



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



**Summer 2020**

**Volume 17 No 3**

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3 My thanks to everyone who contributed articles. In the end, I was very lucky that we had more than enough for this edition, and I must apologise to those whose articles won't appear until the next one, in particular Sheila, Evelyn, Carol and Anne. Diana and I thought we would include two pieces of family history, with interesting detail, and this added to the length.

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14 Thanks as always to those who sent their pieces in Word with photos attached in jpg format, as requested. It really is a help. In the hope that we shall be able to hold our GB State Conference as planned in October, I suggest 31 October as the last date for contributions, so that members have time to send in their reports on the conference, which I shall be asking for nearer the time. Fingers crossed!

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Lockdown Lexicon. The front cover shows Diana Bell (left) in mask and gloves, and Di Billam's daughter Melinda in full Personal Protective Equipment ready for action taking virus swabs and tending to her elderly patients. She says her patients can't hear or understand her, she's getting spots and blemishes, her hair looks like a scarecrow!

Keep well everyone.

[dibillam@hotmail.com](mailto:dibillam@hotmail.com)

***Do read about the Canterbury Award in Evelyn's report on page 3. The worthy winners are Kate York and Anne Goldstein, and we look forward to hearing about the progress of their work***

**Evelyn Goodsell**  
**STATE ORGANISATION PRESIDENT 2019—2021**



I hope I find you well and coping with not too much difficulty, with the present situation. We have been really fortunate that the weather has been so kind to us. To have woken up each morning to the awful wet days we experienced at the beginning of the year would have had a rather different effect on us.

Sadly we have not been able to meet in person at our Chapter meetings, but Alpha have arranged a Zoom meeting for Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm to which we are all invited. Dorcas is going to give a twenty minute presentation of a walk in her nearby woods. Please let Penny know if you would like to join the meeting. The wonders of science!

I have to admit that I (forever an optimist) was hoping that we would not have to cancel our Annual State Conference. How wrong can you be! Fortunately, Heidi at the Holiday Inn was so helpful and we have been able to transfer the whole Conference, as previously arranged, to 16-18 October. So please do your best to come on those dates. We only have to rebook our rooms when we receive the new code.

Life has been going on behind the scenes in DKG. Elizabeth and her committee have received applications for the **Canterbury Award** and have decided to make two awards this year as there were no applicants last year.

The two recipients are **Kate York** and **Anne Goldstein**. Kate is spending hers on books and a computer for her local primary school, where she is a Governor. They are setting up a new library and need reference books which will be a much needed asset for pupils and teaching staff. They will know the funding came from DKG and that will give us some much-needed publicity. Anne is going to make a video resource for schools which explores the area of education and gender issues, with particular reference to challenges faced by young people with autism. This will connect well with DKG's focus on Diversity, and also issues with mental health and wellbeing of young people.

I think you will agree that both awards are well deserved. As there is no point in waiting any longer, both applicants have received the money so that they can make a start on their projects.

I hope it will not be too long before we can get back to our normal everyday activities and (being optimistic again!) perhaps squeeze in a DKG outing before the end of the summer!

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

## REFLECTIONS ON THE CANTERBURY AWARD

Congratulations to the two 2020 recipients of the Canterbury Awards, two very worthwhile projects. I look forward to hearing more from Kate and Anne about their development in the future.

Reading about this year's awards reminded me of when I was fortunate enough to be granted the Canterbury Award many years ago. It made me think about what I had aimed to achieve with the help of the award and assess what had been the long term impact of the project nearly 30 years later. My award was given to enable the setting up of adult education courses in basic literacy, numeracy and IT skills for the residents of Orchard Vale Trust, a care home for adults with a wide range of learning difficulties. The trust was set up in 1985 and my daughter was one of the founder residents. It had only been in existence for a few years when I was granted my award. During those few years it had developed a range of activities to develop the practical and creative abilities of the residents but there was a need to provide further basic education. The local FE college had tutors with SEN experience but lacked the budget to fund the specialist materials needed to set up the courses. This was what my Canterbury Award was able to provide.

Now, of course, having been established for 35 years, Orchard Vale Trust is a much larger organisation, with four residential homes, day care provision, outreach links in the wider community and staff with a wide range of specialist carer, teaching and nursing skills. During lockdown, although their outside activities and contacts have been greatly curtailed, the ability and confidence of the residents to communicate as well as entertain themselves using lap tops, tablets, smart phones etc., has meant they and their families and friends have been able to remain in contact.

At present residents are unable to take part in the many community and on-site work groups and activities that usually take place. Normally there are groups of residents and day care people busy in the weavery, the art studio, the pottery, the kitchen, the garden, the computer rooms. They also run a community gardening service, the Orchard Café for staff and their visitors at the Taunton Hospital as well as assisting at a local charity recycling centre. They are also keen volunteers helping to clear the Glastonbury Festival site each summer – but not this year.

When I see some of those original residents and those who have since joined them on a residential or day care basis, engaging confidently with the public

during September Somerset Arts weeks as they display, and sell, the pottery, tapestry, felt work, paintings etc., they have produced; taking orders and working a till at Orchard Café; or, as I did this week, receive a typed letter from my daughter telling me what she has been doing, I know that the award I received had an educational impact that is still having a positive effect today.

The Canterbury Award can be the stone that when dropped into a pool of need creates circles of benefit that grow larger over the years.

**Joan Carroll** (*Alpha Chapter*)

## REVITALISATION

It's now nearly two years since Carolyn Pittman came to London and led a session on Revitalisation of our society in UK. Her enthusiasm was infectious, and since then members of both chapters have been inspired to develop more interest in membership of DKG. We began with a project to donate books to local schools, with a follow up visit. Although appreciation and interest in DKG was expressed by school staffs, this didn't translate into attendance at meetings or recruitment of new members. We fully understand the heavy workload of teachers, but would love to share the advantages of DKG with both practising teachers and those now retired, teaching assistants, librarians, and all involved in education

The 'Books for Schools' project, certainly served to reignite current members' enthusiasm for DKG. Through personal contact, both chapters have each initiated three new members over the past 18 months. This is a great result. Maybe during this quiet period of 'lockdown' members can think of other strategies to attract new members to our excellent organisation? It is too good to keep it hidden as though it were a secret society. Let's shout it from the rooftops, or whisper it into the ear of close friends or professional acquaintances!

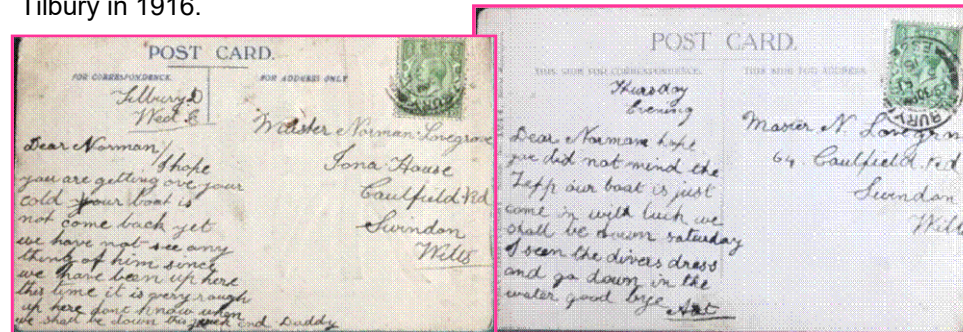
NB. Don't forget we have a European Facebook page and Gamma Chapter also has one, so we can keep in touch with each other.

We now have 42 members – let's all work hard to increase it to 50 within the coming year, and after that the sky's the limit!

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

## A TRIP TO PORTSMOUTH for a FAMILY CONNEXION

My father's "box" was recently returned to the family and in it were medals, watches and his treasured papers and postcards. I remember as a child, seeing the large copper/bronze medal hanging on the wall in my grandma's house. I believe that my grand-dad drove the troop trains and now I have his two postcards written to his small son, my father. So few words tell the story of how they received the news that my Great Uncle Ben went down in a submarine near Tilbury in 1916.



This prompted a trip to see Ben's name on the Naval War Memorial at Portsmouth. Ray Daley, an old friend, knows the area well as he used to take his school children for visits to the port and he volunteered to take me there to find it. It was a glorious sunny day and we found it quite quickly, high up facing the land.

Mission accomplished, we enjoyed fish and chips facing the sea in a nearby café, glad to be out of the exhilarating wind.

We had time to explore The Warrior, which took the whole afternoon because it was so interesting. It was the first sail/steam battleship, built in 1860 with a 4.5 inch thick iron hull lined with 18 inches of teak and a further thinner shell of iron. Everything was on a grand scale; 380ft long with a beam of 58ft; immensely high fore, main and mizzen masts, but with a seemingly small rudder. The sails could also be used for steering. It had nine masts plus the







bowsprit supporting sixteen sails and the smaller ones in the bow and stern were often used this way.

The two power sources could, but were not generally, used together. Under sail, the funnels would have impeded the use of the fore and main sails so were made retractable, so too was the propeller which even at top steam speed would have caused

a drag. Steam, used when there was little wind and in more confined situations, was generated by ten boilers to power a 1250 horsepower 2 cylinder engine. It would have made the ship safer and quite maneuverable in battle. In the dust-ridden air of the boiler room, shifts of men working to remove ash and clinker and replace it with fresh coal, worked for four hours on with eight hours off. Even with ventilation shafts, temperatures could reach 47°C at full steam ahead. There did not appear to be drinking water available but the work was well paid.

The nine anchors composed four weighing 5.6 tons, two weighing 2.5 tons and one weighing 1.5 tons used for haul with the capstan - plus one at 0.4 tons and another at 8 tons. The chains were massive; one link could weigh up to 60lbs and much of it was stored on the gun deck when not in use. It was too big to go round a capstan so it could be attached or detached by means of a D-link to a smaller



messenger cable when necessary by the "nipper"; a small boy who needed to work quickly as the anchor chain was being operated.

The armaments were equally massive; eight rifled breechloaders, 110 pounds accurate to 8000 yards but these were withdrawn in 1863 because of associated accidents. There were twenty-eight muzzleloaders, 68 pounds with new systems for improved recoil control and aiming. Also included were four 40 pounds, two 20 pounds, one 12 pounds and one 6 pounder. All around

were other small arms in case of invasion. Gunners had a plentiful water supply, necessary to cool the guns and therefore available to drink. Each gun port had its own ventilation shaft.

On board were 10 working smaller boats for shore transport, communications and supplies. There was work for them around the ship such as anchor stowage assistance and general maintenance. They could have been used as lifeboats but were insufficient for the whole crew.

The Warrior figurehead is a very fine lifelike carving of a roman soldier; there to carry the magic to appease any disturbance to the sea gods, to act as a messenger between the ship and King Neptune. Maybe he did his work because the ship served as a threat to the enemy but never went into battle. The ship remains a fine example of sailing knowhow accumulated over centuries of practice.

There was just time before Ray and I came home, to enjoy a cup of tea in the sunshine. Perhaps we will go again to explore further; Portsmouth Harbour is easy to reach from Waterloo or Clapham Junction.

*Unity Harvey (Alpha Chapter)*

### **A TRIP TO AUSTRALIA in 2015 for FAMILY CONNECTIONS**

We have a very extended family in Australia and this connection is on my mother's side. My sister Wendy and I were set up as pen pals when we were about 10/11 years old - me with Pam and Wendy with Don. At the time we were not aware of the family connection but always referred to them as cousins. We only learnt this was actually the truth in 2015. I first met up with Pam and her husband Peter when they came to London in the early 1980s with 2 children - they eventually had 5. I then went out to Brisbane to stay with them in 1988 (Expo) and met Don - the first of a few visits now. Wendy met up with Don much later.

James Wilson was Pam and Don's Great Grandfather who emigrated to Australia we believe in 1884. He was brother to my Great Grandmother Agnes and they had 4 other siblings - one of them Jane Wilson who emigrated in 1885. My Great Grandmother was the only sibling to stay in Belfast as she had met her future husband. Their mother Jane had been widowed with 6 children and it was at the time of the potato famines so many sought a new life in Australia. In total 4 siblings went to Australia and the youngest to Scotland. Their mother married again and had two more children.



The Auckinson (Ackinson/Atkinson) connection is also on my mother's side. William Henry (Harry) was my maternal Grandmother's eldest brother (and my mother's uncle) and he emigrated to Australia in 1907, apparently after a dispute with two of his three brothers. He settled in Toowoomba where he held a position of note in the community - there is a plaque in the centre of the town with his and his wife's details, pictured right.



### **The Family Tree - Family Connections**

Pam McGrath (nee Sanderson) - 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin, descendant of James Wilson

Don Sanderson - 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin, descendant of James Wilson

Stuart Sanderson - 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin, descendant of James Wilson

Alexis, Andrew, Kristy, Ellissa, Pip - 3<sup>rd</sup> cousins, once removed, descendants of James Wilson

Christopher, Jacelyn - 3<sup>rd</sup> cousins, once removed, descendants of James Wilson

Bruce Hamilton - 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin, descendant of Jane Wilson

Sue Ramsay - 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin, descendant of Henry (Harry) Ackinson, brother of Martha. (Grandmother).

### **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

Evening flight to Australia with Singapore Airlines via Singapore.

### **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

Reached Singapore by teatime. Went for a walk through the shopping area at the airport and found "Raffles Long Bar" in the Duty Free Shop. Enjoyed a complimentary Singapore Sling, and then discovered we could have another, which we gladly accepted.

### **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

Arrived in Brisbane at 7:00am. Met by 3<sup>rd</sup> Cousin Don and Helen. Off for brunch where we met up with Christopher (3<sup>rd</sup> cousin once removed) and his girlfriend Kat. Briefly joined by Stuart (Don's brother). Afterwards, headed to Caloundra to meet up with Pam (3<sup>rd</sup> cousin) and Peter who would come up later from Brisbane after work. Don and Helen took us on a tour of the area showing us places that Don knew from growing up. Unfortunately, very heavy rain rather obscured our appreciation of the different views.

### **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

Lovely sunny morning. After breakfast we had a session in the spa on the roof, sipping bubbles in the bubbles. Then got ready for the lunchtime get-together. Joined by Sue (2<sup>nd</sup> cousin) and Rod Ramsay, and also Bruce (3<sup>rd</sup> Cousin) and Marilyn Hamilton (our latest family connection). After a buffet meal we spent a lot of time sharing and discussing all the information we had on our ancestors. Marilyn had prepared a folder for us containing details of our family connections.

### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

Pam and Peter took us for a country drive through Maleny, Montville, Mapleton and Nambour. We visited the Pritchard Lighthouse and then on to the Kondalilla Falls. Unfortunately, the legacy of the visit to the Falls was my collection of several mosquito bites.

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April (Easter Sunday)**

Easter Day gathering of family and friends. Full moon that evening, so able to photograph the Glass Mountains in different light.

### **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

We set off to Australia Zoo with Don and Helen. Lots to see. Long day – hot and humid, punctuated by down-pours. Saw the Irwin family with the Crocodile Show. Back at the Unit had a meal of Prawns and Moreton Bay Bugs.



### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April**

Set off in the morning with Don and Helen to Eumundi to visit the market – very busy. Lovely hot, sunny day. Headed on to Noosa where all the “beautiful people“ hang out. Stopped at Sandy Bay, walked down Hastings Street (enjoyed an obligatory ice cream) and back along the Boardwalk by the beach. Had a fish and chip lunch by the beach at Noosa North Shore.

### **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

Drove to Yandina to have Morning Tea with Katherine (an artist friend of Helen's) and her husband Henry. Had a lovely morning at their home “Old Coach Way” set in 10 acres, partly rainforest. Came away with a print from Katherine's workshop, showing her signature “flying dog” (a dingo!).

Paid a visit to the local Ginger Factory. Spent the afternoon visiting Sea Life at Mooloolaba and walking along the beach.



*Ginger Factory and Surfers` Paradise!*

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April**

Went for walk along the sea front. Had been raining heavily earlier and still cool and very windy. Drove to Mallum Road for a closer view of the Glass House Mountains from Mary Cairncross Park - Mt. Beerwah, Mt. Crookneck, Mt. Tibrogagan, and Mt. Coonowin.

Visited the David Linton Art Gallery in Maleny (friends of Helen) briefly before heading on to Palmwoods and Maroochydore. Visited the Botanic Gardens at Tanawha to see the Sculpture Park.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April**

Goodbye to Caloundra. Packed everything up and headed off into the hinterland (West). On the way stopped at Somerset Dam (reservoir for Brisbane).

Had lunch at the Toogoolawah Hotel in Toogoolawah. What an interesting place! Conversation stopped and all heads turned as we walked in. We were obviously the entertainment of the week/month/year? The offer of wine from an open bottle in the old fifties style



fridge high up on the wall was turned down in favour of a fresh bottle from the main fridge. The grime around the edge of the old fridge wasn't that appealing

and there was no indication as to how long the wine had been open. We were able to share the company of the local fly population whilst having our meal and it appeared that the “dishwasher” was obviously out of action judging by the dirt around the rim of the wine glasses. Decor was “quaint” and of a certain vintage!



We drove on to Crow's Nest and then on to Toowoomba. A long and often interesting combination of road surfaces. On the way we were treated to a cabaret of cattle casually crossing the road ahead of us. Again we appeared to be the entertainment, this time for the cattle. Eventually we reached

Toowoombah where we met friends and walked to Picnic Point.

### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April**

Met up with Marilyn and Bruce (3<sup>rd</sup> Cousin) in Toowoombah and then drove on to Eton Vale to see the Cairn, and then to Ramsay to stand on the hill and see where the original home of our ancestors stood. We drove on to Greenmount where the General Store run by the family was located. Then on to Nobby, visiting Sister Kenny House (pioneer in Polio research and treatment). Met a woman who had recently celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, still driving and didn't look her age. Went to where the Blacksmith's and 5 houses owned by Bruce's ancestors had been and the buildings were still situated. Saw Rudd's Pub which we briefly visited.

Then we drove to Bruce and Marilyn's house outside Nobby and admired the old Morris 1939 Utility and 1940 Saloon which were Bruce's pride and joy. He remembered, as a child, the old lady, his Great Grandmother Jane (Wilson) sitting in one of the cars.

Then on to Cambooya. Drove to a place where we could see Pilton in the distance – where Jane Wilson (Bruce's ancestor) had worked as a Nanny.

We headed back to Toowoombah. Looked for kangaroos, but no show.

### **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

Left Toowoombah for the long drive back to Brisbane via the Gold Coast. Had lunch in Surfers' Paradise. Then on to Kirra Beach where there were surf boards by the dozen – Life Saving Championships. On to Coolangatta. Stopped at Point Danger – took photos of the Captain Cook Memorial.

Drove over the border to New South Wales (NSW), past the Tweed River at Chinderah and finally to Kingscliff.

### **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

Set off for Binna Burra, first to Murwillumbah via Condong, but took a wrong turning and ended up having coffee at Reedy Creek. Then on to Nerang, through Lower Beechmont and finally Lamington National Park at Binna Burra Lodge. Saw different birds and Pademelons (like miniature wallabies). After a lovely meal went for a night walk. Saw more Pademelons and as it was a clear night, the most wonderful view of the Milky Way and the Southern Cross.



*O`Reilly`s Bar in Binna Burra, Penny is second left, her sister Wendy is on the right of the picture.*

### **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April**

Did the “Senses” Walk before breakfast and then headed for Canungra. Did the Tree Top Walk and joined in the Bird Feeding Session. Drove back towards Brisbane and had a picnic stop at Canungra, passing through Wonglepong!

### **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

Took luggage to the car and checked out. Went for a walk along the river (South Bank) through the Bouganvillea Walk. Pam drove us to Kirsty and Dave's place. Kirsty baked Don's favourite “Jam Drop Biscuits”, pictured right.

We packed ready for our trip to New Zealand the next day.



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

*This piece was adapted from Penny's original Blog by Diana Bell*



## PUPIL PERSONAL ADVISOR

Pupil Personal Advisor (PPA) is School Counselling and Pastoral Care for 11-18 year olds in a Catholic Girls' Secondary School. Tina O'Connor is a pioneer in this role having identified a need in the school which she and her daughters once attended.

Tina originally trained and worked as a nurse in the 1970s and 1980s before taking a career break to have a family and moving to live in Switzerland, Holland and the United States. She then did a refresher course in nursing and spent fifteen years as a School Nurse in a private international Girls' Boarding School. Pupils would come to the Sanatorium for medicines or minor ailments. However, Tina noticed the girls would often linger and chat, offloading their anxieties. Some of these manifested physically, as the girls were away from home and had no-one to talk to.

At a Governors' Meeting in the school which she and her daughters once attended. Tina heard about pupils with eating problems, self harming, etc, so she offered to help voluntarily. After completing a course in basic Counselling Skills, a PPA post was set up and Tina was formally interviewed for the position which she accepted in October 2011. The new Headteacher was interested in Pastoral Care so facilities, basic at first, were set up.

The sessions started with five girls a day, but as this proved too much to cope with, it was changed to six girls every two days, Monday and Thursday, three hours each day. There are 1500 girls in the school. Tina has a supervisor with whom she can share concerns. These can then be passed on to the Deputy Head, Headteacher and Chaplain. There is also an Art Therapist and a visiting Psychologist.

Back in the 1970s there were 800 girls in the school and many of the staff were Nuns. Girls had different problems and the extended family was more prevalent, compared to today with the Nuclear Family, family members moving abroad and families splitting up. Girls are now spending more time on social media, etc, seeking peer approval rather than that of the family. Being bullied, left out of "messaging", misunderstanding of messages, eating disorders, self harming and suicidal thoughts are among the main concerns for the girls.

Tina told us a bit about herself and encourages the girls to do the same when she first meets them. There is always an issue of confidentiality and sometimes Tina has to decide when confidentiality is ignored and concerns are passed on.

Girls are encouraged to pray or find a quiet space—`Pray, Hope and Don't Worry`. Tina feels it is important to make children laugh and see the funny side of some situations, but more than ever today they need to find the space and time to `Stop, Slow Down and Listen to Each Other`.

Tina's advice to her successor would be — be extremely patient, give up extra time to get to the root of the problem and be flexible. There was a lively discussion and debate throughout Tina's talk and this continued afterwards as there was a lot to think about.

Tina, seated in the picture, was thanked by Penny for her talk and presented with a Thank You gift of wine.



*Penny Kinnear (Alpha Chapter)*

## APPRENTICESHIPS

When you hear the words “Apprentice/Apprenticeship” no doubt you think of learning a trade/skills, whilst working in that particular occupation. Traditionally that used to be the case. However, Nuala Garvey soon showed us that the modern “Apprentice” can be found across a wide range of jobs.

Apprenticeships are no longer the “poor relation” for a qualification into the workplace. More and more employers are turning to taking on apprentices. This can benefit the employer who is able to retain someone who has been trained to the company's specific expectations and is a known quantity. It can also benefit the apprentice who can in most cases be assured a position within the company if all goes well and unlike those who leave University with a degree, the apprentice begins work debt free.

The Apprenticeship Levy Funding means that Institutions with a paybill of £3,000,000+ must pay a “levy” - they receive funds, manage apprentices, pay the training provider and can stop/pause payments to the provider. Non-levy Institutions (paybill less than £3,000,000) share the cost of training and assessing - “co-investment”. Larger employers can “gift” any of their unused funding.

Nuala has over 20 years' experience in Learning and Development supporting

colleges, training providers and an awarding body to continually improve the management of their quality assurance provision in delivering Professional and Apprenticeship programmes. She currently works for the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development as an External Quality Advisor. She is also Lead Internal Quality Assurer at Sutton College and London Learning Consortium on apprenticeship programmes. Her work involves responding to and keeping abreast of national legislation and guidance from the Institute of Apprenticeships, OFSTED and ESFA.

Nuala is passionate about raising potential through Apprenticeship delivery. She has talked about Apprenticeships as an alternative to University for a long time and is keen to show how Degrees can be done through Apprenticeships without the debt. The “Vision” for Apprenticeships is that they are more occupationally specific and linked to Employers' requirements, and based on knowledge, skills and behaviours rather than levels. Standards are created by and for Employers and these are professionally recognised qualifications approved by the Institute of Apprenticeships.

OFSTED believes that reforms are a good opportunity for Employers to play an even greater role in training. Clarity is needed for ways of measuring achievement, so OFSTED want to observe outstanding support for progress and achieving goals, strong and effective partnerships between Employer, Training Provider and Learner to ensure the Learner passes.

An “E” Portfolio is set up to record work done and this leads to the “Gateway” when the Employer, Assessor and IQA (Internal Quality Assurance) will agree when the Apprentice is ready to pass through to the EPA (End Point Assessment). The Gateway process takes ten weeks and is triggered when there is consensus between the Employer, Apprentice and Training Provider.

Grades are Distinction, Pass and Fail. All Pass criteria need to be achieved. Apprentices can have just one more chance should they fail. The aims of a successful EPA are – the Apprenticeship is achieved, there are skills and behaviours to empower, career and expectations can be realised, progress to a proposed job role or promotion is possible and the Apprentice can move to a higher level of apprenticeship or qualification.

Nuala's talk inspired a lively session with much discussion and questioning and a deeper understanding of what Apprenticeships mean for today's workforce.

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



*Penny thanks Nuala for her talk on apprenticeships, from which members gained a new insight into this underrated programme for young people.*

## ALPHA CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Who would have believed a year, let alone two months ago, that we would be re-evaluating everything we took for granted? Coronavirus has had a huge impact on our lives and how we decide to organise/re-organise and enjoy them in the months and even possibly, years to come.

Revitalisation was the main topic of our first Business meeting of the year in October, when we discussed how well our various visits to schools with our Book Donations had gone. We have still to attract any potential new members from this particular project.

Our Christmas celebration, originally planned as a walk to see the lights at Canary Wharf unfortunately didn't happen, as the display had been rescheduled for January. However, that didn't stop us enjoying a catch-up chat in the Docklands Museum Cafe with some members paying a quick visit to the Christmas Themed Exhibition upstairs before a lovely lunch at the nearby Ledger Room.

In January, Nuala Garvey introduced us to the modern "Apprenticeship" – very different to perceptions and knowledge of how we used to see apprenticeships. A great way for people to find their route into the workplace without going down that of University, with fees and huge debts at the end.

Our business meeting in February included an update on Revitalisation, discussion on the Alpha Chapter Programme, possible future venues and the DKG Conference. It was agreed that due to the wide geographical nature of Alpha's members and no identified local focus community, advertising by poster (as Gamma have done) would be non-productive. For the moment, follow-up to school visits is on hold.

In March, we had Tina O'Connor telling us about her role as a PPA (Pupil Personal Advisor) in a girls' Secondary School. Tina was a pioneer and instrumental in setting up this role for Counselling and Pastoral Care, when she saw the need in a school which she and her daughters had once attended.

*From left: Member Claire Purcell, new member Tina O'Connor, members Barbara Kern, Joan Carroll and Penny Kinnear, and new members Alison Ajayi (who is Joan's daughter) and Nuala Garvey, who had just given the Interesting talk on apprenticeships.  
Diana Bell took the picture.*



#### **Forthcoming Alpha Chapter meetings Summer 2020:**

Our next meeting 16th May would have been with a visiting speaker. This has been postponed to a later date. However, in its place Alpha have decided to have a trial meeting via “zoom”, with Dorcas as our Guest Speaker. The title of her 20-minute presentation is “The lived experience in the highs and lows of the roller coaster that is Covid-19 lockdown”. Several Alpha members have agreed to take part and Gamma members have been invited.

**20<sup>th</sup> June:** This would have been Alpha's annual Outing – alternative meeting to be organised, via “zoom”?

**1<sup>st</sup> week July:** Royal Society visit – cancelled due to Coronavirus

**20<sup>th</sup> July: Main Business Meeting** - Agenda to be circulated and hopefully to be organised via “zoom”. Who knows how DKG and future meetings will evolve from now?

**NB** On a positive note, although Alpha have yet to attract new members as a result of the Revitalisation Book Project, we have gained three new members through personal recommendation. They had come along to one of our meetings and were impressed by what DKG has to offer.

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



## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

In January, Gamma Chapter were delighted that Joyce Evans, one of our newer members, was able to enlighten us on the subject of Artificial Intelligence. Firstly Joyce shared with us some of the history of AI development.

In 1950, Alan Turing was working at the University of Manchester, when he wrote a paper 'Computing Machinery and Intelligence'. It opens with the words "propose to consider the question, can machines think?" Within his paper he introduced The Turing Test - a test of a machine's ability to exhibit intelligent behaviour equivalent to, or indistinguishable from, that of a human.

John McCarthy was a young Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Dartmouth College, who decided to organize a group to clarify and develop ideas about thinking machines. It was launched in 1956 by a small but now famous -DARPA-sponsored summer conference at Dartmouth College, in Hanover, New Hampshire. John McCarthy coined the phrase **Artificial Intelligence** to organize the conference to study the conjecture "every aspect of learning or any other feature of intelligence can in principle be so accurately described, that a machine can be created to simulate it".

During the Cold War, The United States wanted automatic and instant translation from Russian documents, so invested \$1million into machine translation. A crucial improvement in quality, speed and cost, over human translators was required.

In the early 1970s, partly in reaction to significant internal discord within that field, the Science Research Council (SRC) as it was then known, asked James Lighthill, to compile a review of academic research in Artificial Intelligence. Lighthill's report, was highly critical of basic research in foundational areas such as robotics and language processing and "formed the basis for the decision by the British government to end support for AI research in all but two universities", starting what is sometimes referred to as the "AI Winter".

Research carried on under different names: Machine Learning; Informatics; Facial Recognition; but it was the biggest blow to the commercial AI industry. AI required an enormous amount of computing power and Lisp Program Language was not suited to commercial machines, which ran on Fortran. US and UK reports concluded that the investment in AI in universities was not cost-effective, and AI techniques may work within the scope of small problem domains, but the techniques would not scale up well to solve more realistic problems.

From the 1970's to 1990's, some research, both academic and commercial, into various aspects of 'machine learning' continues, including the use of 'expert systems' in medical diagnosis (MYCIN). Rapid hardware development through IBM and Del Labs, provides more powerful computing capability.

Investment and interest in AI boomed once again, in the first decades of the 21st century, when machine learning was successfully applied to many problems in academia and industry due to the presence of powerful computer hardware.

The emphasis moved from developing machines that think, to developing machines that Learn. Machine Learning is simply the study of algorithms whose performance on tasks improves as a result of interactions with data. Algorithm is a process or set of rules to be followed in calculations or other problem-solving operations, especially by a computer.

AI programs developed and are applied to practices such as diagnosis processes, treatment protocol development, drug development, personalised medicine, patient monitoring and care.

Joyce then went on to explain the three waves of AI development.

**The First Wave** is Handcrafted Knowledge. Experts use the knowledge they have in a particular domain and characterise it in a form that is amenable to computer processing.

This leads to machines able to 'reason' when tasked with narrowly-defined problems.

However such machines have no learning capability and deal very poorly with uncertainty.

**The Second Wave** is Statistical learning, which is tremendously powerful but individually unreliable, with nuances of classification and prediction capabilities and minimal abstracting and reasoning ability. It is not a perfect technology, as skewed training data creates maladaptation. Statistical learning enables real-time global observation of cyber attacks, meeting wireless data demand to overcome spectrum scarcity, and development of autonomous vehicles.

**The (Future) Third Wave**, contextual adaptation. Future Third Wave systems will combine the capabilities of the First and Second Wave and be able to construct explanatory models for classes of real world phenomena. Machine

learning will incorporate techniques akin to human abstraction and reasoning to reach decisions.

What a thought-provoking start to our year of meetings!

**Marian Bowles** (Gamma Chapter)

*Marian, left, thanks Joyce for her fascinating talk about Artificial Intelligence, and presents her with some flowers.*



## DEMENTIA FRIENDS

Joe Mendell talked to us about dementia, and explained his own role, as a volunteer, not an expert or a counsellor. He commented that dementia is an emotive subject, usually calling up negative words like memory loss, confusion, damage to the brain. Dementia Friends try to reduce this, introduce some positive elements and change perceptions. Even simple changes can make a difference, like referring to `living with` rather than `suffering`. There are five key messages:

- ◇ Dementia is not a natural part of ageing.
- ◇ Dementia is caused by diseases of the brain.
- ◇ Dementia is not just about losing your memory – it can affect thinking, communicating and doing everyday tasks.
- ◇ It's possible to live well with dementia.
- ◇ There's more to a person than the dementia.

A healthy life-style will reduce the risk, with smoking considered particularly dangerous.

Stress may also be a factor. Short-term memory loss is not necessarily a sign of dementia - 'Now what was it I came upstairs for?' - but it is useful to seek medical advice. There may also be changes in personality, vision, or balance. We need to understand that it can cause confusion, or irritation, but those with dementia can still communicate effectively. If everyone were a dementia friend they would be treated differently, more sympathetically. Listen, encourage, reduce distraction, speak slowly and clearly, use simple phrasing, and smile! They deserve our respect.

Joe had a very vivid illustration of our memories: think of them as books in a tall bookcase, with current memories on the top shelf, going down to childhood memories at the bottom. When dementia shakes it, the top memories fall off first, so the most recent will go, often leaving the earlier ones still vivid. Things fall off the factual bookcase easily – names, dates, events – but emotions will stay. Joe gave us a test, on various factors to do with dementia, and it was interesting that for the same set of circumstances we all gave different answers. In the same way, no two people follow the same journey with dementia. Raising our level of understanding will help, wearing your Dementia Friend badge and being prepared to raise the subject when appropriate will also increase awareness. The overall aim is to try to make our community dementia friendly. Awareness is already increasing in the public services, such as the police and council. If you find yourself in a position to help, be positive.

Questions and discussion followed – Joe had definitely caught our attention, and several of us undertook to stay involved.



**Diane Billam** (Gamma Chapter)



*Marion thanks Joe for his inspiring talk. Dementia Friend Badge shown left.*

*Chapter President Carole welcomes new member Aileen Dickson into Gamma Chapter, and Aileen signs the register.*

## GAMMA CHAPTER REPORT

We are indeed living through unprecedented times. If anyone had told me at the beginning of this year that I would spend weeks in my house not going out, except for a walk, not seeing my children and grandchildren, not going out with friends, I would not have believed them but here we are in exactly that situation. I think if we had some sort of timescale – a light at the end of the tunnel - it might be easier. However each day I look around and think again how lucky I am. When I think of people in other parts of the World I realise how easy my life is and I am grateful.

One of the major things I miss is my monthly meeting with my DKG sisters. I so look forward to us all being together and a chance to socialise and share news with my good friends, many of whom I've known for years and some I've recently come to know. Of course I also look forward to our excellent speakers on a wide range of topics and each one bringing something different to our meetings. I always feel blessed that I have learnt something new and my eyes and my mind have been opened and stretched, often in areas that I have never explored before.

We managed to have two chapter meetings before the lock down came. The first was a very thought provoking meeting when Joyce Evans, one of our members, talked to us about 'Artificial Intelligence'. I learnt lots of new things and to think about it in a different way. February saw us welcome Joe Mendell from the Dementia Information Service. Dementia is an illness that touches many families and it was interesting to hear facts and how to help our loved ones, as well as to have some of the myths surrounding the subject dispelled. Reports of both our January and February meetings can be found elsewhere in this edition of our magazine.

Obviously all our other meetings have been cancelled until further notice. The lady who was coming to talk to us about Forest Schools is still very keen to come so probably she will be our first speaker. At least we have something to look forward to and of course our State Conference in October. I can't wait until we can all meet again and spend time together. Until then take care and stay safe – I'll see you on the other side.

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



## **DKG Opportunities for all members**

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

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

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

Details of GB meetings are on the website

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

Find out more about DKG in Europe

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

### **Mission Statement**

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