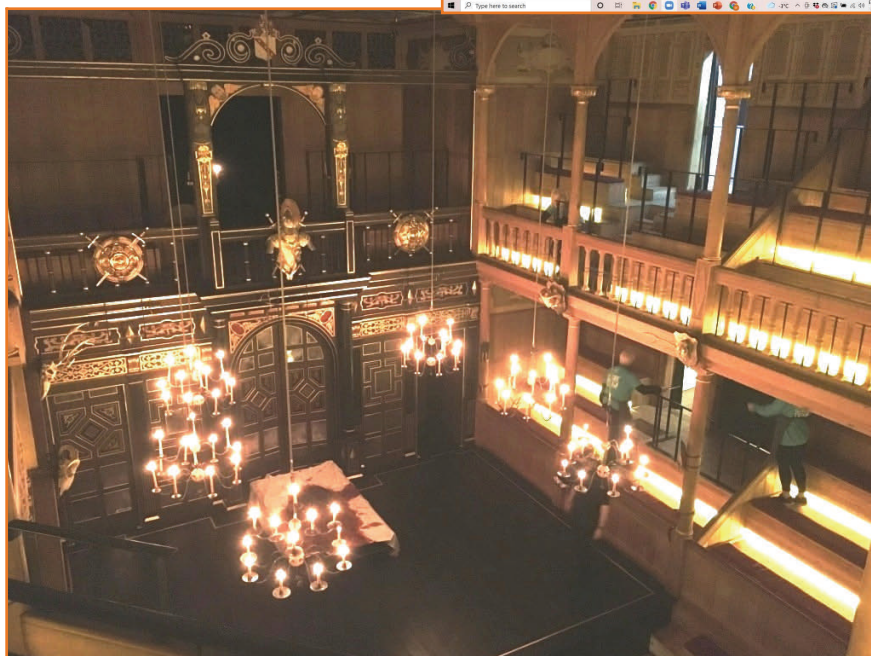


Anne thanked Sue for her talk, and went on to introduce the next speaker, Phil Philmar.





Above; Scene from Macbeth  
Phil and Sue on Zoom.  
Below: Globe Stage from above.



## A career in the arts

Phil Philmar told us about the various roles he had played in film, TV, radio, but not much theatre. He never intended to be an actor, and was an artist at school. He had a great friend called Mark, 2 years younger, but very talented. At Phil's house they would play art games – his Dad was a shoemaker so there was plenty of cardboard to make things. At Mark's house they did acting. Mark was sent to stage school, whereas Phil went to art school, and became a professional illustrator. He met a professional photographer, who asked him if he would like to be an



alien, whereupon he was painted green! He was congratulated on his range of expressions, and joined a character modelling agency, specifically the Ugly Modelling Agency. Most people in fact looked quite ordinary. Phil had expected still photography, but his first job was a TV advertisement. When he continued to work in TV advertisements, despite having had no training for it, he found that he could keep up with those who had. He then got a theatrical agent, and worked in film and TV also. He has done over 100 TV commercials, including the one for Levi jeans, where he was folding laundry in the background as the handsome young man took off his jeans! Phil has acted on a number of Tim Burton films, for instance as Slugworth in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. As a character actor he has played numerous delightful and disparate roles. He was recently in 'No Time to Die', the latest James Bond film. Anyone who saw the film would have recognised him.

In this line of work you tend to stay in the area you start in. It is difficult to climb the ladder. So Phil thought he would have a go at standup comedy, using this as a back door way to gaining an Equity card. He tried cabaret, and comedy, got a provisional Equity card, then finally a full Equity card. He was then able to get an agent, leading to roles in film and TV. He gave up standup when he got his card. Performance poetry was coming into vogue, so he had a go at that. He wrote poems and scripts, and produced a book of short amusing plays, 'Warm and Wet', one of which is about a mermaid. He has written plays, working with a writers' group, and his latest job is in Hungary, for Amazon. A sort of prequel to an American action series.



Joan Carroll asked a question: what happened to his lovely friend Mark? Phil explained that it was a very sad story: Mark died aged 23, of leukemia. He had not told his family about it. Phil saw him shortly before he died: he was painfully thin and pale. He stayed for 30 minutes, chatting away, then went. He had told Phil he had done a touring version of `Cabaret`, which pushed Phil to do more. He also spoke of his friend John, the photographer. Evelyn said she was interested in amateur dramatics, and could he please read one of his poems. He explained some of the technical terms involved in shooting for TV, then read his poem, a parody, called `The Shoot`.

Anne thanked both speakers on our behalf for a very entertaining afternoon.

**Diane Billam** (*Gamma Chapter*)

### **Kindertransport** **("Get The Children Out")\***

In the lead up to the Second World War Hitler and his Nazi followers led one of the most horrific actions against humanity in Western Europe.

Twenty two days after the November Pogrom, Kristallnacht (The Night of Broken Glass) took place over the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November 1938 and resulted in shops being wrecked, houses burned to the ground and over 30,000 people arrested and sent to prison camps. 400 Synagogues in Berlin were destroyed. The inside of Jewish homes were completely smashed up with sledgehammers and there was a spike in suicides after Kristallnacht. There was a boycott of Jewish owned businesses, non-Aryans were forbidden to work, no contact allowed of cross-faith religions and the letter "J" was stamped into passports.

A group of heroic people decided they had to protect the children and as a result 10,000 mainly Jewish children from Austria, Poland, Czechoslovakia and surrounding regions were saved from Nazi persecution. This was to be known as the "Kindertransport".

Today, sculptures commemorating this event are situated in various locations around Europe. One of these, "The Arrival" by Frank Mercer, can be seen at Liverpool Street Station showing children arriving from Harwich from Nazi persecution in 1938-1939.

'The Arrival' by Frank Mercer, can be seen outside Liverpool Street Station in London.

Anne Goldstein introduced us to "The Beacon" in Happy Valley, Rusthall, Kent which was home to many of these children (mainly girls). It remained a hostel until 1951 and is now under private ownership.

Many people were involved in funding, providing accommodation, offering foster homes, transport, etc. Some notable and prominent names supported and campaigned for the program to be carried out.



Bertha Bracey who was the Secretary of the German Emergency Committee and a Quaker was named a "British Hero of the Holocaust" in 2010. She had travelled to Berlin to meet with Jewish Women's organisations and with the Home Secretary Sir Samuel Hoare.

Lola Hahn-Warburg (her brother-in-law set up Gordonstoun) was the daughter of a key banking family and a committee member of the Refugee Children's Movement. She came to the UK in 1938 and joined the Central British Fund for German Jewry.

Sir Samuel Hoare (also a Quaker) gave the go-ahead for the Kindertransport. He promised that mass immigration would be avoided as the children would only be temporarily separated from family and home country, it wouldn't harm the British population and no public money was used. Funds were raised by individuals and donations.

Notable amongst those involved were -

Helen Bentwich CBE was a social worker and member of the LCC (London County Council) Education Committee.

Greta Ecivier-Westman a German Travel Agent.

Rosa Rachel Schwartz was a Jewish Child Welfare Organiser in Vienna.

Gertrude Wijsmuller-Meyer, a Dutch Resistance Worker, saved 10,000 children. She confronted Eichmann of the Child Immigration Department and within 5 days she had moved 500 children to safety. She was known as “Aunty Trudy” and nicknamed “The Steamroller”.

Anne shared several pictures with us showing children carrying just one small suitcase which contained their most treasured possessions, girls posing outside The Beacon, a Hostel Purim Party in the Spring of 1940, girls in Brownie uniform and girls being taught domestic skills for Domestic Service



Some of girls who lived at  
The Beacon in 1942

The father of one child Lillyann Cohn was taken to Buchenwald Concentration Camp for 5 weeks.

When he returned his head had been shaven and he had lost a lot of weight. Prior to this his work involved travelling away from home selling linens and on his return would bring a gift for his daughter. Poignantly, on his return from the camp he took out a piece of dried bread. Lillyann came over on the Kindertransport. Anne played us a recording of Lillyann talking about the boys in the village and what they got up to.

Not all refugee children had a good time in the UK.

Another picture Anne showed us was a drawing of The Beacon, held by Antonia whose Grandparents sponsored Lillyann. In the picture is someone looking out of a window.



This was Sylvia Schneider (nee Balbierer) who had had very bad experiences in Germany. Many children had been traumatised leaving their parents and this was made worse for Sylvia who was sent to a family who wanted her to be Christian.

Mary Griminger left Vienna aged just 4 years old and was used as cheap labour in a London family. However, she married Eddie Arnold and had a daughter – actress Debbie Arnold.

Anne played us a recording of her friend Sonia (she was shown in an earlier photo with The Beacon in the background) reciting a poem relating to the impact of Kindertransport.

This was an excellent presentation giving us yet more insight into the bravery and determination not just of those who campaigned to save the children but also of the children themselves, many of whom never saw their parents or families again.



The Beacon painted in 1994 by  
Mr A O Hayward

\* The title of a forthcoming book by Mike Levy which tells the story of one of the most incredible events of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Due to be published soon.

**Penny Kinnear** (*Alpha Chapter*)





## Women`s Safety



Carolyn Auckland  
with her award

Caroline Auckland, the current president of the Tunbridge Wells Soroptimists spoke at our March meeting about their ongoing campaign to improve safety for women and girls in both public and domestic situations in this country. She introduced her topic by explaining a little about the origins of the Soroptimists and their community and charitable work and aims. The Tunbridge Wells branch was founded in 1947 and Caroline became a member 5 years ago. As president she showed us her impressive chain of office and described some of the activities with which her branch is involved.

An important campaign both nationally and locally in Tunbridge Wells concerns the increase in violence against women and girls and what Soroptimists are doing to raise awareness and to improve the situation. Caroline described some of these activities including taking part in a Safety Panel on International Women's Day with representatives from local police, a youth organisation and the local council to identify local areas and situations of risk and concern for safety for women and girls. These included parks, streets, public transport services, unmanned railway stations, multi storey car parks, poor or inadequate street lighting. All these situations posed greater risks after dark. Another effective awareness raising event was the Soroptimists' organisation of a candle lit vigil with speakers. This was held in November 2021 as part of the U.N's worldwide vigil to highlight the issue of violence against females. The Tunbridge Wells branch have also produced a survey in a wide range of media forms to reach a greater demographic. Their aim is to produce



Tunbridge Wells Safety Forum

the evidence needed not only to raise awareness but to achieve greater support from government, public bodies and the general public for their campaign.

Caroline asked DKG members for their comments and views on this issue and this produced interesting further discussion. Unity commented that bright, overhead lighting often created large areas of deep shadow between each light and where appropriate ground level lighting would be safer and clearer in public places. Joan said she believed that the increase in sexual objectification in recent decades in all forms of media, in TV programmes such as Love Island, Naked Attraction, the widespread use of pornographic material in social media and the normalisation of pornography generally have led to a lack of respect for women. For young girls in particular this has led to a lack of self-respect to the point that they willingly engage in such objectification. Di pointed out that, as a secondary school governor, she was aware that this lack of respect has raised the problem that young men do see this sexual objectification as normal now. This was in contrast to Evie's comment that, growing up in the East End of London as a young girl in the 1950s she had no fear about walking home alone, even after dark. Sandra said she believed that low self-esteem particularly in younger women accounts for the growth of cosmetic surgery in recent years, that physical sexual attractiveness is their most important asset. Margarita said that in Estonia the percentage of violent incidents against females in public areas was lower than that of domestic violence incidents, particularly in poorer sections of the community and was a much more serious issue. British members agreed that this aspect of violence was also serious here. It had increased during the pandemic across all levels of society. Unity commented that an increasingly negative attitude towards men has been developing in society generally in recent years and that this is particularly evidenced in divorce cases where decisions regarding custody of/access to children. The bias is strongly against fathers. Could men today be experiencing confusion and frustration about their role in society and its expectations of them which is affecting their attitudes and behaviour?

Finally the crisis in the Ukraine was touched on. Caroline described the work Soroptimists are doing fundraising, overseas as well as here in Great Britain. Soroptimists are in contact with their members in the Ukraine and in the countries bordering it. The response to appeals in Tunbridge Wells has been amazing in both money and provisions, 100% of which is going to give support. Caroline's group are currently involved in packing, mostly medical supplies, at the Masonic Hall with the Ukraine Relief group (West Kent).

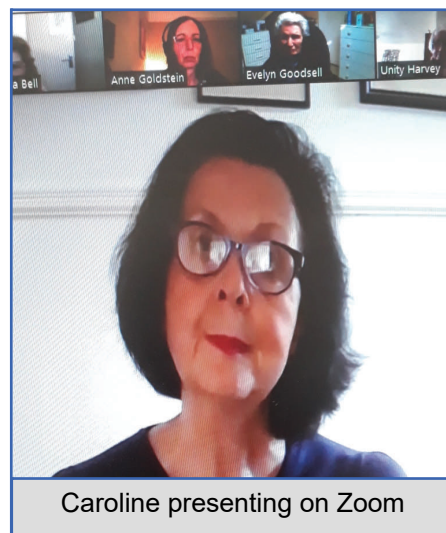
Tesco recently donated £5,000 of nappies at this centre. Caroline is also in contact with a Ukrainian neighbour and has linked her with other neighbours offering homes to refugees to take advantage of the government scheme.

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Caroline gave us a thought provoking and inspiring presentation.

I am sure our members will be happy to take part in the Soroptimists survey to assist in their campaign against violence towards women.

**Joan Carroll** (Alpha Chapter).







**Lots to see in Greenwich  
Saturday 13th August.**

**Don't forget to pay your DKG dues!**

**Please do consider becoming the next editor of GB  
News. Di Billam has done the job for 10 years and is  
ready for someone else to take over.**

**Plenty of help is available.**

## **DKG Opportunities for all members**

- \* **Share and learn together in an international society especially for women in education.**
- \* **Enjoy annual international conferences with colleagues and friends from many different countries.**
- \* **Develop personal and professional skills, including leadership.**
- \* **Become an international speaker in North America or Europe with all expenses paid.**
- \* **Opportunities include:**
  - \* **Regular meetings with great speakers on interesting topics in London and Kent.**
  - \* **Scholarships available for individual projects.**
  - \* **Outstanding leadership & management training at The University of Texas. (Golden Gift).**

There are many more opportunities available – view the DKG websites for the full list.

**International Headquarters: [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)**

Details of GB meetings are on the website

**Great Britain: [www.dkgyb.org.uk](http://www.dkgyb.org.uk)**

Find out more about DKG in Europe

**Europe: [www.dkgeurope.org](http://www.dkgeurope.org)**

### **Mission Statement**

**The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.**