



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

## **GREAT BRITAIN NEWS**



**Summer 2019**

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**The European Regional Conference will be held in Reykjavik, Iceland, in July.**

**Do go if you can!**

The photo on the front cover shows our late much-lamented member, Dorothy Haley, together with current Gamma Chapter President, Carole Stirling, sharing a joke in Amsterdam in 2013.

This edition includes reports on events at our wonderful GB State Conference 2019 in Greenwich. You will see that it was a great success, with our thanks to all those who made it possible. There are also reports on the lively Chapter meetings which take place regularly with Alpha and Gamma Chapters. What a variety of topics our speakers covered!

The biennial European Regional Conference takes place in July in Reykjavik, Iceland. Iceland is a fascinating country well worth a visit – do go if you can! Full details are available in the email Kathy sent to us all forwarding a letter from our Regional Director, with links to everything you need to know.

The deadline for contributions to the next GB News is the end of September. Reports in Word please, and not in any other format which sometimes make it difficult to incorporate them. Reports and any photos should be attached to an email to me at the address below. Thank you in anticipation!

**Diane Billam:** [dibillam@hotmail.com](mailto:dibillam@hotmail.com)

### DKG Websites

[www.dkggb.org.uk](http://www.dkggb.org.uk)

[www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org)

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

**Kathy Hodgson**  
**STATE ORGANISATION PRESIDENT 2017—2019**



Finally, my two biennia as State President have come to a conclusion. Two years ago, I was expecting to hand on the gavel, but it was not to be. Being such a small state in DKG terms, it is always more difficult to find members who are willing to take on positions of responsibility retirement, as we all know, does not necessarily mean we have vacant days ready to be filled by DKG concerns. Looking back, I see that I expressed similar thoughts at the end of my first year as State President.

The last few months of my second biennium have been, perhaps, the most exciting to date. Spearheaded by Sheila Roberts, and with support from many members, we have made first steps in attempting to revitalise, through donations of books about inspirational women to local schools. My thanks go to all of those who volunteered to make contact with these schools, and to visit them. However, we must not rest on our laurels. We must continue to keep in touch with visitors to our chapter meetings. Sheila recently compiled a form to be completed by visitors to Gamma meetings; this has proved useful in maintaining contact with visitors so far - hopefully, they will also respond to future invitations.

Last summer, I attended the International Convention in Austin, Texas. It was a very busy time for me due to my various roles as State President, European Forum Committee Chair and member of the International Finance Committee – fortunately, I've always enjoyed being busy. The main items of business included several VERY lengthy sessions, voting on proposed amendments to the Constitution and International Standing Rules. We didn't have to attend late at night – in our pyjamas, after the banquet, as happened once before – but we came very close! Important though these matters are, I would not advise a new member to make an International Convention their first sojourn away from Great Britain – an International (aka Regional) Conference would be my recommendation. And what better place to begin than in Reykjavik this July? It promises to be a stimulating conference, with the opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones, in a vibrant and truly inspiring location. The European website: [www.dkgerc2019.weebly.com](http://www.dkgerc2019.weebly.com) has information about the conference.

As I write, two of our most hardworking and visionary members are dealing with difficult health problems: Sheila – anticipating serious back surgery this summer, and Gloria, now having to cope with several bladder operations on top of the Ataxia that has slowed her down (physically – not mentally!) over the past few years. These problems really do put my day-to-day moans and groans into perspective. I can always remember my mum telling me that as long as I had my health, I should be grateful. Of course, she knew nothing, did she?! Sorry, Mum.

At this stage, I also wish to pay tribute to Diana Bell. Throughout my tenure as State President, and in particular as Chair of the European Forum Committee, I have occasionally found myself uncertain about procedures, or timelines, or how to deal with Publisher – you name it, I had questions about it. With her usual grace and non-patronising manner, Diana steered me through. I think she’s like a swan – paddling furiously beneath the surface, yet appearing serene and elegant to those of us around her.

In my report to the AGM in April, I made reference to the impact that Gloria has had on me, being instrumental in the things I have achieved within DKG, especially during the last five years. We all need someone to tell us that we CAN achieve and a person to give us that shove and necessary support – and believe me, Gloria is very persuasive! I owe her a great deal – more than words can express. I know there are others to whom I should pay tribute, but the more people I mention, the greater the chance of upsetting someone who is not on the list. So thank you for your particular support whether it be in helping organise, taking minutes, or just being a very good friend.

To paraphrase the great Frank Sinatra – now that the end is near, I hope I am not facing my final curtain! However, the next couple of months will see new and enthusiastic leadership – Evelyn, Diana and their new – or continuing - committee chairs. I wish them most of all a supportive and responsive membership, as I have experienced. Thank you all.

**Kathrin Hodgson**  
(GB State President)



*Kathy passes the State President’s badge to the incoming State President, Evelyn Goodsell.*

## UPDATE ON REVITALISATION

Since the meeting with Carolyn Pittman last October, we have been busy implementing our agreed strategy, designed to make DKG better known in Britain. We have concentrated our efforts on our existing two chapters. It's such a pleasure to say that both chapters are on target with the 'Books for schools project'.

Both chapters held brain storming planning sessions and formulated action plans. It was decided to donate books suitable for Key stage 2 pupils. Then the books were chosen and ordered. We decided what should accompany them, identified appropriate schools in the locality, and asked for volunteers to contact the schools with a time frame for the end of January. The books chosen by both chapters as suitable for Key Stage 2 pupils to read are: - 'Great Women who made History' and 'Great Women who changed the World'. Additionally, Gamma added in 'Women in Science', which is a more challenging read, and may be best for the teacher to read to the class.

To accompany the books Kathy Hodgson designed and produced book plates to display the name of the donor. Joan wrote a template letter addressed to the headteacher of each school, which the volunteers personalised to their designated school, and included an invitation for staff to come to one of our meetings. Elisha Hoggart designed and had printed new postcards, which give some details about DKG and its international character. A number of these have been given to each school for sharing amongst female staff.

The books and accompaniments were tied with red ribbon and looked really eye catching. Gamma has delivered all the books to the ten schools they identified. Volunteers reported delight from the schools, and interest from the local press. There was a very good report in the local weekly newspaper. This, together with a notice, advertising a Gamma meeting on a local community website attracted six guests to the meeting. The same happened with the following meeting. The good news is that several of the guests expressed a wish to return to meetings with a possibility of becoming members.

Alpha had a very productive meeting on Saturday 9th February when everyone helped organise and collate the book sets, letters, etc into bundles - a total of 20. These were then allocated to each member who had agreed to contact schools. Diana Bell and Penny Kinnear had a very successful and enjoyable visit to St John's Angell Town in Brixton where they both taught more than thirty years ago. The school had changed completely from a single storey building to a new 3-storey building which will eventually cater for over 750 pupils. They were given a tour of the school and were extremely impressed. They took a selection of (historical) items including photos of past pupils and staff.

The headteacher was delighted to receive these for the school's archive and also thanked them for the DKG books. We hope the end result will be that DKG becomes better known by women working in education in Britain and hopefully will want to come along to one of our meetings.

**Sheila Roberts** (*Chair, Revitalisation Committee*)

### **Books for Schools Project**

Gamma Member, Anne Goldstein, wrote about her visits to deliver books to primary schools. 'Delivering the books was an uplifting experience. The gift was welcomed by staff and children at all three primary schools I visited. The local newspaper printed a very positive article about our initiative, based on a press release I sent. This was also accompanied by pictures of staff and children accepting the books. As a result of one primary school visit, I led an assembly for International Women's Day, where I told the children about the work of our organisation and inspirational women in my life. Another member of DKG and I went to the school's Easter Tea, hosted by key stage one children, which showed how one positive event can lead to another. At one school, a teacher showed great interest in our organisation and so this could lead to a new member.'



Anne with Sandra Blacker at a community tea party

### **THE GREAT BRITAIN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

This award is given to a member who has given outstanding service over a number of years and is presented biennially at our Annual General Meeting. Following Evelyn Goodsell, the last recipient, and other worthy members who have raised the profile of DKG GB is a hard act to follow. However it was decided unanimously by the votes cast that Diana Bell should receive this prestigious award.

Diana has raised our profile in numerous ways during the last twenty plus years that she has been a member. Diana acted as Alpha Chapter President several times and GB State President twice. She has edited the GB News for two years and has chaired the European Forum. Diana is a great ambassador for GB, attending most European



Diana being presented with her rose, brooch and certificate by Liz Malik.

Regional and International conferences, including playing a leading role as Treasurer on the steering committee for the European Regional Conference held in Britain in 2007.

It was a privilege to have the opportunity to thank Diana for all she does with generosity and humility, and to present her with a certificate and a rose brooch in silver and amber, as well as one of our symbolic red roses.



*The silver and amber brooch*

**Liz Malik** (*Gamma Chapter*)

## **Great Britain State Conference**

### **LEARNING DISABILITY AND MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES AND TRIUMPHS**

Anne Krisman Goldstein, a Gamma Chapter member, and her colleagues got us off to a flying start at our annual conference. With her were Michelle Ornstein, a Young Ambassador and mental health campaigner for the charity Mencap, and her mother, Helena. Anne also introduced Amanda Barclay, who is a valued friend to Helena and her daughter. Anne is a nationally known educator for young people with special needs.

Anne's presentation introduced a number of young people for whom life was sometimes a challenge. She highlighted a former pupil with special needs who loved having a paid job in Sainsbury's. He was cheerful and smiling all the time, and helped people in any way he could. Anne said how important it was for people with mental health issues to be given the opportunity to earn money, and even to become self-sufficient, possibly in supported accommodation. Too many had to make do with voluntary work for which they received no remuneration.

Some young people are able to communicate through the creative arts, if they are unable, or unwilling, to speak. Anne emphasised the importance of a developing a peaceful classroom with supportive activities developing a sense of wellbeing. Her students within a special school had devised their own positive slogans, such as 'If you're sad, remember your mother loves you.'

Difficult circumstances, in particular the death of a close relative or class member, can cause a serious set-back with pupils, and it is important for teachers to find activities which bring hope. Otherwise, traumatic incidents can stay for many years and block development. Sensitively chosen activities can help heal the pain and support young people's mental health.

Mental health difficulties are made worse by things such as:

- insecurity in the world
- pressure in school, and less time spent on creativity
- social media, particularly harmful for self-harm, eating disorders, and suicide
- less exercise and being outdoors
- excessive internet use
- family breakdown, loss, neglect or abuse.

Students with special needs nationally may be ambitious about their future prospects at school, but reality kicks in afterwards. Transition at the end of secondary schooling can be very hard. They miss the routine and safety of school. They can lack social connectedness, and often spend too much time on their own. We need to consider how to make them more emotionally resilient, and give them skills about relating to people. Anne's dance work showed how her pupils were able to learn how to connect with each other and explore social skills through movement. This helped them move onto their next phase in life.

Michelle spoke to us about her role as a Mencap Ambassador and the Treat Me Well health campaign. It is important for health professionals to explain things in a way which is easily understood, and give people with learning disabilities enough time to be properly listened to. Not all medical staff have had appropriate training to help them realise the importance of this. She said that anyone with special needs engaging with the health service needed to have a 'hospital passport' explaining what their difficulties and preferences were, and how they can be taken into account. She mentioned the traffic-light system: Red for things you must not say, Amber for things that are most important, Green for likes and dislikes. Michelle highlighted a number of helpful Mencap leaflets and information sheets.

Helena spoke of the daily fight it takes to try and get needs met. Difficulties such as reduction or removal of benefits or removal of blue badge parking privileges cause great distress for those with mental health difficulties, and for their families. She affirmed Michelle's words about health professionals. It was all too easy for young people with disabilities to want to do the right thing in medical interviews and agree with everything, even if the professional's meaning is not understood.

*Diane Billam (Gamma Chapter)*



Amanda, Michelle and Helena



Anne's title slide

## THE JOY OF MUSIC

Music is inspiration and joy. Dr Ian Hoggart gave a superb talk which showed how music is integral to education, motivates and brings personal experience and growth to all.

Ian is an accomplished musician who has been awarded a PhD by York University for his research into European music of the early eighteenth century. But he has not stopped at academic work and while he was studying for his PhD, he taught part time in schools and took music to the students. He described a scheme he participated in which involved 72 state schools in London and York. This was a three month project in the schools and culminated in concerts in London and York where the students performed various pieces, some which they had composed themselves. The students' enthusiasm and involvement was clear in the video clips we saw.

Ian emphasised the value of music through the enjoyment it brings to all and the range of feeling and emotions which it conveys. Its benefits are for everyone, but the foundation is laid at school. However, he was concerned to report that over recent years provision in state schools had been squeezed by funding cuts, in

some schools 20-30% and others even 75%,with particularly severe effects on students who have learning difficulties. Unfortunately, Music Education is an easy target for cuts. Ian illustrated this from his own experience in York. In state schools there are fewer subsidised lessons for students to learn instruments and less provision generally, resulting in teachers becoming demoralised, competing for a diminishing number of posts and feeling devalued.

In 2012 a national plan for Music Education was introduced in line with the concept that Music and Arts are at the heart of a broad based curriculum. The plan included the following points – guidance for all schools, funding for music hubs, one full time music teacher for all secondary schools, singing in all schools, and a culture of creativity, team-working and support. This is the ideal!

Ian was able to illustrate the benefits of Music for those with learning difficulties by looking at the 'Autism Together' organisation in the Wirral in Cheshire, where his own brother lives. Here creativity is encouraged. We were shown clips of performances by their band 'The Beathovens' of their song 'Put up, Shut up'. The band is accomplished and have plans to perform in various venues including Glastonbury. The achievements of 'Autism Together ' have been recognised in a report on ITV. There could be no clearer illustration of the value of music. In addition we enjoyed a wonderful snapshot of Ian's own work and enthusiasm. He performed pieces from his research period on a range of recorders which went far beyond the descant recorders we had played at school. We were introduced to treble, tenor and voice flute; their range and versatility were shown in the pieces Ian performed. We were spellbound!

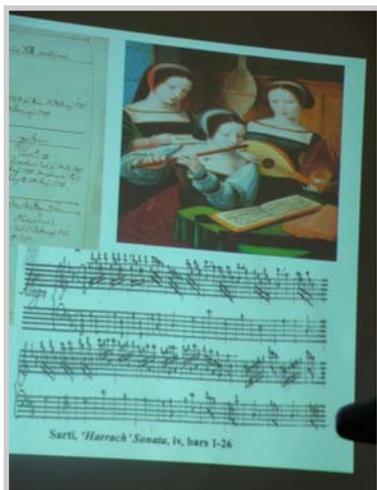
We were privileged to hear a virtuoso player and also to see how he brings his knowledge and talent to education, with determination to give students the benefits and joy which music can give them to carry through life.

**Hilary Goy** (Alpha Chapter)



Ian demonstrates his versatility on two of his recorders.





The Harrach family girls playing their instruments, showing the kind of sheet music Ian was playing from—and how difficult it is to read! Ian specialised in the early eighteenth century in his research.

## BRIDGE SUPPORT



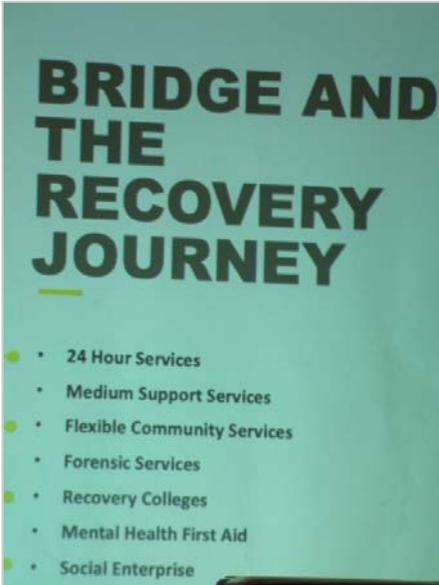
Raymond Sheehy told us about Bridge Support, which has just celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and Recovery College, Greenwich. Its aim is intervention to educate people to help themselves recover. Many are ex-offenders, even from Broadmoor, but the reoffending rate is less than 3% per year, rather than the 51% within one year by others released from prison. They have a new café, which is much appreciated, and now carry out some home services. The educational services they provide are newly accredited by the Open College, which is a great step forward. Raymond wrote a 'Pocket

Guide to Common Mental Illness and conditions', published in 2017. The aim is always to return to a normal state of health, mind and strength, to lead a self-directed life, and strive to reach real potential.

The Recovery Guiding Principles take a holistic view – the person not the symptoms – a journey rather than a destination, but many experience 'fits and starts', with many ups and downs. Everyone needs a safe space to express how they feel. They emphasise optimism and commitment from all concerned, taking account of people's expectations and personal growth, the right learning environment, developing cultural or spiritual perspectives, and resilience to possible adversity or stress in the future.

Those participating emphasised the importance of taking back control, to 'stay in the driving seat of my life', enable people to become experts in their own self-

care, help people to think what they can do, and about the help they would like, both to stay well and at times of crisis, to articulate their dreams and ambitions. Not `here`s what you need`, but `what do you want?` In the course of their work they have discovered people`s top needs: a sense of purpose, someone who cares about you and listens, being active, being treated as a person not a diagnosis, to keep learning/working/being with others, a little support prevents unnecessary crises, to invest in `what works in wellbeing`, based on evidence that is there for us to do this now. Staff need empathy, which they have found cannot be taught.



The Recovery College Greenwich aims to support recovery through learning achievement. One important finding is that people have different ways of learning: visual, aural, kinetic, read-write, which has often hampered them at school. There are a number of course and workshop categories: growing self-awareness, improving social skills, developing hobbies and interests, living well independently, acquiring vocational skills thereby improving employability, developing self esteem. Lessons last 2 hours, with 6 week terms, and are often creative or practical sessions. There is a Wednesday walk, an allotment project, garden design project, with peer support throughout.

Much has been achieved, and there is always so much more to be done. Our members were so impressed by what Raymond had said that Alpha Chapter are planning a visit soon if that can be arranged.

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

Hilary Goy gives Raymond Sheehy a present and thanks him for his stimulating and thought-provoking talk



## ALPHA CHAPTER REPORT

Alpha has enjoyed another year of meetings and outings despite continuing alterations to plans. In May a small group visited the Brunei Gallery at the School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS) to see the then current exhibition of 19<sup>th</sup> Century photographs of life in China and Siam taken by London photographer Richard Thompson. We were fortunate enough to be given a guided tour by the curator of the exhibition which made it even more enjoyable. Unfortunately, we had stiff competition for numbers that day as we were up against a Royal Wedding and a Football Cup Final.

With Revitalisation in mind Alpha decided to restructure their Programme for the forthcoming year. We would reduce our business meetings to three a year – September, February and July and planned to hold two Saturday morning meetings with high calibre speakers focusing on key topics, issues and research relating to education today. However, logistics of suitable venues and attracting key speakers proved insurmountable so we reverted to Saturday afternoon meetings at our usual venue. Visits to places of interest were to be informal, suggested by members and to be on a week day. Our September Business Meeting involved planning and preparation for the October Revitalisation Meeting.

In October our meeting was a joint session with Gamma Chapter, led by Carolyn Pittman former State President USA. There was an almost full turnout of Alpha and Gamma members with those unable to attend keeping in touch by email. The meeting was a great success with everyone feeling positive and with lots of ideas about how we can move forward. Our November meeting was a follow-up to the October Revitalisation session. It was agreed that we would go with the proposed DKG Welcome Pack to include – an introductory letter, a postcard with DKG contact details and a gift of a book/books to be hand delivered to selected schools. We changed our proposed Saturday morning meetings to midweek “Twilights” to be held at Dulwich Hamlet Junior School in order to make them more available to working teachers. Some meetings have been reported on in previous GB News, or in this one.

At our Business Meeting in February we finally organised and shared out our Book Packs, etc to those members who had agreed to contact schools as part of the Book Project. It was also decided to cancel the proposed “Twilight” sessions due to lack of relevant speakers. Our March meeting had two of our own members as speakers. Anna gave us a fascinating talk on her travels in South Africa and at the end had us all singing along to the South African National

Anthem in – Xhosa, Zula, Sesotha, Afrikaans and English. Lavinia took us on a virtual journey (in her plane) giving us a bird's eye view of her travels across a large part of Queensland and New South Wales. We are planning another session to find out from both of them where and what happened next. We finished the meeting with a quick catch up on how our school visits and book donation were going. By the time of the Conference we should have visited and donated at least 12/13 of our allocated Book Packs.

Informal visits have included Lambeth Palace Garden Museum including the "Garden Fairies" exhibition and the Handel and Hendrix Museum.

Forthcoming Alpha Chapter meetings Summer 2019:

18<sup>th</sup> May: Speaker – Sue Aldred (+ 2 colleagues) 2:00pm.

Topic – The Benefits of Singing for Better Breathing.

Q&A session to follow. Venue: DHJS - "Bring & Share" Lunch 12:45pm.

22<sup>nd</sup> June: Alpha Outing tbc.

1<sup>st</sup> week July: Royal Society Exhibition visit.

20<sup>th</sup> July: **Main Business Meeting** - Agenda to be circulated 2:00pm.

Venue: DHJS - "Bring & Share" Lunch 12:45pm.

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



## THE HEALING POWER OF MUSIC

Alpha Chapter`s January meeting was held at Dulwich Hamlet Juniors where the children receive a rich music curriculum, so it seemed the perfect venue to welcome back music therapist, Lyndsay McHale, who brought us up to date on her latest travels bringing music therapy to areas in Africa, where she had been working for Music Therapy International as a programme manager. It was fascinating to listen to her talk of designing and implementing skills programmes for teachers who are often completely lacking in opportunities and support for any kind of professional development.

She explained how, during her travels in Rwanda, she had come across a remarkable woman who had independently fundraised to set up a school for disabled children. Lyndsay worked with her team and developed music therapy sessions. The sessions are designed to leave teachers more confident in using music within their daily pedagogy. The teachers do not need to be particularly competent in tuned equipment for the children to benefit from their training. The idea is to provide teachers with confidence in introducing music within their daily practice.

Another incredible project she told us about was one where a surgeon and former nurse had set up a hospice in Ethiopia and wanted to include music as part of their day care offer. Lyndsay described how this approach to caring for the elderly or terminally ill is a relatively new concept there. Traditionally people, especially women, would accept their fate as God`s will rather than undergo medical intervention. As with all the projects Lyndsay became involved with, there was a common theme: wanting to help many people but with very limited resources, both in terms of staff and physical resources, such as space or equipment. It was clear that the music she left them with had had a lasting positive effect for these remarkable individuals, many of the people she trained were working as volunteers. Lyndsay spoke warmly of how grateful they were to receive any kind of professional support. I think this made us reflect on just how privileged the teaching profession is in the UK with many forms of training and development available (even though much diminished in the current austere climate- but that`s another subject entirely). After contracting Malaria, which of course took a while to recover from, Lyndsay has now returned to work as a freelance music therapist in the UK.adults with acute special needs.

However, our learning journey about the world of music therapy did not end here. Lyndsay had brought along a colleague/friend, Dr Margaret Lobo to talk

about her work. Margaret Lobo has been involved in music therapy for over 30 years and has run OKMT (Otakar Kraus Music Trust ) in Twickenham since 1991 and since 2005 TMTT (The Music Therapy Trust) in India. Margaret has led a fascinating life which has included battling polio which paralysed her vocal chords and a stroke in later life that left her unable to talk for four days. With her late husband she began OKMT in a purpose-built studio in Twickenham. This charity-based service offers individual and group music therapy sessions for over 250 people on a weekly basis, from toddlers to the elderly. All who attend benefit from working with qualified professionals who offer therapy to people with brain injury, stroke victims, those suffering from dementia, children and young adults with acute special needs.

It was clear that Margaret is still passionate about helping others without the financial or cultural capital to access music therapy. In the UK 75% of people being helped are funded via the charity's bursary and the organisation is heavily dependent on charitable donations. In India, Margaret has made massive in-roads in becoming accredited by the government and proudly talked through the latest accolade, which is having a postgraduate training diploma accredited by St Mira's College (affiliated to Prune University, Delhi). Aptly, and in line with DKG's values, Mira is an advocate of true freedom and dignity for women. Margaret is clear that TMTT provides rigorous clinical training for the therapists in India and has set up the first association of registered therapists in the country (India association of Professional Music Therapists, IAPMT)

The Indian Government is starting to acknowledge the power of music therapy in addressing the issues facing the rapidly changing country. India's economy has boomed so family structures have changed. Younger members of the family, and more women, are now working which has had a twofold effect on society. A massive rise in mental health, stress related illness and more working members of the family means the traditional structure of the elderly being cared for in the home environment is disappearing, resulting in a boom in the construction of elderly care homes. In both instances' music therapy can of course address the issues, such as stress and dementia, which due to sheer numbers, are vast. Finally, it was very interesting to note that TMTT can train fifteen therapists in India compared to one in the UK. Margaret continues to campaign tirelessly to fund these two inspirational ventures. It was a privilege to meet her and hear about her work first-hand.

***Janet Carroll*** (Alpha Chapter)

## HANDEL TO HENDRIX

What connects these two famous musicians? The answer lies at 25 Brook Street, London W1K 4HB, a typical Georgian town house occupying five floors. Currently, to access this building, follow Lancashire Court off Brook Street to the rear entrance of the Handel and Hendrix Museum. "Handel & Hendrix in London" is made up of two residences: Handel's house at 25 Brook Street and Hendrix's flat at the top floor of 23 Brook Street. Joan, Unity and I visited this museum along with Joan's daughter Alison and grandson Joe. We were greeted by Joan's other grandson Aidan who works at the museum and was able to tell us some interesting facts about both musicians.

**Handel House** occupies two floors of 25 Brook Street, the building in which the composer George Frideric Handel lived from 1723 until his death in 1759. The four restored historic rooms include his bedroom, and the dining room in which he rehearsed his musicians and singers and often gave informal recitals for friends and neighbours. Handel moved in during the summer of 1723, encouraged no doubt by his court appointment to the Chapel Royal earlier that year. He was the first occupant of the house, which formed part of a four-building residential development by the speculative builder George Barnes (the current nos. 23, 25, 27/29, and 31 which no longer exists). As a foreign national, Handel could not own property or take a long lease. After his British naturalisation in 1727 He decided to remain at Brook Street, renewing his short term lease. In 1742 his annual rent for Brook Street was £50.

Handel was described as a person who indulged "in the sensual gratifications of the table", in other words he loved fine food and drink and consumed a lot of it. Anecdotes suggest that Handel reserved his finer food and drink for his own secret consumption. During the last decade of his life, Handel suffered from failing eyesight, culminating in full blindness in 1754. Prior to his death, a bed was installed in the room adjoining his bedroom, which was probably used by a man-servant as Handel required greater assistance at this time. Handel died at his Brook Street house on 14 April 1759 aged 74.

**Hendrix Flat** occupies the upper floor of 23 Brook Street, in which Jimi Hendrix lived from July 1968 to March 1969. The main room of the flat where he lived, entertained friends, rehearsed and wrote new music, and gave numerous press and media interviews has been restored. A permanent exhibition introduces Hendrix's place in the musical and social world of 1960s London, his influences and his legacy.

The flat on the upper floors of 23 Brook Street was found by Jimi's girlfriend Kathy Etchingham from an advert in one of the London evening newspapers in

June 1968 while he was in New York. He moved in briefly in July before returning to the United States for an extensive tour. He spent some time decorating the flat to his own taste, including purchasing curtains and cushions from the nearby John Lewis department store, as well as ornaments and knick-knacks from Portobello Road market and elsewhere. He told Kathy that this was 'my first real home of my own'. He would have paid a rent of approximately £30 per week.

Born in poverty in Seattle in 1942, his ancestry reads like a history of America, giving him Irish and Cherokee genes, as well as those of an African-American slave and her white plantation overseer. When he was 14 his father found five dollars to buy him a guitar, and Jimi taught himself to play by listening to Chuck Berry records. He was left-handed and taught himself to play the guitar "upside down" as the strings would have been in reverse order. He would also remove the strings and replace them in the reverse order.

On learning that Handel used to live next door Jimi went with Kathy to the One Stop Record Shop in South Molton Street and bought some classical albums – including Handel's *Messiah* and *Water Music*. It is reputed he claimed to have seen the ghost of Handel coming through the wall. Jimi returned to Brook Street in January 1969 and almost immediately launched into an exhaustive series of press and media interviews and photo shoots in the flat. On 4<sup>th</sup> January he made his infamous appearance on the BBC *Happening for Lulu* TV show, and gave his two Royal Albert Hall concerts in February. In March he was back in New York again and although Kathy remained at Brook Street for a while longer Jimi did not live there again. After gigs in Denmark, Germany and Holland he returned to England. On September 17<sup>th</sup> 1970 after a night at a club he retired to bed in another girlfriend's flat in Notting Hill and was found dead the next morning. He was 27 years old.

To distinguish between the two sections of the museum, Handels' rooms are painted grey (the colour discovered when the layers of paint were removed to reveal the original colour of the time) and Hendrix's rooms are painted white. Both display fascinating aspects and insights into the lives of these two incredible men.

**Penny Kinnear**  
(Alpha Chapter)

Alison, Aidan and Joe on Jimi Hendrix bed!



## A HUMANIST VIEW

It was our pleasure to welcome Pat Jay as our speaker at Gamma's 24<sup>th</sup> November meeting. Pat is a Humanist Celebrant and offered an insight to her work. As our speaker she talked about what unites us; a passionate interest in Education and marking key moments in human lives- births, marriages and death. Pat is very conscious of speaking to mixed or no faith groups at ceremonies to celebrate or commemorate these times. Music and singing are often requested, and Pat has no problem with people choosing favourite music and songs, including hymns. Pat generally uses the word ceremony to describe the occasion, particularly at funerals and "commemoration" rather than "celebration"; "guests" for attendees but also sometimes "congregation", meaning the assembled guests. Clayton Wood and Eden Valley are natural burial grounds.

Humanist UK was rebranded from British Humanist Association to better reflect their values. Celebrants have rigorous training to be Humanists UK celebrants, and they pride themselves on the highest quality of ceremony, written according to the wishes of the family. Throughout accreditation they have to undertake continuous professional development. Recently Pat attended training that included information about the Pastoral branch of Humanist UK. However, anyone can be a member, and diversity is welcome.

Pat explained that Humanism is not a religion it's an approach. There is no worship; human beings work together to solve human problems rather than ask a deity. Humanists believe they can make sense of the world through logic, evidence and reason, showing respect and tolerance for others. Where appropriate, they try to "Successfully disagree" i.e. without harmful conflict. Pat feels that spirituality has a meaning for all of us. In ceremonies there is a very real atmosphere of all the people who are together, similar to the feeling in a choir. The values that unite Humanists are that they try to live in the here and now, to live life to the full and help others to do the same. They believe in a secular state, equal rights, same sex marriage and equal opportunities. Pat would like a voice on Thought for the Day!

There is a Humanist UK All Party Parliamentary Group. It cuts across political beliefs to discuss issues such as the legalisation of humanist weddings. As in Scotland (for some years) in Northern Ireland Humanist marriages are now legally recognised, unlike here in UK. Humanists see this as an equal opportunities issue. A problem for the Association is that they don't have a place to meet or conduct their services. Brighton humanists have secular meetings for fellowship in a pub, as do other local groups across the country. Thank you, Pat, for a most interesting talk.

**Ronnie Wagstaff** (*Gamma Chapter*)



Pat Johnson thanks Pat Jay, with a gift

## BODY LANGUAGE

Jean Brushwood returned to Gamma chapter to give an engaging talk on 'Body Language.' She told us that recently she had muted the television while watching Brexit debates. This gave her the perfect opportunity to scrutinise the telling body language used by politicians.

Jean's management course at Henley College had introduced her to the physical reactions we use in life and how these can be interpreted. Open palms can show an inviting approach and mirroring another's movements expresses empathy. Hands on hips show dominance. Handshakes can be an opportunity for someone to display power, when their hand is placed firmly above their opponent's. There were plenty of smiles when we tried this out with our DKG friends.

We shared some of our international observations of cultural differences and body language. Some Chinese pupils may find it difficult to look their teachers in the eye and some African Caribbean children may look down when reprimanded, as signs of respect. One of our ladies perceived that Filipino nurses used touch naturally to comfort distressed patients on an acute hospital ward. We also reflected on autism and how interpreting gestures could be extremely difficult for some students on the spectrum.

Jean's engaging talk encouraged us to analyse the movements we use instinctively and to look more closely at the gestures used by those in power. I am sure that many of us will now be muting the sound during Question Time!

**Anne Goldstein** (*Gamma Chapter*)



Carole gives Pat our thanks, members demonstrate and Pat shows the importance of body language

## AIMING HIGH—PORTAGE IN KENT

We experienced a very positive session from our speaker Tracy Harvey, the manager of Portage provision for Kent. This is an invaluable home-visiting educational service for pre-school children with special educational needs and disabilities and their families. The name Portage comes from a town in Wisconsin, USA where the first home teaching scheme began. Portage has been established in the UK since 1976. We were delighted to hear that her service had not experienced cuts in funding, unlike many nationally. A growing number of children and families – 1085 in the last year - are supported by the organisation.

Tracy clearly took us through the Portage Model she uses. This involves working with the family's priorities, observing the child at play and planning play-based activities that address the child's needs, step by step. Her philosophy is 'less is more'. This values children's very small but significant learning breakthroughs and wow moments. It made perfect sense to all of us former educators.

We heard about the phenomenal successes of this early intervention approach and some of us had touching personal experience of Portage changing the lives of children in our families. A true teacher, Tracy took us through the Portage principles – including being positive, celebrating success and partnership working – by using some fun sensory props. Tracy told us, "You have to aim high for these children." After this session, we would all affirm that pre-school children with SEND and their families have a committed practitioner in Tracy and a local service that is doing exemplary work.

**Anne Goldstein** (*Gamma Chapter*)



Members enjoy the fun items which symbolized different aspects of Portage services. Here Mary is holding the 'little shoes'.

## PICASSO`S WOMEN

In March Liz Strang came to tell Gamma Chapter and guests about Picasso`s women. She showed us a wonderful sequence of paintings and drawings, some painted when he was still very young. The years between 1901 and 1905 are often called his Blue Period because of the distinctive colouration he used at this time. His girlfriend, Madeleine, became pregnant, and they decided that she should have an abortion, although there seem to have been regrets, as he

painted her, and both of them, as if the child had been born, as it was included. In 1905 he met Fernande Olivier. She had been taught to speak beautiful French, which Picasso never learned to do. One of his most famous paintings, *Les Femmes d'Alger*, was painted around this time. Next came Eva Gouel (also known as Marcelle Humbert), and his next `period`, Cubist, included a number of pictures of Eva, but unfortunately she died in 1915.

There is a very famous photo of Picasso, Cocteau, Stravinsky, and Olga Koklova, who was a dancer, whom Picasso married in 1918. He painted her in a mantilla for his mother, to try to gain her favour. Picasso and Olga travelled to London and Nice, and their son Paulo was born in 1921. He painted portraits of Olga and his mother in 1923, and one showing Paulo as Harlequin. The famous *Three Dancers* was painted in 1925, but the marriage started to break up. He then met the beautiful Marie Therese Walter, who was only 17. He set her up in a nearby flat, and kept the liaison secret from Olga. Marie Terese became pregnant, Maya being born in October 1935. Olga then left with Paul. Next was Dora Maar, from 1936. She was Spanish speaking, and a gifted photographer.



One of Picasso's many portraits of Jacqueline Rocque

There are many portraits of her. In 1937 came *Guernica*, famously in black and white, which is an indictment of war and the way it affects innocent civilians.

During the war Picasso was allowed to stay in Paris, to paint, but not to deal, as many dealers were Jewish. By 1943 Picasso had met Françoise Gilot, who was only 21. She was clever, had attended the Sorbonne and Cambridge, and was interested in art. He wooed her, and she said age never entered into the picture. They moved to the South of France, where he painted beautiful portraits of her. Claude was born in 1947. Picasso was very unsympathetic, thinking of women as goddesses or doormats. Françoise left in 1953. He destroyed all her paintings, and some Matisse had given her, and instructed agents not to buy her work. He met Jacqueline Rocque in 1954, lived with her, and started to paint numerous copies, in his own style of course, of paintings by great masters, such as *Women of Algiers*, by Delacroix, *Las Meninas* by Velasquez, and *Dejeuner sur l'Herbe*, by Manet. They married in 1951. He died in 1973, leaving no will, which led to disputes. We found this talk enthralling, leaving us all, I am sure, to ponder over the personality of the great painter.

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

## GAMMA CHAPTER REPORT

Wow, what an exciting year this has been. We have been very fortunate in having amazing speakers covering a huge variety of subjects from body language to Picasso's women and people sharing their beliefs and way of life from a second career as a 'Humanist Celebrant' to life in a Bruderhof community. I'm sure there was something for everyone, I have certainly learnt a lot. I must thank Sandra Blacker and Liz Malik for sharing their seemingly inexhaustible supply of brilliant speakers. It will soon be time to plan next year's programme so any offers to speak, or suggestions of topics, or speakers, gratefully received.

We are very fortunate in being able to continue to use the excellent facilities at Beechwood (Sacred Heart) School. We do realise how lucky we are as not only do we use a room with full IT facilities but we also have fresh tea and coffee delivered as we arrive, delicious. The staff go out of their way for us and are always very helpful. We are very lucky.

In October we joined with our friends in Alpha for a special meeting about REVITALISATION. There was certainly a buzz in the room and lots of exciting ideas to take home with us. I think everyone felt energised by the experience. By February/ March we had completed our first initiative, to deliver a selection of books about strong women/girls who have made a difference in the World, to local schools in order to raise the profile of DKG in our local area. The books were well received and we waited in anticipation to see the results of our initiative. We were thrilled when six new people came to join us for the talk on Picasso, with three returning for the next meeting and two more new guests. This positive response must be followed up with another initiative for next year. Our next step is to decide what our next project will be. It has to be exciting and eye catching to encourage interest, please spend some time thinking of ideas and let us know. I'm sure you'll all have some marvellous suggestions, I can't wait!

I am really looking forward to next year and the variety of speakers we will have the privilege to meet. We already have Graham Lothian who is a war artist, Emile Chalke who is going to update us on the house she runs for trafficked women and Harry Roberts who is going to tell us about his experiences when working in the desert, lined up and ready to come and share with us. I'm really excited, I hope I have inspired you to join us. I look forward to welcoming you to our next meeting – see you there!

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

## **DKG Opportunities for all members**

- \* Sharing and learning together in an international society especially for women in education.
- \* Enjoy annual international conferences with colleagues and friends from many different countries.
- \* Regular meetings with great speakers on interesting topics in London and Kent.
- \* Scholarships available for individual projects.
- \* Develop personal and professional skills including leadership.
- \* Outstanding leadership training at the University of Texas.
- \* Become an international speaker in North America or Europe with all expenses paid.

There are many more opportunities available – see DKG website for the full list.

Details of meetings are also on the GB website

**[www.dkggb.org.uk](http://www.dkggb.org.uk)**

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

**Europe website: [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.**