



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

GREAT BRITAIN NEWS



Autumn 2016

Volume 15 No 4

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European Regional Conference	4	This edition includes reports on the DKG International Convention at Nashville, Tennessee. Sadly we also have a farewell to our beloved Dorothy Haley, who died earlier this year, and did so much for DKG GB, and for getting the European Region going. We owe her so much
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Cover photo showing GB members attending International Convention by Courtesy of Music City Live

Diane Billam: dbillam@hotmail.com

Kathy Hodgson

STATE ORGANISATION PRESIDENT 2015—2017



The second year of my biennium has begun with my feet barely touching the ground. It began with the International Convention in Nashville. This was my first visit to an International; the choice of location was wonderful and, despite many other commitments, I was able to appreciate the music, the food and, yes, the rain - the thunderstorms were pretty spectacular! Six members from Great Britain attended the event and you will read their accounts (including some amazing photos of the hotel and convention centre) elsewhere.

In my role as State President, I was your representative at several Executive meetings, voting on your behalf on a variety of amendments to the Standing Rules and approving the Budget for the next two years. (This, in itself, was odd, since I helped produce the very same Budget, as a member of the Finance Committee – I don't think this happens very often!) One matter that has reared its head again is the subject of who should vote and where. This is a tricky subject and it has been agreed that a working party, led by previous International President, Carolyn Rants, should look into this and report back, in advance of the next International in Austin in 2018. Our GB Executive Committee will be discussing this over the coming months but, should you wish to contribute to the discussion, or have any questions about this, please contact me.

The main speakers at each of the sessions were superb. A highlight for me was to hear Mike Figliuolo, both during a general session, and again during a double breakout session (**workshop**, in old money) where the audience was State Presidents only. He was just as motivational, and we considered ourselves fortunate to be able to interact with him in a much smaller group. Mike is the founder and Managing Director of *'thoughtLEADERS'* and, during my State President training in Boras in 2015, his book *'One Piece of Paper'* was used extensively to support the work we undertook. The book is designed to help leaders define who they are and what their personal leadership philosophy is. Reading it in advance was our homework! Signed copies of this title, as well as his subsequent *'Lead Inside the Box: How Smart Leaders Guide Their Teams to Exceptional Results'* were both available for sale during the week and, needless to say, sold out very quickly.

I returned to England for a week, and then travelled out to Austin for two weeks to participate in the Leadership and Management Seminar (aka Golden Gift). By

the time you read this, I shall have travelled to Austin once more, in early September, to take part in training for Committee Chairs; some of you may know I am Chair of the European Forum for the next two years. I will also have a further meeting at the end of October with the Finance Committee, also in Austin. Then, in November, the first meeting of the European Forum takes place in Germany. I am expecting British Airways to provide me with my own seat soon – not bad for someone who hates flying.



Kathy carries the flag

I cannot finish my report without mentioning Dorothy and Kate. In the last edition I spoke of the illness of both and, sadly, Dorothy is no longer with us. I spoke about her during the European Forum meeting in Nashville, and then Carol Mueller, previous International President, spoke very movingly at a general session about the impact Dorothy had in the formation of our European Region, and how her determination and perseverance were an example to us all.

Kate, however, goes from strength to strength, and the number of people who asked after her during the convention speaks volumes of the high regard in which she is held. There is an expectation from many of the Europeans that Kate will be leading the charge in Estonia next year. Finally, I would like to thank Joan and Diana; whilst I was away sunning myself (I wish!) they were investigating locations for our **State Conference** next year. Hot off the press; it is on the **1st April, 2017 at the De Vere Venues Devonport House, in Greenwich**. So, please put the date in your diary. ***Kathy Hodgson***

EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE: ESTONIA: 24-29 JULY 2017

Don't miss the opportunity to visit Estonia, with over 1,200 natural lakes, the medieval town of Tallinn, sea resort of Pärnu and Tartu's university.

Did you know that Estonia is the birthplace of Skype?

THE CANTERBURY AWARD 2017

Now is a good time to consider applying for a Canterbury Award. This can be granted for either an educational project you have been considering or a travel award to enable you to attend a state, regional or international conference for the first time. Look at our DKG website where the Canterbury Award is clearly signposted on the right hand side of the KEY DOCUMENTS section. Information and full instructions for the Application Forms can be downloaded and will assist you. These should be completed and posted or emailed by **10 January 2017**. ***Mary Wardrop*** (Chairman of the Awards Committee)

Our Memories of Dorothy Haley

Dorothy was born on 20th January 1925, in Morecambe, Lancashire. She attended Lancaster Road Junior School, Manchester Grammar School and West Leeds High School. She was awarded a BA Honours Degree and a Diploma in Education at Manchester University, studying Geography. It was this love of Geography that gave her an insatiable appetite to travel and, my goodness, she certainly did!



Dorothy was an extremely organised person and kept meticulous details of everywhere she had travelled, when and with whom. Not one year did she miss travelling somewhere, sometimes on her own but mostly with one of her many friends or a member of her family. When staying in a country for a few months she would volunteer her services to schools: Head of Geography at a residential school in Hawkes Bay, New Zealand; Head of Geography at Wenona College for girls in Sydney, Australia; at a State school in Brisbane, Australia and Head of Social Studies in Athabaska, Northern Alberta, Canada. These were just a few of the schools. When not teaching, she would do casual work, fruit picking and waitressing. She became a member

Dorothy in Amsterdam, 2013 of the Waitress Union!

In 1964 she was teaching at Padstow Park Junior School. She stayed at this school for two years and taught the D Stream of eight year olds, and it was there she decided her educational field of the future. In 1972 she went on a study tour of the USA and did research for three months to assess the different approaches to Special Education. For her final teaching position to be Headteacher of Bower Grove School in Maidstone, Kent, Dorothy had to move south - she described this as a move to another 'foreign country'! Not only did she spend all her spare time travelling, but she encouraged her students to do the same. She specialised in leading the students on residential trips, especially Outward Bound courses in Great Britain and abroad. Never one to let the grass grow under her feet, every school holiday Dorothy was off travelling the world by air, train, sea, and hitch-hiking. One would find it difficult to think of anywhere in the world she had not visited.

Dorothy was an excellent needle-woman and was very proud of a tapestry in which she was greatly involved, and which can be seen at the Globe Theatre in London.

When she became a member of the National Trust, she began the Ightham Mote tapestry. Dorothy had a great love of Scottish dancing, travelling all over Britain to take part. It was, sadly, whilst visiting Grassington, one dark December night that she had a terrible accident. She was told by the doctor that she would have to give up a year of her life to recover. Dorothy was determined that would not happen and told the doctor she had to be in the USA in the summer. Assisted on her journey by her faithful friend, Doreen, she made it. At the time of her accident, Dorothy was organising a DKG Conference in Canterbury. She cajoled and persuaded hospital staff and visitors to photo-copy, print off and post all the information and instructions needed to be done, and, although she was unable to be there in person, the Conference went off without a hitch.

To us, in Great Britain, Dorothy **was** Delta Kappa Gamma! She worked tirelessly for the Society and became an Area Representative for Europe. We have her to thank for the formation of the European Region. She remained passionate about this right up until she died. She had great knowledge of the rules of the Society and stood up to Headquarters if she did not agree with their decisions. Dorothy attended all the Conferences and we were all quite relieved when she finally agreed to buy a suitcase with wheels, as her suitcase was like a Tardis, containing special pillows and potions, as well as her beautifully co-ordinated clothes. Dorothy usually volunteered to present a Workshop and these would be well-attended. She would speak, accompanied by one of Kate's superb Power Points, with no notes, and speak non-stop, without hesitation or repetition (but usually with some deviation) for 45 minutes. Not just on one topic but several. She would do her research and just remember. Amazing.

Diminutive in stature but larger than life. Once you met Dorothy you never forgot her. She was an inveterate letter writer and kept in touch with family and friends from all over the world, often inviting them to stay with her or inviting herself to stay with them. To us all, Dorothy was a very special person and she will be greatly missed; but all the time there are people who remember her, she remains with us. She had a great sense of fun and we cannot help but smile when we think of her and her stories of adventure and misadventure.

Evelyn Goodsell (Gamma Chapter)

*Dorothy, Carole Stirling and Kathy Hodgson,
Baden-Baden 2011*



PS We wonder where you are planning to visit now, Dorothy!

DKG International Convention, 2016, Nashville, Tennessee

Tennessee Night

After greeting many friends and enjoying a rousing Opening Session in which a classically trained violinist, Kai Knight, delighted us with his own innovative renderings of “That Old Time Rock and Roll,” we settled down to listen to quite different music.



The musical ensemble included Dave Cleveland and Wanda Vick Birchfield who played a variety of string instruments. Steve Brewster was the drummer. Ron Hemby added a bass and joined Melodie Crittenden Kirkpatrick making two vocalists. Blair Masters played keyboard sounds. They have appeared on hundreds of albums and have performed with some of

the biggest names in the music business. The very loud overall sound was provided by Grammy-winning engineers Ronnie Brookshire and Dave Dilbeck. The audience clapped, sang along and eventually some people danced.



Afterwards we collected our gift bags, which contained a hand written welcome note, some locally printed cards, a DKG note pad, pencils, crisps and a locally made Goo Goo chocolate cluster biscuit. It was good to see friends as we found our way back to our rooms in the enormous air-conditioned hotel/conference centre. It took most of the week to explore all of it. It had three entrance/exit points and several large gardens with streams and waterfalls within it.



Unity Harvey (Alpha Chapter)

Photos from top: Diana Bell, Courtesy of Music City Live, Editor, and Kathy Hodgson

Second General Session: An Inspiring Speaker

Mike Figliuolo was our Speaker at the second General Meeting and is the founder and managing director of *thoughtLeaders*, a professional services firm specialising in leadership development. Before founding his own company, Mike was an Honour Graduate from West Point and served in the US army as a combat arms officer. After leaving the army he was an assistant professor at Duke University and a consultant at McKinsey & Co.

Mike's aim is help leaders define who they are and what their personal leadership philosophy is. He believes this can be achieved by simply making a list of four easy-to-understand aspects (maxims), to define your leadership style. These should be written in simple language and on not more than one sheet of paper. You can not be a successful leader until you can ask yourself what motivates you to lead and have defined your 'rules' of personal conduct and what you stand for. Why do you get out of bed every morning? Ask yourself if you are excited to go to work and what do you answer when asked what you love doing? Do you let people know what you are really good at doing? Following this self-analysis you can prepare to lead the members of your organisation by questioning where you can take it and how to innovate change? How can you lead them as individuals? How do you lead a 'balanced' life?

Once written down, continue to question yourself and do not be afraid to change your ideas. Mike has never stopped learning, teaching and coaching and wants to be remembered for helping people to have 'light bulb' moments. But, through all his decisions, he is constantly questioning himself as to whether they are morally right and can he live with them. He divulged that he had been very close to his Nana and, whatever decision he made, he asked himself what would his Nana think and could he face himself in a mirror afterwards? Mike also confessed that, at times, these 'maxims' were difficult to abide by but he encouraged his people to focus on writing 'maxims' that will clearly establish guidelines they could use to differentiate right from wrong, especially in stressful situations. As leader, the way you deal with problems or a crisis will be scrutinised by your team so you must be mindful of those moments. You are responsible for your team to carry out tasks to the highest standards and are accountable for the results. Mike made clear that 'maxims' could be written for all situations but they must be short and written down in simple language. He also emphasised that you must ready to change them over time as you grow.

Mike is now leading a highly successful Company. He and his team train senior executives at leading companies on topics of leadership, strategy, com-

munications and innovation. He is highly sought after as a speaker and trainer and has delivered his message to thousands of executives and leaders through presentations, instruction and personal coaching. Always keen to share his knowledge, Mike Figliuolo has written a book, 'One piece of paper'. In it he writes, in quite simple language, the approach to powerful, personal leadership.



Evelyn Goodsell (*Gamma Chapter*)

Photo courtesy of Music City Live

Respect!

One of the interesting aspects of the Convention is the 'Breakout Sessions', which we would call Workshops! There were over 100 this time, and this report covers one of them. 'Respect', by Wendy Stephens, of Alabama, asked how respect related to classroom culture. Her session was developed with secondary teachers in mind, exploring how the culture of the collaborative classroom affected student learning. Wendy presented some research-based practices and techniques designed to improve student focus and engagement, reduce problem behaviour, and increase instruction time. Wendy said that students vary in their willingness to complete work, do their homework, and have their appropriate equipment with them. Some do this always, some do it sometimes, and some never. She pointed out that teachers have to make decisions all the time during class on how to gain and keep attention, with this being an interactive process. We need to develop strategies to ensure that all students benefit from our classes, with classroom management ranging from authoritarian, where there are rules for everything, to permissive, where anything goes.

Experience soon shows us that punishment does not change behaviour: if it did, there would be no need for prisons. Her advice was, 'Give kids enough rope to burn themselves, but not to hang themselves'. Conflict is inevitable: it is also essential. Students must learn self control. Aspects of verbal communication include that calm is contagious, silence is powerful, tone, volume and cadence are important. Students should know they always get a second chance.

Non-verbal communication includes personal space and body language. Above all avoid power struggles. Conflict is inevitable, but combat is optional. Classroom arrangement is important, as it is easy to get disconnected at the back. She recommended `Unconditional Positive Regard` (UPR), which involves making sure students know that you care about them. There is a honeymoon period at the beginning, where teachers should get to know the students, as they will form their own views in return. Relationships are important, with interaction being contingent (to do with work), or non-contingent, to do with, say, pets, or music. They need to know they are valued as human beings. If teachers simply set out rules without developing relationships, rebellion will follow.



Teachers need to identify classroom expectations. Direct instruction may follow a pattern of `I do, we do, you do`, with the aim of refocusing as the lesson develops. Students must know you care about them. Misbehaviour should require that students think about what they did. Identify a spot in the room for `time out`, give the student a form to fill in: What did I do? Why? What will you do next time? Are you ready to return? Take every opportunity to turn a disruptive moment into a learning moment. Ensure that students know they are not in trouble provided they refocus, and above all, never give up. Wendy gave us all food for thought—a most useful presentation. She can be contacted on wendyconsults@gmail.com.

Diane Billam (Gamma Chapter)

BUILDING BRIDGES AT THE EUROPEAN BREAKFAST

Marianne Skardéus welcomed the 26 participants to the Breakfast Meeting in the Lincoln Room at the Convention Centre in Nashville. She reported that \$37,000 had been collected this year for the Emergency Fund, for emergencies such as flooding, storm damage, tornados and earthquakes.

Marika Heimbach then led the inspirational thoughts and spoke to us about the tradition of celebrating our regions, with the best part “Building Friendships across Borders.” We have come a long way since the last war, with the EU building bridges – important for peace and so relevant nowadays with so many refugees seeking help. Marika’s personal stories provided good examples for building bridges. When De Gaulle and Adenauer established the French/German exchange programme in 1963, Marika was among the first students to take part. She met her first American friend in 1970, now also a DKG member and who she was staying with in Nashville. Through that connection Marika was able to start a German/American friendship programme with a teacher who introduced her to DKG. One of her first exchange students was at the

Conference. Another example for friendship across borders is the fact that Marika founded Delta Chapter in Germany with the help of members from the Netherlands. Delta Chapter recently started a project to help refugees overcome trauma by art therapy and this includes support for immigrant women to integrate into German Society. Marika concluded by referring to the Peace theme of the European breakfast two years ago. Building bridges across borders, and the friendship that follows, furthers peace.”

Our International President, Dr. Lyn Babb Schmid, visited our breakfast and granted us the title “International Spice”. Marianne led the next phase from “The Old to the New World”. She reminded those present of the special skill of Sweden’s greatest writer, Vilhelm Moberg whose plays were very successful throughout Sweden, and the amazing performances, of his “Emigrant Saga” and “Kristina from Duvemala”, particularly relevant for the occasion.

Three very moving presentations followed, the first by Janice Sorrell, an American guest from Minnesota dressed in the unmistakable blue and yellow colours of Sweden. Her family had antecedents from both Sweden and Norway. Her Swedish grandfather arrived in America in 1868 and Maria, her grandmother, from Sweden with 3 children. Before the end of the meeting, Jan gave me a gift, a very small “parcel” to use in my computer and learn more about the family history in due course. As a finale, Jan showed us their own wooden house, horse and farm for their relations to enjoy. Marie Antoinette Hubers from the Netherlands told us the second story, of Ria Bleeker’s Family History, the Eenigenburgs, who left the Netherlands for religious reasons and travelled to safety in the New World, America. Fortunately, a descendent, Harry, kept a diary for their family history passing it down for future generations. In 1999 a large family reunion met together and founded a museum in 2002. The third story came from our Estonian member, Margarita Handschmidt, entitled “Thinking of my future grandchildren who can speak Estonian.” Margarita has promised to send us another interesting account of the distant relations who travelled to the Baltic States from the far distance away in Europe.

After enjoying these very different accounts we joined in singing the European DKG song, led by our friends from Norway. Erica Puusemp welcomed us to Tallinn in 2017 for our next Regional with enticing cards to bring home to our members. Finally, Cor assistant drew the then raised \$270 dolgency Fund. We delicious breakfast and pany.



Wolff-Heins and her raffle which had lars for the Emerparted after a deliwith enjoyable com-

(Gamma Chapter)

Mary Wardrop

NASHVILLE; WILDHORSE SALOON

The 'Call Me Country' night out was at the Wildhorse Saloon in Downtown Nashville. This venue is a '66,000 square foot live music and dance destination'. Coaches were available from 5 – 10pm. We all dressed up – or down – there were sparking Stetsons, fringes, Cowboy boots and jeans. We set off with something like 700 other DKG members and guests. On arrival we were greeted by a wild horse in the doorway and Lyn Babb Schmid, outgoing International State President, in her fringed outfit.

Inside was 'atmospheric' with the wild horse theme on the walls, by the bar, and running upside down on the ceiling! We all had some Southern Smokehouse cuisine, including delicious beans and a very nice (what tasted like) cherry crumble. It was then time to check out the line dancing lessons – a bit crowded on the floor - the largest dance floor in Tennessee! The line dancing lessons were great fun and relatively easy to follow – until someone in front went wrong and then I found it difficult not to do the same.



The main event followed; I was expecting good old Country and Western Dolly Parton style from the group – but instead it was very loud, 'head-banging' (Well the keyboard player was doing this as he played) music with words that were unintelligible, sadly not my style.

I explored the two galleries upstairs, there were pool tables and more horses to have pictures taken also three technical guys working decks that controlled the lighting, screens, music mixing etc. After a while we decided, along with a number of others, that we had enjoyed it, but it was time to go home, perhaps a bit earlier than expected.

Diana Bell (Alpha Chapter)



*Di Billam, Unity Harvey
and Diana Bell with
friends*



LEADERSHIP MANAGEMENT SEMINAR (aka GOLDEN GIFT)

The DKG International sponsored Executive Education Programme at the University of Texas at Austin McCombs School of Business occurs in even numbered years for thirty participants from around the world. This year I was lucky to be one of those thirty.

Included this year were women from all five regions of the Society, with six different countries represented: Finland, Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Mexico and all areas of the US. The group chose the theme of Global Connections: Leading, Mentoring and Sharing. From the beginning of the two weeks, it was clear that the level of teaching would be of the highest calibre. We covered a range of topics including Emotional Intelligence, Ethics, Optimal Wellness, Interpersonal Communication, Negotiating Skills, and Conflict Resolution – so goodbye to disagreements at Executive meetings in the future!



One of the activities that caused the greatest apprehension amongst us was a five minute talk on the subject of our choice, filmed, critiqued by the members of the small group we were in, and finally a short extract of the film was shown; each of us was asked to find something positive to say about ourselves. And we could! Perhaps this was due to the positive approach of the teacher, Dr. Melody Chatelle, but I like to think that we had learned a lot about ourselves in the preceding days. No – I don't have a copy of the film – so don't ask!

Dr Gaylen Paulson, Dean of the McCombs School of Business, taught the group negotiation skills. Teams of two, a buyer and seller, haggled over an antique sugar bowl. The seller wanted to get rid of the bowl, and the buyer needed that particular bowl to complete a set, thus making their existing items much more valuable; neither of them knew the other's position or budget. Results from the pairs revealed a wide range of agreed prices – from \$200 to \$2500 for the same item! The most important information is to know the limit of the other person in the negotiation – and the goal is to try to make the other person feel good about the outcome.



One of the greatest aspects of the entire two weeks is the fellowship of the other members taking part. So many delightful personalities to get to know, and so many of them with the same doubts and uncertainties as I. And I will remember forever falling asleep reading my book, only to be alerted to something new and exciting found on the internet by my lovely room mate, Ann, from Connecticut. Have you ever sat in bed at midnight watching a replay on YouTube of Michelle Obama's speech at the Democratic Convention of 2016? I have.

So, if you want the experience of a lifetime, then start thinking about gathering your information if you, too, would like to attend the Leadership Management Seminar. The next one will take place in 2018, but it is not too early to begin researching the International Website. The seminar is for any member who has served the Society and would like to continue their education and service. Ask former LMS graduates for their advice – Joan Carroll, Mary Wardrop, Gloria Redston, Kate York and I would all be willing to help. Attend a session at the Regional Conference in Estonia in 2017 to learn more about this enriching experience, and apply. It is an opportunity you will value for years.

REPORT ON CANTERBURY AWARD 2015

I was given a Canterbury Award in March 2015 to support my travel costs to continue working as a counsellor with a young client who was in transition from Year 11 to further education, apprenticeship training, or college. This school placement was based in Paignton, an area with a high proportion of young people living in postcode areas with multiple deprivation. It provided me with excellent experience of working with young people, a group I intend to specialise in as a psychotherapist, focusing on the transition tasks of young adults. The award also enabled me to complete my own counselling psychotherapy training by providing a significant contribution to my client hours. I received my Diploma from the Counselling and Psychotherapy Central Awarding Body in September 2015, and so I am now qualified to practise and to build my third career thanks to DKG (GB)'s financial support and the encouragement and commitment of Beta Chapter.

Sue Blackburn (*Beta Chapter*)

BETA CHAPTER: NOTICE OF CLOSURE

It was with great sadness that, owing to increasingly difficult life circumstances, the decision to close our Chapter was reached at a meeting attended by our State President, Kathy Hodgson, on Saturday 24 September.

Two members have chosen to become reserve members of Gamma Chapter.

Jess Curtis (*Beta Chapter President*)

ALPHA CHAPTER REPORT

Alpha has had an eventful few months with a wide variety of meetings and visits. In May a group of us visited Bletchley Park, the site of the WW2 code-breakers. Some of the exhibits were interactive, some were recordings. It was a fascinating day out, and deserves a further visit. Lavinia Soul has written about her 'Bletchley Park Experience' elsewhere in this newsletter.

Debby Brand was our speaker in June, telling us about the working farm holidays set up by the author Michael Morpurgo and his wife. Debby was a colleague of Penny Kinnear, who has written an article 'Down on the Farm'. Interestingly, not long after the meeting, there was a newspaper article about the Morpurgos and the scheme, featuring the Pembrokeshire farm!

July saw us, once again, on our annual visit to the Royal Society's Summer Science Exhibition, with its amazing assemblage of cutting-edge science projects from schools, universities and institutions. Plenty of 'wow factor' to be found, as in previous years. I enjoyed the exhibits on Explosive Earth, studying quakes and eruptions on Iceland, learning about the variations in spider's thread - amazingly strong, and, wearing a 3D headset and earphones, immersed myself in an evolving galaxy, complete with surround-sound music at full volume! Joan had taken her grandson, Joseph, who had an exciting and inspirational day that he still talks about and he has written some comments for us.

Later in July a small group of us enjoyed a visit to Historic Harwich. Some made a weekend of it, some just a day trip. This was organised by Dorcas, and her friend Sue, Old Harwich resident, local guide and keeper of the Old Lighthouse! We had an interesting tour of the historic town, and visited the Electric Palace, one of the earliest purpose-built cinemas, dating from 1911. Restored, and reopened in 1981 it is very much in use. Crab salads on the pier, watching the shipping, a visit to the top of the Old Lighthouse, the weather smiled on us and it was a very relaxing time. Plenty more to see on another visit.

We have some interesting meetings in our calendar, especially the November one where Naomi Riches, Paralympic 2012 gold medallist will speak about 'My Little Paddle', 165 miles from Lechlade to Gravesend! She is fund-raising for IN-Vision, a charity which supports those with Infantile Nystagmus, which affects 1 in 1000 children. She is their patron. Naomi completed this terrific challenge, in just under 48 hours, on the weekend of September 17-19, and Dorcas, Ray and Barbara encouraged her from various points, from Erith to the finish. Alpha is supporting this charity.

Last, but by no means least, at our September meeting we initiated Elisha Wagstaff, welcoming her as a new Alpha member.



Elisha is no stranger to the Society, she has already been an Associate Member for three years, as she was then just starting out as a teacher.

Future meetings:

05.11.16 Talk – Naomi Riches + Dorcas/Ray Rogers – “My Little Paddle” – in aid of the charity IN-Vision. Naomi is patron of this charity, which supports those with Infantile Nystagmus. For more details of Naomi's 165 mile Thames challenge, which took place 17-19 September, visit the website-

10.12.16 Visit – Museum of London for “Fire, Fire!” exhibition marking 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London 1666, followed by lunch at The Green Man, near Bank Station, City of London. Meet at Museum entrance 10.30.a.m.

14.01.17 Combined meeting – 10.a.m. Exec. Committee meeting, light lunch 12.45.p.m. 2.p.m. speaker (details to be confirmed)

Venue – Soroptimists Centre, Lancaster Gate.

25.02.17 1.30.p.m. Business meeting + Speaker (details to be confirmed). Venue – Dulwich Hamlet Junior School.

March 2017 Possible weekday visit to Royal Society to view archive material, or visit to Greenwich University (former Greenwich Naval College) to view restoration of painted ceiling.

01.04.17 Annual Conference – Devonport House, Greenwich

06.05.17 Visit to Wetlands, E. London. Newly developed area

10.06.17 Education Today phase 2 – panel of speakers.

Venue – Dulwich Hamlet Junior School

First week of July 2017 – Annual visit to the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition.

15.07.17 Summer visit – A Day in Cambridge

Details as are confirmed will be on the Calendar Page of the website.

Barbara Kern (*President, Alpha Chapter*)

GAMMA VISIT TO WHITSTABLE

What a wonderful summer’s day for an outing to the seaside, kindly organised by Anne Cattoor. I think it was the hottest day of the year, so it was a question of ‘find the shade’ rather than basking in the sun. So, minus buckets and spades, we met for coffee in the garden of a spacious and bright care home where Anne is Chairman and Maurice, Treasurer. Have we ever known them sit back and not be fully committed? We had plenty of time for coffee and chat before driving into Whitstable where almost the whole of London and the South East had also decided to spend the day. Guided by Anne, we parked up on the cliff top close to Tankerton and whiled away an hour. Some of us just gazed at the sea, recalling that it was one of Turner’s favourite spots for painting and probably inspired his most famous work. ‘The Fighting Temeraire’. Some more adventurous members actually descended the cliff and even dipped a toe or two into the North Sea.

Lunch was at a ‘castle’ i.e. an 18th Century home in the style of a castle. Tony and Kate joined us there, having fought traffic jams to do so. After a chatty convivial lunch we managed to find parking spots and explored the old harbour and fish market. Maybe some of the group managed to sample or at least buy some famous Whitstable oysters?

Sheila Roberts (*Gamma Chapter*)

VISIT TO BLETCHLEY PARK

Before retiring in July 2005, I worked in a Primary school just a 15-minute walk away from Bletchley Park. My class of year 3 & 4 pupils' topic in the summer term was World War 2. Hence the Museum at the Park was the natural choice for a school visit. It was an exciting choice for the children as many of them had relatives who had worked there and had heard stories of the code breaking. They also knew of the efforts people in Bletchley were making to preserve the site for future generations. Saved by the skin of its teeth, or more precisely by the listing of some historic trees, from the bulldozers, Bletchley Park, with its easy rail link to London, had been earmarked as a site for a hypermarket and housing development. In 1991 with a grant of £300,000.00 from the Heritage fund matched by Milton Keynes Council, a Trust was created to save the site and a small museum was set up in one of the huts, the first guided tour taking place in 1994.

The school visits were very successful. The main house exhibited a private collection of Churchill memorabilia. One of the huts had a private collection of items relating to children in the war. There were donated items of wartime home products displayed so that children could understand what it was like to live during the war. Clothes and uniforms to look at and things to try on, the topic was easy to teach with this kind of visit on offer. The highlight was the visit to the hut, then in a very dilapidated condition, to see and TRY the enigma machine - little fingers on the keys, typing their names to appear in code. Knowledgeable and patient volunteers told them the story of the code breaking which shortened the war. We even got to see the Colossus, the world's first programmable digital computer that was being rebuilt by Tony Sale.

My revisit in May this year was quite a different experience. With the help of a £5 million lottery grant Bletchley Park has been transformed into a world class heritage site worthy of its history as the secret site of code breaking which saved many lives and shortened the war and its reputation as the birthplace of modern Information technology. We entered the Park through the new visitor centre, with its multimedia, interactive introduction to the exhibition. We watched archive footage of the war, the sounds of aircraft and bombs conjuring up the eerie atmosphere of the past. We learnt of the work of the Government Code and Cipher school during WW1 in code breaking which laid the foundations for the work in WW2.

After almost an hour of enjoyment we realised we had not yet entered the Park. We began our visit proper in the Mansion library, which is set up as it was during

dedicated to Gordon Welchman, a brilliant code breaker, and on to the restored office of Commander Denniston who fostered the “special relationship” between the UK and the USA, the Americans visiting Bletchley Park in 1941, before they had even entered the war. Finally, in the ballroom, we saw ‘The Imitation Game’ exhibition. Here, along with costumes worn by Benedict Cumberbatch and Kiera Knightley, was a reproduction of Alan Turing’s Bombe machine “Christopher” used as a prop in the film about his life and work at the Park. In the centre of the room, displayed - in a glass case - was an Enigma machine, not available for visitors to “play with” anymore. One display that really intrigued me in the mansion was the Royal Pigeon Racing Association’s display, explaining the role of pigeons in the war. I did not know that the Queen was a pigeon fancier, with a fine pigeon loft full of racing pigeons.

After an enjoyable lunch in the Park canteen, we headed for the Huts. While walking past the site of the tennis courts, put in at the express command of Winston Churchill, we were fascinated by a soundscape, whispering to us from the past, with snatches of conversation and the sound of tennis balls hitting racquets and bouncing on the turf. A number of “Huts,” are now finely restored and refurbished. Hut 11, which housed the Turing-Welchman Bombe machine, now projects videos of life-sized images, which give voice to the women, who worked the machines. Standing for 12 hours, a shift in the heat and noise of a room they called “The Hell Hole”, they worked determinedly at their important task. It must not be forgotten that 75% of the 10,000 people working at Bletchley Park were women and yet very few of their number were formally recognized as cryptanalysts working at the same level as their male peers. A number of books naming some of these women and their work have been published in recent years. We visited the restored code breaking huts, where video images of people at work, and carefully chosen artifacts, allowed us to experience what it would be like to work there during the war. Hut 8 was particularly important, as it was here that Turing and his team finally broke the code, which enabled them to read the U-boat messages.

There were many opportunities for hands on activities: we tried operating the bombe machine, did probability puzzles, and tried to translate deciphered messages in German and Japanese. I wanted to listen to the secret messages in Morse-code, but the radio was too popular with the visiting children, for me to get a go. With the focus of the Park now on the wartime effort of codebreaking, the private collections of war memorabilia and the Churchill Exhibition have since been moved to different sites. Colossus is now in The National Museum of Computing, housed on an adjacent site, but with an additional small entrance fee (£2.00 to see the Colossus.)

We did not have time to see everything on offer or have to enjoy the grounds. Our entrance tickets are valid for a year, and I fully intend to revisit before mine expires.

Lavinia Soul (*Alpha Chapter*)

THE ROYAL SOCIETY SUMMER SCIENCE EXHIBITION 2016

On Thursday 7th July we visited the Royal Society for their summer science exhibition, which I was told by my grandma was very good. So at 9:13 am we got a train to London Victoria, then we took the tube to Green Park. From there we walked down to The Royal Society. There they gave us stickers; we went in, were given bags and decided what display we were going to visit first.

Our first exhibit was about killer fungi where they told us in a lot of detail the effects of fungi on people with weak immune systems, which I thought was extraordinary knowledge on a particular subject. Next we went to the diamond exhibition in which there were blocks of ice and what seemed to look like an industrial diamond. The presenter told us that diamonds are good conductors of heat so they effectively melt ice. After that, I went into an exhibition where I had to put on a headset that showed me a meteorite in 3D and how a probe landed on it, which was fascinating and really realistic.



My favourite display was a medical room which I went in twice because it was so good. There was a robot surgeon simulator which was breath taking. I sat at a console, looking at a screen and used pressure pads to manipulate tiny pincers to pick up polo mints and cake candle sticks in a dome nearby (a recreation of the human body). After this experience a surgeon on the stand told us how it worked and why robotic surgery was important. Overall it was a very interesting exhibition, although it wasn't possible to see everything. It was a good day out and I would definitely want to go again next year.

Joseph Ajayi (*Grandson of Joan Carroll, Alpha Chapter*)

DOWN ON THE FARM: A WEEK IN THE COUNTRY FOR URBAN SCHOOLCHILDREN

Debby Brand is a Primary School HLTA in the Y6 class of a Hammersmith Primary School and has been involved with School Journey since 1997. She brought along some books of photographs from previous School Journey trips and provided a slideshow of children involved in various activities. Debby began her talk by briefly outlining the history of Farms For City Children (FFCC) which was set up by the author Michael Morpurgo and his wife Claire. This year FFCC is 40 years old and has expanded to three sites – Nethercott in Devon (1976), Treginnis in Wales (1989) and Wick Court in Gloucestershire (1998). FFCC is a charity and its aim is to introduce city children to the realities of life in the country and specifically on a farm, spending a full seven days working alongside local farmers and gaining an understanding of the economics and routines of farming.

Preparation for the next School Journey begins as soon as the last cohort has returned to school. This involves sparking the interest of the next group of children, inviting parents to meetings to find out what the week is about and starting the never ending round of paperwork that has to be fully completed. This includes medical forms, dietary requirements, specific clothing, groups, resources for teaching, etc. and most importantly, confirming which staff will be accompanying the children. Debby explained that some parents are naturally wary about their children being away from them, particularly if it is the first time, but the biggest problem is convincing Muslim parents, especially those with daughters. These Muslim parents do range from the free-thinking to those who will absolutely not contemplate letting their children go on School Journey. Debby and the school have tried many ways to show these parents how safe the environment is and how the children are with the school staff 24/7. A question was asked whether finance played a part in parent reluctance but Debby assured the group that the week was heavily subsidised by the school.

Debby then described how the week went. An early departure from school is usually at 7:30 am on the Friday morning and arrival at Nethercott is about 2:30pm. The first evening is all about rules, special hand washing, a tour of the house and most importantly, the fire drill which must be done perfectly no matter how many times, to get it right. Nethercott Farm itself is more of a homestead with chickens, pigs, ponies, donkeys, etc. The “real” farm work is run by the Ward family (two brothers) who own adjoining farms. Children are split into three

working groups with one member of staff in charge of each group and one extra member of staff who can be available to take over or deal with any problems e.g. a child feeling unwell.

The day starts with the children up and out for work with the farmers at 7:30am. Children spend most of the day outside, coming in for breaks and meals. Different duties/tasks interspersed with breaks, classroom time and playtime complete the day. Each group will experience these duties/tasks twice during the week. Typical farm duties would include feeding sheep, mucking out cow sheds and laying down straw for clean bedding etc. Farm tasks would include making apple juice, building willow fences. There is a classroom session each day for children to record in their Activity Folders what they have done and seen.

By the following Friday when it's time to go back to school, the children want to stay and there are often tears. Many children talk about their experiences for years afterwards. Debby related how one parent from a middle class family background, whose son had had experienced a range of opportunities, recently told her how his week in Devon had been the best thing he could have ever taken part in. Lots of different skills are learnt and children gain an insight into other lifestyles and cultures. Debby said that social learning was high. She feels that this kind of educational experience is key for developing urban children and everything can be linked to the curriculum for first hand learning. There were many questions asked from members throughout the talk as well as afterwards. Debby was thanked by Lavinia for giving an insight into what School Journey to the farm involves, and was presented with a plant for her garden.

Penny Kinnear (Alpha Chapter)



THE CALIPHATES FROM MOHAMMAD TO ISIS

Having spent many years of my career working in Muslim countries and enjoying a warm welcome and hospitality, I am concerned by the current rise in intolerant radical Muslim extremism. This presentation is the result of my research into the history of Islam to understand better the cause of this extremism.

Muhammad, born in Mecca in 578, claimed to be a prophet and the final successor to the Judeo-Christian prophets. He demanded the total submission of his followers to his edicts which he claimed were revealed to him by God starting at the age of 40. He preached against the polytheism of the Meccans. During this Meccan period he preached tolerance of the religions of the 'people of the book', ie Jews and Christians. He was eventually forced to leave Mecca for Medina. He set about uniting the tribes of Arabia under Islam. During this period he expelled two Jewish tribes from Medina and executed the male members of a third tribe, taking the women and children into slavery. He raided Meccan caravans and fought several battles with the Meccans culminating in his conquest of Mecca in 630. Muhammad frequently cited revelation from God as justification for his actions. He died in 632.

The successors of Muhammad, known as caliphs, proceeded to expand Islam by conquest. By 750 the Islamic Caliphate stretched from Spain and North Africa in the West to Afghanistan in the East. During this period armed conflict over the successor to Muhammad resulted in the Shia/Sunni split. The capital moved from Medina to Iraq and then to Damascus (the Umayyad Caliphate). Non-Muslims could continue to practice their religion, under some restrictions, and on payment of a tax. Non-Muslims could also have their own courts.

The Abbasid family ousted the Umayyads and moved the capital to Bagdad. This period, 750-1258, is known as the Golden Age of Islam. Society was cosmopolitan, inclusive and tolerant. Science thrived. Bagdad was sacked by the Mongols in 1258. The Caliphate was re-established in Cairo. This was overrun in 1517 by the expanding Ottoman Empire. The sultans of the Ottoman empire then assumed the title of Caliph. The Ottoman Empire declined and was defeated and dismembered following the First World War. Ataturk, the leader of the surviving Turkish state, abolished the Caliphate in 1924.

Modern day Islamic extremism has its roots in Wahhabism, a fundamental form of Islam which arose in the mid 18th century in central Arabia. The local ruling family, the Al Sa'ud, joined forces with the Wahhabi combining an absolutist state with an extremist ideology. This combination eventually became the present day Saudi Arabia. Wahhabis detest Shia Muslims.

Harry Roberts



GAMMA CHAPTER REPORT

I have been reminded so much recently that the connections we make increase in a compound fashion to create new thinking and exciting changes. It was so good to re-connect in August with Anne Cattoor, a long standing, valued member. We chose the hottest day of the year to go to Whitstable for an extremely well organised visit by Anne and her husband Maurice. It was such a good opportunity to explore the interesting area after coffee in the garden of the Bradbury Care Home. Walking on the beach or sitting on a bench overlooking the sea was much enjoyed by us all. A long table reserved for us at the Castle gave us a great opportunity to relax in the Orangery and have a good chat over lunch. Although it was extremely hot most of our party were able to explore the historical harbour area where the fishermen were very busy with the catch of the day. We do hope that Anne will be able to join us again for another adventure.

For our first meeting this academic year at Beechwood, Emma Williams, Chief Executive of PTA UK came to speak to us. Her creative thinking for the future of this organisation was truly inspiring as there is so much work to be done in the area of parent/teacher understanding and co-operation. It seems strange that this vital skill is not included in teacher training today. In preparing for the speakers for our meetings, we look for an interesting balance of educational and thought provoking subjects. Most of our speakers come from connections we have made over the years and have proved to be very knowledgeable and experienced in their areas of expertise and career. Going out from our chapter to attend state, regional and global conferences gives us an opportunity to connect with many with the same ideals and passion. When sharing a room with Dorothy Haley, I remember her saying that she had a DKG friend in almost every country she visited! We are already thinking about the conference in Estonia and looking for ways to attract new members to join this unique organisation.

Looking forward to next year's programme, we are fortunate to have the use of the sixth form study room at Beechwood once more. We are now looking to fill the dates offered with some stimulating speakers.

Beechwood dates: 2016: 15 October, 19 November

2017: 14 January, 25 February, 18 March, 22 April

Christmas meeting 2016: 3 December

Liz Malik (*Gamma Chapter President*)



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