



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

GREAT BRITAIN NEWS



Summer 2018

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Most photographs taken by Dorcas Rogers.	
Hampton Court photographs by Evelyn Goodsell and Kathy Hodgson.	
`Works of Feeling` photographs by Diane Billam.	

This edition includes reports on our Conference held in Kingston upon Thames in April this year. It was a great success, as the reports indicate. As usual, there are also reports on Chapter Activities, and from our State and Chapter Presidents.

The biennial DKG International Convention takes place this year in Austin, Texas. Unfortunately we shall have not have as many representatives there as we usually have. It is therefore even more important to have reports on all the summer activities which the Chapters undertake, together with photos if possible, please!

The deadline for contributions for the next GB News is the end of September. **Reports in Word, please**, and not in any other format, which often makes it more difficult to incorporate them. Reports and photographs should be **attached to an email** to dibillam@hotmail.com.

(Please note I had to change my email: there is an extra i after the b).

Diane Billam: dibillam@hotmail.com

Kathy Hodgson

STATE ORGANISATION PRESIDENT 2017—2019



As I approach the end of my third year as State President, I realise how fortunate I am to be surrounded by supportive and hardworking friends and colleagues; one result of this was our State Conference at the beginning of April. Through their untiring enthusiasm and dedication, we managed to produce an interesting and thought provoking weekend. The speakers' topics blended well together, as had been hoped, and the other activities were well received, judging by the feedback forms. Even the trip to Brown's on Saturday evening was an adventure – certainly for those who put their trust in my navigational skills – I love maps, though they have a tendency to misbehave when under my control! However, I still maintain that the walk along the river to our final destination in the early evening sunshine was always in the plan.

By now each of you will have received the list of amendments to the Constitution and International Standing Rules, via the latest edition of DKG News. These amendments are mostly intended to simplify the rules that govern DKG; please let me know if there are any amendments about which you feel very strongly, so that I can reflect your views when I attend the International Convention in Austin in July.

I am almost certain to be the only representative from Great Britain at the International Convention. From what I have gleaned so far, other European countries will be similarly diminished. This is no surprise – the cost of travel, accommodation and registration, plus incidentals is now beyond the pockets of many. Our current International President, Carolyn Pittman, is keen to promote the global aspect of DKG: as a consequence, all 4 Forums—US, Canadian, Latin American and European – will present a joint session in Austin. As spokesperson for the Forums, I will give the closing words at the end of the second general session, and introduce the Global Awareness Forum which will follow. It promises to be interesting, and we should congratulate Carolyn on her positive, forwarding thinking.

I am thinking of having a recording made of the next sentence, since I seem to repeat it so often. Please consider taking on the role of State President, Vice-President or State Treasurer for 2019-2021 – yes it does require a commitment of time, but the rewards are massive. The sooner the decision is made, the more time there will be for the existing personnel to work alongside you in preparation.

And, we are always there to give help and support – it is a sign of strength to know when you need help and to ask for it.

On a final note, I would like to give my thanks to all of the Chairs of our state committees for their hard work, and a very special mention to my right hand ‘man’ – Evelyn – for her indefatigable enthusiasm. Last year, Evelyn doubted that she was the right candidate to receive the Great Britain Achievement Award. Never has an award been more deserved.

Kathrin Hodgson (*State President*)

DKG GB Website www.dkggb.org.uk

Back in 2003 it was decided we needed a website. We didn’t really know what we were talking about because no-one had any idea how one was built! There were few around. So I took a couple of web-design courses, bought a program, ‘Front Page’, and the GB website had a very tentative beginning with very few members visiting it. The aim was to provide current information, easily found, lively and colourful.

It was not until 2007, the year of the Regional Conference in London, that our website really came into its own. All the planning and arrangements were there for everyone to see. Afterwards several photos and tributes were put up. The site certainly made communication between members much easier. It was up-dated regularly and was jogging along gently if not making a tremendous impact. Then in 2010 the European Forum set up a website for our Region. We all put our ideas into it and Eygló Björnsdóttir, from Iceland has managed it, quite splendidly, ever since.

Initially, the DKG websites were very small (about 4mgb) of memory but that has increased exponentially in recent years so that we are free to make them HUGE if we have sufficient material. I never imagined that I would still be the webmaster in 2018! From small beginnings websites are now so common that everything can now be ‘Googled’.

But it is really time for a change with new ideas. Over the past year Diana Bell has been learning how to use our website with the plan that she will take over the running of it on July 1st. I am sure that it will be run creatively, and I am most grateful for her willingness and efficiency. Please let her know if you would like to help her in any way.

I definitely have enjoyed being the webmaster. It has kept me in touch with many members so thank you to everyone who has helped me over the years.

Gloria Redston (Gamma Chapter) *Ed Note: And of course webmaster!*

Specialist Provision in Education

GB STATE CONFERENCE 2018

ANTOINETTE HOTEL AND BROWNS RESTAURANT



Joan, Kathy, Evelyn and Bjorg enjoying the bright sunshine in the Antoinette Hotel Garden

What an excellent choice of hotel! Good value, good food, easy to get to for most of us – we added the good company ourselves! Congratulations to everyone

involved in finding and booking it. It was spacious, and the rooms were set out just right to suit our purpose. The perfectly groomed garden was a bonus for coffee and tea breaks, and we even managed to see the sun for a while. The camellias and magnolias were in brilliant bloom, well protected in the secluded garden. The staff were unfailingly helpful, efficient and friendly.

Brown`s Restaurant, which I understand is one of a chain, was a bracing walk away but well worth the effort. Thameside situation, bustling with the Saturday evening crowd, good food from an excellent choice, and a wide variety of wines to suit us all. The 17 of us were a lively bunch, only outshone by the hen party on the next table, who made even more noise than we did!



A really enjoyable conclusion to another excellent GB State Conference – thanks to everyone involved.

Diane Billam (Gamma Chapter)



Our State President and honoured guest, Phyllis Hickey, enjoy a splendid dinner at Browns with friends, and Evelyn contemplates a challenging ice cream!

WONDERFUL EVENING ENTERTAINMENT BY EIRINN CARROLL

Eirenn`s family always knew she would be a performer. At the early age of two and a half she demonstrated this, taking front of stage, waiting for her applause at the end of a ballet show.

As part of a musical family, Eirinn was taught to sing by her late grandfather. She always loved music and knew it was what she wanted to do when older. At the age of thirteen, Eirinn was inspired to try for a place at The Brit School (for Performing Arts and Technology) after learning that a friend`s cousin went there. With her proud Mum and Gran interacting occasionally from the sidelines, Eirinn took us on her journey through the Brit School.

She applied for a place when she was fourteen and went through a very intensive audition comprising a Panel interview, a singing audition and a theory test. Although she had never had formal singing lessons, she was able to express her passion for learning – a passion which clearly still shows. Eirinn compared The Brit School to the show `Fame`, and it is an environment where you can learn from others and there is lots of inspiration. Students never feel inadequate as they are always pushed to do their best. The Brit School is inclusive, with different genres and cultures. No judgements are made and there is no bullying at the school.

To obtain a final qualification assessments are done on Performance, Written Work and Observations, and students are graded on performance elements. BTEC Firsts and the new BTEC Tech Awards are designed to be of a similar level to GCSEs, and BTEC Nationals are designed to be of a similar demand to A levels. `Big Names`, some in the music industry (Andrew Lloyd Webber, Nile Rogers), as well as others, often turn up unannounced. Eirinn once experienced this when Prince Harry walked into the canteen one day when she was having lunch.

Eirinn has learned about a wide range of music styles including African and Jazz which she knew little about before embarking on her course. Her indisputable talent was demonstrated through the four very different songs with which she enthralled us during her talk. First was her audition song, which was very dear to her heart as it had once been taught to her by her late Grandfather - `The Water is Wide` - a beautiful folk song once sung by Bob Dylan and Joan Baez. Later Eirinn entertained us to another song very close to her heart - `Crazy` - the words resonated with her as The Brit School can often seem crazy. Then we heard the song for which she achieved full marks in her Grade 5 assessment - `Lullaby of Birdland` - a Jazz song, demonstrating her range of musical ability. Eirinn`s final song - `My Mind` - was written and sung originally by Yebba whom Eirinn admires for her technical ability.

As Eirinn is about to graduate from The Brit School, having almost completed four years, what next? During her opportunity of work experience with Nordhoff Robbins she met with a boy who, as a result of a car accident was unable to speak, but on hearing the piano was enabled to sing. Eirinn was so inspired she is now considering a career in Music Therapy. Her passion for how she feels she can use her music talent shines through.



Rosalind Price thanked Eirinn for her talk and singing, and praised her for her positivity and enthusiasm for learning. Kathy Hodgson promised Eirinn a thank you gift, on condition she serenaded us with an encore. Eirinn`s encore was `You Took my Life with You`, a beautiful song from the musical `Ghost`. We could happily have listened to more of Eirinn`s wonderful musical talent. What a delightful way to start our weekend!

Penny Kinnear (Alpha Chapter)



Phyllis Hickey enjoys listening close up to Eirinn`s singing.



Joan Carroll gets into the swing of introducing her granddaughter, Eirinn.

CREATING OPPORTUNITY IN THE WORKPLACE

Ed Griffin, Executive Director of Human Resources for OD Ambulance Trust, has had a varied career. In addition to working as a residential social worker with disturbed teenagers, whose upbringing had already shut doors for them, he also worked as an accountant, which helped him understand how organisations work. He then moved into Human Resources Management and Organisational Development which is to do with how to build organisations and help them flourish. His last three jobs have been as an HR Director. In his work for the British Council he was responsible for managing HR across 110 countries world-wide. Working internationally presents us with special challenges. We have to pay attention and we have to learn. We have to understand the different needs another culture has and therefore meet people where they are, rather than just expecting them to understand us. The challenge therefore is to make the effort to understand others before we expect others to understand us.

He invited us to explore the role of education and employment in providing equality of opportunity and what we can do to identify the ways we can help to shift inequality of opportunity. How many news stories are actually generated by inequality of opportunity? We each have a story, and our individual story is important because it shapes us and makes us who we are. It determines where we are in our lives and in the world, and how we can influence and provoke in a positive way to influence and inform. We all have different levels of influence. We can bring about change through education, and thereby increase equality and opportunity. Ed believes education and work are vital to the human race as

they provide choice and voice. Where education opportunities are lost, such as children in refugee camps in Damascus, the void left by lack of proper education is filled by the teachings of organisations such as ISIS with devastating results. However, better education and work experience helps with better decision making, leading to more confident and articulate people which gives well-being (fulfilment) and therefore can make people more able to contribute to society.

Against the background of enabling us to be agents for positive change, Ed referenced the book *Flourish* by Martin Seligman - one of the founders of Positive Psychology. His book is based on robust research and neuroscience, and identifies 5 conditions in order for people to flourish:

- Positive emotions
- Engagement
- Relationships that are good
- Meaning and purpose in life
- Accomplishment



Ed discussed the impact of different management styles in getting people to change. If you instruct/command people in the workplace to do something it will release cortisol (a stress hormone) in them which will increase feelings of anxiety, probably increase heart rate and blood pressure. Cortisol will typically stay in our system for 24 hours. However, if you ask, involve and engage with those people then oxytocin will be released which creates a feeling of well-being and encourages involvement and engagement. Oxytocin stays in our system for a few hours therefore if we instruct/command, the negative impact lasts significantly longer than if we ask and involve.

Opportunities to instigate change don't just apply in the workplace. All of us can trigger change on an individual and personal level and create opportunities to flourish for those around us. He challenges us to reflect on our impact on those around us - are we making a positive difference in other people's lives? If we are within an organisation, how do we help shift how it engages, evolves, educates and develops people? If we present a positive role model, then others may follow our example and do the same.

In concluding, he reminded us not to solely focus on overt gender bias, as evidenced by the gender pay gap. He challenged us to be more aware of unconscious bias in our day to day lives. Interestingly, before Conference began, Ed was asked questions on two different occasions by hotel staff who

assumed (unconscious bias?) that he had some authority in this meeting of women for women! He shared examples of inspirational people who had been catalysts for positive change, such as Gandhi, Malala and Colin Powell. And he asked what WE were doing to bring about change? Are we paying attention to unconscious bias? What do we model for others? Who are we coaching mentoring and encouraging? What leadership do we provide? How are we influencing the system? A thought provoking and challenging presentation.

Veronica Wagstaff (Gamma Chapter)

Dorcas Rogers thanks Ed Griffin for his excellent talk



PUPIL REFERRAL UNITS

It was perfectly clear from the moment Melanie Elsey started speaking , that her commitment and passion for her work is unwavering. She has recently become headteacher of The Limes Primary Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) in Sutton, London. Having gained experience,as a teacher and governor of a PRU, she became aware that children receiving alternative provision from the LEA (who were hospitalised,excluded or removed from school because of bad behaviour) were underachieving. In addition, statistics have shown an increase in the numbers of children permanently excluded. These children are likely to be receiving free school meals, be boys and have identified or unidentified special needs.

On taking over as head of The Limes, a secondary unit, inappropriately equipped for primary pupils, an action plan was formed to change the perspective of a PRU. It is not a place for NAUGHTY CHILDREN. It is a school. Her job was to assess the reasons for children's situation be it trauma, domestic violence, special needs etc. Her intention as well as that of the staff was to help the children belong, achieve and establish good relationships. Different strategies are employed when dealing with secondary pupils.

Her eight Cs sum up the good practice established there:-

Collaboration, **C**ommunication, **A**ccepting **C**riticism, **C**ommunion, **C**reativity, **C**omposure, **C**ompassion, **C**uriosity.

As the numbers of excluded or temporarily excluded primary pupils have increased, there is shortly to be a move to more suitable provision. There is also a primary pupil referral panel where a committee discusses appropriate provision when children become a problem in mainstream schools. Parents have to agree to decisions made.

The future for The Limes will be to become

1. a source of quality provision as the only Primary PRU in Sutton
2. Support schools and families using preventative strategies
3. To become part of the Moving Educational Trust, a multi-academy institution sharing experience
4. To use quality staff.

For those disadvantaged children at The Limes, having such an inspired leader as Melanie should ensure a fair and promising school experience.

Sandra Blacker (*Gamma Chapter*)

Di Billam thanks Melanie Elsey with gifts



THE CANTERBURY AWARD 2018



Unity Harvey of Alpha Chapter, left, receiving the Canterbury Award from Mary Wardrop.

For this project a class teacher at Lowther School, where Unity volunteers, is developing the use of apparatus in mathematics to support learning, as in the Singapore/ Shanghai model.

Diana Bell (*Alpha Chapter*)

Penny Kinnear had produced a quiz to wake us up after lunch



We all wracked our brains—but Penny had all the answers!

AN AMERICAN VIEW OF SPECIALIST EDUCATION PROVISION

When considering the theme for our conference this year Phyllis Hickey said that she had concentrated on areas of education in the U.S.A. that are traditionally considered non-academic by the mainstream education system. She decided to see how much time was allowed to them in the curriculum generally as an indicator of how these areas are valued. The result of just a quick review made it clear that in subjects such as music, art, sports, a decreasing amount of time is being allotted to them in schools now, indicating that they are regarded as of less value and importance in education today than formerly.

Her questions then were “Is this true?” and “What do the students think?” Phyllis comes from a large family and has many nieces and nephews ranging in age and educational experience from primary school to university level. She therefore decided to use them as her test group and consult them for their experience and opinions and compare them with some of the findings of educators and educational psychologists she had researched on the value of the experience of participating in non-academic subjects.

Phyllis selected the areas of music, art and sports education and in each case the question put to the students was:

“What skills have you experienced that could impact your academic learning?”

For Music the responses were:

- “Music helps me to focus and concentrate without interferences,.
- “Music helps to have a calm state of mind.”
- “Singing together brings friendships.”
- “Singing together makes you happy.”
- “Music sparks something in you.”

From her research she had noted that studying and participating in any form of musical activity develops:

- The transfer of cognitive skills
- Fine tuning of auditory skills
- Better recognition of “regularities”.

For Art the students’ responses were:

- “It can be fun! We never want to miss art class.”
- “It gives you an outlet to be creative.”
- “Non-threatening learning environment.”
- “Another way to express emotions instead of holding them inside you.”

From her research she noted that:

- Each additional year of the arts study was significantly associated with a 20% reduction in the likelihood that an adolescent would ever be suspended from school.
- Adolescents enrolled in the arts were 26% less likely to consume alcohol “more than two or three times” during adolescence.

Taking part in sporting activities drew a wide range of benefits from the students:

- Time management
- Problem solving skills
- Better judgement skills
- Teamwork
- Healthy lifestyle
- Talk more to people so socialisation skills are enhanced.
- Humbles you with winning and losing.
- Diligence – never give up.
- Perseverance.

Phyllis quoted from the study of a leading British academic on the value of participation in sports to all students. “Physical activity is more than just important for your physical health. There are other benefits and that is something that should be especially important to parents, policy-makers and people involved in education.”

Summing up, Phyllis commented that although the time allowed for her research had been limited, the outcomes from her brief study indicated that educators and policy-makers world-wide should not undervalue the importance of non-academic and creative subjects in the curriculum. We are experiencing a time in our troubled societies when problems in mental and physical health in our children are on the increase. The comments made in her informal study confirm the benefits of these subjects, both short and long term, are crucial in a child’s development and should not be discounted or ignored in the race to achieve excellence in a narrow academic curriculum and league table success.



Joan Carroll (Alpha Chapter)

*Joan Carroll, left, thanked Phyllis Hickey for her positive contribution to our conference.
Joan and Phyllis are ‘Golden Gift’ friends who met on a DKG Leadership Management Seminar many year ago.*

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF DKG IN GREAT BRITAIN

In 1977 a group of teachers from Georgia State were visiting England. They invited a disparate group of British teachers to tea at a London hotel. No one knew each other or had ever heard of Delta Kappa Gamma but by the end of the afternoon they had gone through this strange initiation ceremony and were now members of the Society and the English State (later GB) was formed. The founding members made up Alpha Chapter. None of those early members had any idea of what benefits they would gain. Many of our recent members felt the same. Since that time many of us have played a key role in the Society at the local level, national, regional and international.

Although many members have contributed hugely over the years there are three who really have made a marked difference. Pam Irons who was on many international committees was instrumental in the formation of Gamma Chapter. Her intelligence, grace and kindness inspired us all. Then there was Loetitia Stone who, for years, kept Beta Chapter alive and interesting. Although, being based in Plymouth, it took quite some effort. It was Loetitia who was expert at sugar craft and she made beautiful cakes for every occasion. At our recent State Conference Kathy Hodgson made a wonderful fruit cake to celebrate our fortieth year. It was decorated with a spray of sugar roses which Loetitia had made for our 25th anniversary. And we remember her very fondly. And who can ever forget the amazing Dorothy Haley? It was Dorothy, as Area Representative for Europe, who persuaded the International Executive that a European Region could only be beneficial to the whole Society and she made sure that she visited all the member states of Europe and helped to weld them together.

But we, in GB, have been very active throughout the years. We have attended and spoken at Regional and International conferences, many of our members have been on International committees, some have been International Speakers at State conferences, several have participated in the Leadership Management Course at the University of Texas, we have provided two Regional Directors and, more important, at the Chapter Level, with our Chapter Presidents, we continue to have very interesting meetings, give fellowship and friendship and focus on the purposes of the Society. So, here we are, celebrating 40 years of links with DKG International. We all have tales to tell and amusing memories. We must keep going!



The significant things that we got up to in the 40 years has been well documented by Dorothy Haley. If you would like to see a copy of these archives please ask the State President.

Gloria Redston (Gamma Chapter)

A VISIT TO HAMPTON COURT

After the excitement of the Conference the day before, and also the enjoyment of a dinner in a restaurant by the river in the evening, a group of seven members set off on Sunday morning for Hampton Court.

The weather, not being too warm, was ideal for the visit. Phyllis Hickey, our representative from HQ, was keen to see and learn as much as she possibly could. This inspired we 'Brits' to ensure she saw the lot!!! The Banqueting Hall, the Chapel Royal, Privy Chambers, Bedrooms, sitting rooms - up and down stairs we went. Sadly we could not see the kitchen as it was under repair.

After spending so long indoors it was pleasant to visit the beautiful gardens. Phyllis decided she had to see the fountains and set off to photograph them. The gardens were displaying their glorious spring flowers and we could not help being full of admiration for the perfection of them. We eventually decided it was time for some refreshment, but on the way to a café, there was the inevitable visit to a shop!!

Deciding it was time to leave we had just reached the car park when it started to rain. Good timing, and how fortunate we had been for our very enjoyable visit.

Evelyn Goodsell (Gamma Chapter)



(From right) Phyllis Hickey, Joan Carroll, Diana Bell, Kathy Hodgson, Carole Stirling, and Lavinia Soul enjoy Hampton Court. Evelyn Goodsell took this picture.

Enjoying the conference - from the left: Carole Stirling, Robbie Scahill, Penny Kinnear, Claire Purcell, Dorcas (the photographer) and Ray Rogers, Kate and Tony York.



KINGSTON UPON THAMES



I wrote in spring GB News about the Sarsen Stone which sits on a plinth outside the Guildhall in Kingston High Street, near the bridge over the Hogsmill River.

This stone has had many purposes, but is now regarded as a coronation stone with between two and seven Saxon Kings having their coronations here. In Saxon times the River Thames was the border between Wessex and Mercia. Athelstan, who wanted to unite England under one king, probably chose to have his coronation here in 925 for its geographical location and symbolism.

I crossed the Hogsmill River, viewing the Clattern Bridge in the evening, and totally missed seeing the Sarsen Stone! (A friend took the picture). This bridge is one of the oldest in Surrey and is mentioned in a deed of 1203. The medieval name Clateryngbrugge is thought to have described the sound of horses crossing the bridge.



ALPHA CHAPTER REPORT

Alpha has again enjoyed a variety of interesting meetings and visits. At our January meeting Harriet Goodman spoke on “Philosophy for Children - P4C”. She kept us engaged as she took us through a session as she would do for the children at school. We had a lot to think about and it was an interesting and enjoyable afternoon.

The visit in February by some members, to the Museum of Brands, brought back nostalgic memories of various items and the old styles of packaging. In March Lindsay McHale unfortunately again had to cancel at the last minute due to family circumstances. Instead, Claire Purcell stepped into the breach, and gave us an excellent talk on ‘Dulwich Hamlet Junior School – The Story So Far’. The school, of which she is Head, is rated Outstanding by OFSTED, and she described the latest developments and strategies. We look forward to hearing Lindsay at a later date

My grateful thanks go to Penny Kinnear, who has been a staunch and proactive Vice President. I will be passing on the Alpha Presidential baton (or gavel) to her, and she will be assisted by Dorcas Rogers as Vice President. Also my thanks go to Unity Harvey, treasurer, and Joan Carroll, secretary, who will continue. We hope the Chapter will grow.

Forthcoming meetings: 2018

19th May: 2pm: Speaker: Helen Mead - “Supporting Vulnerable Migrant Families in Greenwich” plus Business Meeting. The venue is DHJS Bring and Share Lunch 12.30.

23rd June: Visit to the Brunei Gallery at SOAS - the School of Oriental and African Studies (Russell Square tube). 10:30am - 5pm, admission free. Two photo exhibitions, “China and Siam” and “Foreign Nationals photographic exhibition MaRock” - a heavy metal subculture on the rise in Botswana and Southern Africa. They also have permanent displays in the Foyles Gallery. (The proposed visit to Camley Street Nature Reserve at King's Cross has been postponed, as they have building works in progress).

1st week July: Royal Society – our annual visit to their Summer Science Exhibition.

21st July: Summer Outing – Proposed Boat Trip Westminster to Greenwich (tbc)

Barbara Kern (Alpha Chapter President)

DULWICH HAMLET JUNIOR SCHOOL—THE STORY SO FAR

We thank Claire Purcell, Head of Dulwich Hamlet Junior School, rated Outstanding by OFSTED, who stepped in at the last minute, as our scheduled speaker unfortunately had to cancel due to unforeseen family circumstances. Claire first introduced us to the new DHJS Website which now includes “Tweets” - a very useful form of communication particularly for Parents/Carers. The website also includes a video which shows what DHJS is all about and promotes the “Hamleteers” - pupils of the school. DHJS is now part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) and is working in partnership with its ‘sister’ school, a new free school, The Belham, in Peckham which is a two form entry through primary school, currently with classes Reception to Year three.

Being away for almost three years to raise her young family and to recover from illness, Claire has now been back at DHJS for three years, first as Deputy and now as Head of School. During this time she has been working hard to maintain high standards while not losing sight of the school vision: *‘Outstanding learning within a glittering curriculum where everyone matters’*. There had been a dip in results and it was time to go back to basics and re-visit the vision.

A Peer Review at the start of this academic year was the starting point, involving representatives from across the school community in evaluating what the school was doing well, and to decide upon action points in order to move forward. Communication with Parents/Carers was key and DHJS now produces weekly, the “Hamlet Herald”, a very impressive newsletter, with a bumper edition at the end of each half term. This newsletter details events, activities and information about what’s happening in the school, as well as sign posting parents to useful information. PR is a massive part of what is now happening, as neighbouring schools are very increasingly successful and popular. There are also excellent state Secondary Schools in the area.

Another initiative at DHJS has been the opening of the “Parent and Carer Cafe” which started in January this year. A spare classroom which is available, has the capacity to offer hospitality, training, etc and is ideal as a Community Room to host the Cafe which is open from 8:45-9:30 a.m. Places are by “invite only” and Parents/Carers have to sign up with a maximum of 30 places. Information can be given or there can be a talk around a particular topic led by a “Parent Coach” (Learning Coach in school). Topics such as Maths, Music Practice, Music Exams, Y6 SATs etc, are covered. The sessions are an opportunity for social interaction (including tea and biscuits) and hand-outs are given to take away.

In order to maintain the vision at DHJS, there has been a huge amount of work around “Outstanding Learning”. Feedback and Marking (including a project on verbal feedback), and Policies have also been updated. Work in books is very clearly set out and organised in all subjects, consistency is good, and one of the next targets is to work on improving Handwriting. Other focus areas have been the Assessment Cycle, and the Appraisal, Monitoring and Moderation Cycle. A new system “Scholarpack” was started a year ago. This collates all information relating to each pupil across the school and includes assessment, attendance, personal, home, medical, etc and gives a complete overview of each child at any time. This has taken a lot of work to set up, but is extremely worthwhile. There has been so much to do juggling Teaching and Learning, Management, Resources, etc. Claire's main concern is currently Finance which is always at the centre of anything that has to be done. As always, the school also needs to retain and empower the excellent teaching team.

Barbara thanked Claire, on the left in the photo, for an inspiring talk about her school and presented her with a gift of a plant.

Our thanks go to Claire, for yet again opening up her school for our convenience, including the ever popular “Bring & Share” lunch and for stepping into the breach at short notice.

Penny Kinnear (Alpha Chapter)



“A DREAM COME TRUE” - THE QUICKEN TRUST

On Saturday 20th January Gamma Chapter gathered at Beechwood School for the first meeting of 2018 and we were in for a treat. Liz introduced Alan Archer who is a volunteer with the Quicken Trust in Hailsham. He told us that from childhood he had dreamt of going to Africa and building a school, hence the title of his talk ‘A Dream Come True’.

The Quicken Trust was started in 2000 to support a village in Uganda called Kabubu. Uganda is in central Africa, on the Equator. It is a twelve hour flight from England, twenty two hours travelling door to door. 4000 people live in the village of Kabubu with only mud roads, no electricity, and no piped water, only

stand pipes. Much has been achieved in the years since 2000. Schools have been established. There is an infant school with two classes of fifty children and in the junior school there are one hundred and fifty children. They have a full curriculum including drumming and movement classes. The High School has six hundred pupils, mainly boarders. The High School now spreads over three acres, the Primary School, offices and conference centre over three acres



Alan on one of his regular visits to the facilities at Kabubu.

and the Resort Centre, which with the conference centre generates income, over two acres. There is also a Health Centre, a Laboratory, and an Orphanage – now called a foster home. All of these facilities are in a compound with an armed guard on the entrance. The compound has electricity and lots of stand pipes. There are adult vocational courses and literacy programmes.

Groups from The Quicken Trust travel to Kabubu two or three times a year taking equipment for the schools, the Health Centre and many other things such as wheelchairs. A lot of the children are sponsored through the Quicken Trust.

Alan showed us that with a dream, determination, inspiring other people to share dreams and hard work, what might start out as a seemingly impossible task can become a reality. Over the years this is truly a village changed, 'A Dream Come True'.

Carole Stirling (Gamma Chapter)

Sandra Blacker thanks Alan Archer for his stimulating talk



WORKS OF FEELING

Amanda-Jane Doran, a local speaker from the Royal Academy, introduced us to the fascinating world of Pre-Raphaelite book illustration. She has explored this in her curated exhibition 'Works of Feeling' in the RA Print Room.



Amanda-Jane showed us how these black and white engravings, created from boxwood blocks, convey great emotional impact. They also were suited for mass production. Millais' illustration 'The Parable of the Sower', produced in 1863 for the Christian magazine 'Good Words' made us all gasp with its beauty and detail.

The talk explored the ways in which artists and engravers worked together to achieve these stunning works of art, explaining how the engraving trade was a way for working-class boys to enter an artistic profession. Some artists, such as the perfectionist Dante Gabriel Rossetti, found the relationship with engravers more challenging.

Our speaker helped us to interpret some of the images. Burne-Jones' 'Summer Snow' is a portrait of William Morris' wife Jane and the stylised trees and leaves in the engraving reflect the work of Morris and Co. Millais' touching romantic illustration 'Love' (1857) conveys his deep feelings for Effie Gray.

We were impressed by the technique of Simeon Solomon's religious work, with its sophisticated intensity of light and shade. We felt inspired to find out more about his poignant life and art, especially as our own Museum contains work by his older brother Abraham.



Amanda-Jane's talk certainly celebrated Victorian book illustrations as "magnificent pieces of work in their own right" and we thank her for her enthusiastic and knowledgeable presentation.

Anne Goldstein, guest, Gamma Chapter

Amanda showed Gamma Chapter the poster for the exhibition she curated at the Royal Academy Print Room, and picked 'The Lady of Shallott' as one of the most Impressive.

GAMMA REPORT 2018

This year we have been very fortunate once more to have the use of the sixth form study room at Beechwood School and have felt more welcome than ever by the teachers, students, caretaker and kitchen staff there.

We have also been extremely grateful for the generosity and commitment of the excellent speakers who have given their time to inform, educate and entertain us. It's always interesting to listen to people who are so passionate about their subject and to observe how adept they are at imparting their knowledge and inspiring others.

We often have visitors who enjoy the time with us but of course we are always hope they will join us or know someone who will to increase our membership. Sheila and Marian have been committed to this task and we are grateful for their inspiring ideas.

Coming to the end of my time as Chapter President I should like to thank everyone for their advice, support and camaraderie. I have learned a great deal by having this opportunity and wish Carole and Marian all the best for the next biennium.

Liz Malik (Gamma Chapter President)



We each took home a wonderful keep-sake from our 2018 Conference, with wise or witty sayings cleverly linked to an illustration.



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