



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

## **GREAT BRITAIN NEWS**



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Forward Planning: Great Britain State Conference is on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at the Soroptimist Club, London W2.

The cover photograph, and those with an asterisk \*, are courtesy of Photographs by Jim, Floresville, Texas. They can be seen and purchased on-line through [www.photographsbyjim.org](http://www.photographsbyjim.org)

*Editor*

## FROM THE EDITOR

In this issue you can read about the DKG International Convention in Spokane, the '**Lilac City**'.

The eight GB members who went had a good time and found a great deal on offer. Speakers were very high quality with 'Leadership' being the main theme. Members were spoilt for choice with the many and various workshops, marketplace with vendors, exhibitions and demonstrations all going on.

There were a number of pre-convention trips, and some of these are featured, along with other aspects, such as the 'Night on the Town' visit to the Grand Coulee Dam.

On the Tuesday evening we gathered next to the Spokane River and Convention Centre. We listened to a wonderful jazz band, with food and drink provided by *Coca Cola*. Later we witnessed the Opening Ceremony with the flags paraded. This was followed by a wonderfully musical Washington Night.



Reporting back \*

One personal highlight was giving my European Forum Report to about 1,400 members.

Please let me know if you are willing to write an article about your work, paid or unpaid, for the Spring Edition of GB News. All articles to me by 30th November please.

**Diana Bell** *Alpha Chapter  
State Editor*

**Diane Billam**  
**STATE ORGANISATION PRESIDENT: 2009-2011**



Presenting the flag \*

It was a great honour to carry our Union Jack into the International Convention in Spokane, along with other State Presidents from Europe and Central America, and to retire it again at the end. I also walked along a red carpet for the first time in my life, to be presented, with every State President including all those from the USA, at the President's Banquet!

In between, the eight GB members present had played a very full part in the proceedings. Kate York had been confirmed as our new European Regional Director, Diana Bell had been as efficient as ever in chairing the European Forum, Evelyn Goodsell had taken part in a presentation for the Personal Growth and Services Committee, I had been a member of

the Executive Committee and concluded proceedings on the last day there with my 'Vision of the Future'. We had enjoyed excellent speeches, taken part in workshops and panels, and most importantly in the revision of the Constitution and Standing Rules of the International Society.

The European State Presidents had a very useful meeting with Birgit Svensson, when she asked us to say what had gone well in the first year of our biennium, and what perhaps might have gone better. I was able to report on a successful State Conference in Canterbury, when we reinstated training and our art and craft exhibition, had excellent speakers – and sang! I explained how hard members had worked to get a fourth chapter started up in Cambridge, and how proud I was of the efforts made by so many people, which I believed in the end would be successful. When not working I was able to visit the convention market – always full of interest as there is so much to see: beautiful jewellery made in Afghanistan, clothing, books, and all sorts of information stalls.



On the red carpet \*

I also enjoyed singing in the 150-strong choir, both at the very moving Celebration of Life and at the President's Banquet. There are some outstanding musicians in the Society, and throughout the proceedings they played a very active part. It was good to be swept along with the music, and to feel the very strong sense of fellowship it generates. There were fewer of us than usual at the International Convention – it was a very long way and fares were expensive and

there were noticeably fewer Europeans over all. It was good to be reminded that next year our European Regional Conference will be in Baden Baden (3-6 August 2011), and we hope that people from many of our member states will come to join us there. The next International Convention, in 2012, will be in downtown New York, very much more accessible for us Europeans – and cheaper to get there!

I was very pleased to visit Beta Chapter in July, when I enjoyed the kind hospitality of Gail Gladwin and Jess Curtis, and to meet with Loetitia Stone and Beryl McKintosh again. It was also good to hear in Spokane that Sue Torr had been very well received on her recent American trip, especially when she went into school and spoke to students. What good ambassadors our members are!

In September our Executive Committee will be considering what needs to be done in the next year, which promises to be an interesting one. I should like to end with an inscription Evelyn and I saw on a walk along the beautiful Spokane River:

*As waters of the river nourish earth, trees and vegetation,  
Education enriches the heart, mind and spirit of a community.*  
(Gonzaga University 1887).

**Diane Billam Gamma Chapter**

### Pre-Convention Tours to the Palouse District & The Silver Valley

Having just seen the enormous glaciers in Alaska, Diana, Lavinia and I were able to picture the huge ancient Lake Missoula which formed behind dams of moraine and ice blocks when the melts began after various Ice Ages. Each time the dams burst, vast quantities of water, sands, silts and boulders were thrust with horrendous speed and force down the Palouse, Columbia and Snake River valleys and the Washtucna Coulee, helping to carve them. Between twelve and



fifteen thousand years ago the water was re-routed many times on its journey towards the sea.

The areas involved are immense including Washington, Idaho, western Montana and even parts of Canada. The topography of the Palouse district reflects this. Rolling hills are shaped like giant ripples on

a beach but there is little water. Washington State in July is hot, very hot. The hills were a sea of green, mainly self fertilising wheat plants interspersed with a few plots of barley and oats. There were a few trees around the small houses and farms with a few cows sheltering in the shade.

From Steptoe Butte we observed the wheat fields all around, everywhere. We had seen a bald eagle overhead and occasionally passed almost dry creeks. In

them we spied a few wild flowers, a large pale yellow butterfly and a king fisher. I wondered how many wind or nectar producing plants there were and whether it would be possible to make wildlife corridors.

A farmer from Shepherds Grain told the tour group that various types of wheat can produce different allergies like asthma, a revelation to me. Members of Washington State University entertained us to lunch and took us to see their research plots in the fields. They explained their program, now mainly to produce sturdy high yielding plants resistant to rust, a disease that can devastate the plants and harvest. I sensed that the pressure to produce a high yield was immense.

On the tour we also visited Ferdinand's creamery, observing the cheese factory and finishing with most welcome ice-creams.



Research plots

### The Silver Valley

About 6 to 17.5 million years ago, sheet-like lava flows erupted from linear fissures and covered nearly 60 thousand square miles in Washington, north eastern Oregon and western Idaho. Dark columnar like structures of Basalt were formed and we could see much of it in Spokane and en-route. Amongst these rocks are quartz veins which early miners followed in search of silver. We went up a single track road in the woods and into the Sierra Silver Mine. After being shown various metal ores we were given a tiny piece of rock sparkling with silver.



Lavinia arrives at the silver mine

Then we visited Wallace, the silver capital of the world. The town was small and we enjoyed perusing the silver and gem shops. What caught our eye was the Bordello Museum which was preserved just as it was when the ladies fled in 1989, yes 1989! Up to that time the police and judiciary in the town had turned a blind eye to the activities there. Of course in the past there were many more men than women in the town and travel was difficult. Nevertheless an ordinary kitchen timer will never look quite the same to us again.

**Unity Harvey Alpha Chapter**

## CONVENTION: Opening Session and Washington Night

Beautiful weather and a glorious setting! This set the stage for the start of the International Convention in Spokane. The Convention Centre is situated right by the very scenic river Spokane and it was there that we were asked to convene at 6pm on Tuesday evening. The evening was sponsored by *Coca Cola* and, before we sat down to enjoy the entertainment, we were each given a bag containing light refreshments and a bottle of *Coca Cola*.

The entertainment took place on a floating stage in the middle of the river. Stone steps opposite provided the seating and it was there that we spent a happy hour listening to the lively '6 Foot Jazz band'. The singer was the talented daughter of DKG member, Joan Polzin.



Jazz Band, Washington Night

We then went into the Convention Centre for the formal opening of the Convention by our International President, Carolyn Rants. The Session began with the procession of the flags of our seventeen member countries plus the DKG flag, followed by a 'welcome to Washington State' by Linda Elliot, the State President, and a 'welcome to the Convention' by the Steering Committee Chair, Marj Patten. Evelyn Barron spoke of her 'Visions for the Future' and then Glenda Reynolds (NW Regional Director) recognised the 50+ members.

John Brock, the CEO of Coca Cola Enterprises, gave an inspiring talk on leadership in a Global Society. It was then our turn to sing and our rendition of the 'Coca Cola' song was surprisingly tuneful!

After a few announcements there was more entertainment. Led in by the Angus Scott Bagpipe Band, the Harlan School of Irish Dance kept us enthralled with their dancing. Following this display, the Bagpipe Band returned and we then watched some equally talented Scottish dancing.



The choir making the sound of a rainforest storm \*

The Rainier Youth Choir concluded this part of the evening. They were made up of two choirs. Their singing was so beautiful and their different arrangements of well-known songs such as 'We sing for the children' was amazing.



Scottish Dancer \*

The Washington Terrain, with its rolling wheat fields, waterways and mountains, was shared in a PowerPoint presentation by Steve LePenske,

a retired educator who has begun a second career as a photographer. The slides gave us a glimpse of the area's beautiful natural and man-made resources.

The evening concluded with everyone trooping over to the Arts Centre where a wonderful array of cakes, fruit and a drink awaited us. A super start to the Convention.

**Evelyn Goodsell** *Gamma Chapter*

## OPENING SESSION: John F Brock, CEO of Coca Cola

John F Brock, CEO of *Coca Cola*, was influenced by his mother who was a member of DKG. His challenge was to 'be who you are and never compromise'. Recognised by *Newsweek* as the number one food and beverage company for its sustainability, *Coca Cola* increased the price of its shares 35% (this year-Ed).



Brock compared and contrasted managers and leaders. Managers do things right and leaders do the right thing; managers are interested in efficiency, leaders in effectiveness; managers maintain the status quo; leaders shape the future; managers focus on process, leaders focus on outcomes; managers ask, "How/when" and leaders ask, "What/why?"

Five key characteristics of leaders include: 1) they articulate a clear and compelling vision 2) they lead, teach and instruct with empathy, honesty and visibility 3) they communicate frequently, candidly and informally 4) they are role models of high standards of behaviour 5) they encourage and reward positive behaviour, but, when necessary, deal with negative behaviour.

Brock revealed his optimism for the future based on three reasons—we are in the midst of the explosion of technology and innovativeness; our system of capitalism and free enterprise works best to ensure opportunities that create the best economic values are the ones pursued; our desires to achieve constantly drives us to seek new heights. Our desire to win is unstoppable.

**Beverly Helms** *Florida State, 2nd VP.*  
From her article in *Lilacs & Roses* Convention Magazine.



From top left: Dr Barbara Day, Past President 2006-2008, and Dr Carolyn Rants, Immediate Past President 2008-2010.  
Lower far left: Alice L Carrier, First Vice President, and Dr Beverly Helms, Second Vice President. \*

## 2nd GENERAL SESSION: Vision to Action, Amanda Gore



‘High octane’ performance \*

### Spirited Leadership from Vision to Action

#### Keynote Dazzles General Session Two

Amanda Gore, spirited sprite from Down-under, dazzled the crowd of Key women educators in Session Two with her enthusiastic message to members.

Embedded in research, Amanda reminded us of the power of positive thinking and positive environment. Correlating emotional genetics, neuroscience and epi-genetics, we were reminded of the power of mood and mind, how

our perceptions control our beliefs, and how our brain works in adapting to change and challenges.

Amanda’s high octane energy was contagious as she compared our lives as of living in a petri dish. It’s the environment of the dish, or the fuel of the environment, that determines the outcomes of one’s growth. In other words, genes do not necessarily determine our outcomes, but what we perceive our outcome will be.

In terms of leadership, her message was invaluable. As perceptions control our beliefs, they also control our level of joy - the key to successful leadership endeavours. “Do joyful first, everything else will follow. What you say to yourself everyday is critical”. Amanda challenged us to change our thinking by focussing on the positive, be aware of our focus, use repetition in positive thinking to engrain it in our brain, and then celebrate our successes!

With her whimsical Wally Wabbit and Sparkly Kangaroo, she left us with symbols to connect the head and heart and above all else, always to see someone’s TADA’s!

**Peggy McCall**, *Psi State Editor (Georgia) and Ex-Alpha GB Member*

## 3rd GENERAL SESSION: Vision to Action, Anne Marie Rhodes

Anne Marie Rhodes was the ‘Vision to Action’ speaker at the International Convention on Thursday, 22 July.

A writer and communications ‘guru’, she is from Missouri. She has worked in advertising, politics and non-profit organisations. In giving her talk, she brought together her experiences from an advertising agency, the Partnership for Sustainability, the Missouri House of Representatives, and the Culture Waves trend-tracking programme.

Talking non-stop and at breakneck speed, she told us that she was ‘the one who



never did her homework', or 'the underachiever who did well' - she admits that she frittered her time in high school.

Her futuristic talk introduced us to an amazing new way of looking at forthcoming developments in our rapidly-changing world.

The surprising link to our own world of education was the revelation that the way in which society adopts new trends and technologies is influenced by Maslow's *Hierarchy of Human Needs*, reminding me of the familiar triangular diagram showing basic needs at the bottom and 'self-actualisation' at the top (see right). Do you remember it?



Culture Waves scours the internet looking for evidence of future trends:

*Anticipating* - researchers watch which devices and products Japanese teenagers prefer - they are on the cutting edge and 5 years ahead of everywhere else.

*Adopting* - identification of the early adopters within a generation, possibly suburban mums!

*Accepting* - 'Facebook' was identified as an example—the Behemoth of the Internet! Started in a Harvard Dormitory in 2001, Grandma is on it in 2010.

*Tracking Waves* - this is the identification of who is doing each level.

Another fascinating group are the *Hipsters* - this group make the earliest adoption of trends. They are living off their parent's money, receiving income through Trust Funds. Gourmet food is purchased with Food Stamps - on paper they have no money! To maintain the image, they buy clothes that look used.

Anne Marie identified the following categories of Cultural waves:

*Physiological* - suggestive selling which is 'safe' and comfortable, showing that a selling wave has reached acceptance; people are willing to pay a premium for products which will make their bodies as attractive as possible.

*Safety* - living vicariously, the 'safe' thrill—things need to be real without cost or pain. People at this level like 'try before you buy' websites—from living vicariously they remember the lessons learned. This is a generation to watch!

*Love (social needs)* - examples from this category are people who select 'boutique hotels' where they book a whole room of 3 or 4 beds and share a bathroom! This is a strange and interesting 'communal belonging' idea. Also mentioned was an I-phone application for people with speech defects; this is becoming a great tool for children to be able to take home pre-recorded practice sessions without needing to spend time in withdrawal lessons.



'Futuristic talk' \*

*Time travel (esteem needs)* - people in this category like things from their childhood, eg Lego, using them in ways that they have never been used before, combining nostalgia with a need being met.

*Self-actualisation* - this is where people who like extending 'the now' and enjoying life are to be found, eg couch-surfing.com. It includes things that make people sit back and smile, such as the experience of brewing tea—the 'moment' momentum.

Anne Marie took great pleasure in telling us that under-achievers are the most likely front-runners in this strange new world and finished by remarking, "She's way out there!" She might have had more to say, but at this point Carolyn Rants crept up the steps at the side of the platform to indicate that time was up and that our dynamic speaker was over-running!

Kate York Gamma Chapter

## 4th GENERAL SESSION: Vision to Action, Christopher Rants



### How to Influence Education Policy

Christopher Rants, son of our Immediate Past President, Carolyn, has completed eighteen years as a State Representative in the Iowa General Assembly.

He explained how he thought that due to the financial problems of late, legislators were now, more than ever, receptive to ideas and plans that included long and short term objectives. He was proud that he had managed to secure funding for a 'gifted and talented' programme in Iowa.

He outlined ways that members could get to talk to their legislators, (also giving examples of a few ideas that would not be helpful). He said that our greatest resource are our students and their parents. He suggested that we get the students to write letters and invite a legislator into their classroom, or possibly ask the parents to make the contact. He advised that we make sure that there were follow-up thank-you notes from each student. He told us that he had kept some of these that he had received.

Christopher said to be careful to make all contact non-confrontational, keep the relationship going, and remember legislators are people too!



Chris in action \*

Written by the Editor with help from an article by Berneil Drake and Sally Switzer, Arizona, in *Lilacs and Roses*, the Spokane Convention Magazine.

## European Regional Breakfast

After breakfast more than forty Europeans enjoyed songs from the Netherlands, a tribute to Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir, the outgoing Second Vice-President, and Birgit Svensson welcoming Kate York as our new Regional Director.

Birgit was thanked for her work, and presented with a beautiful glass gift by the European State Presidents.

Barbara Brazington, from the Eastern Washington Genealogical Society, spoke about the influence of European settlers in Washington.



Birgit with Kate

*Editor*

## “Who do we think they were?”

It was not very likely that many of the Europeans who travelled to the far North West of America for the Convention in Spokane knew very much about the first settlers in Washington State. Yet, there was something unique about these immigrants. They did not cross thousands of miles from home fleeing from religious persecution, like those who had emigrated from Europe to the east of the American continent. Barbara Brazington, a member of the local genealogical society from the Spokane area, gave a fascinating insight at our European Breakfast into ‘The tremendous influence of European settlers in Washington.’

In 1592, Greek sailors arrived searching for the North West Passage – which still remains undiscovered today! Later in 1774, the Spanish sailed along the Pacific coast to prevent the Russians invading and claiming the territory for themselves. At that time, the Pacific North West was inhabited by native tribes, ‘The First Nation’ people. Subsequently, events in other territories encouraged USA and Britain to agree that boundaries should be fixed along the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel.

The 19th century saw further developments as French Catholic missionaries arrived in 1840 and permanent settlers with specific skills sought opportunities to claim a place for themselves. The Californian Gold Rush to the south encouraged Europeans to seek food supplies further north, finding the land fertile and eminently suited to the needs of their families.

German, Scandinavian, Dutch and Russian immigrants prospered as they found gold in the 1850s and 1860s, helping to extend the railroads which improved the transportation of their goods from 1881 onwards. In fact, so amazing was the increase in population, that it has been recorded that 5,000



DKG visited Old Sacred Heart Mission Church near Cataldo, Idaho, built around 1853 by Father de Smet, a Belgian, and the Coeur d’Alene Tribe who had invited him there. *Ed*

non-native speakers alighted from the trains in one day. Others had been recruited in advance in North Dakota, Ireland, Germany and Scandinavia. The Russians and Germans brought with them their expertise in farming, baking and brewing. Barbara explained that the immigrants from the European countries interacted so successfully that their languages intermingled and became incorporated in local speech without dispute, unique in comparison with other areas of the country.

Spokane's population grew quickly causing many wooden houses to be constructed where trees were (and still are) so plentiful until the Great Fire of 1889 destroyed so many homes. Trijny (from the Netherlands) suggested to me afterwards that the Dutch settlers probably demonstrated their homeland skills in brick-making using abundant supplies of local clay. This may have alleviated the problem. Certainly the buildings in Spokane displayed many fine examples of brick-making, including the city hall covered with elaborate patterns in different colours. Our speaker explained that from 1900 onwards, the Dutch settlers were prominent in the financial affairs of the city.

As I introduced Barbara to other members of the Society after breakfast, I discovered that she had been trained as a teacher and is currently a lecturer. Hopefully, she will become a DKG member in Spokane soon, after her meeting with Linda Elliott, the state president of Washington, a Golden Gift recipient with me previously. To encourage our guest, we attended an attractive, lively workshop presented by Jensi Souders and Elaine Warwick in which she was a willing participant and we exchanged email addresses to continue sharing our discoveries when researching family history.

**Mary Wardrop** *Gamma Chapter*

## **NIGHT ON THE TOWN: Grand Coulee Dam, Dinner & Lightshow**

The dam lying 90 miles west of Spokane is one of the largest concrete structures in the world. It is nearly a mile long across the Columbia River and is



the main electric power producing plant in the USA, ranked 6th in the world. It is immensely high and the spillway produced for the light show, although vast, was but a small section of it.

We enjoyed walking around the visitor centre

before settling on the stone terraces to see cartoon-like pictures and light doodles moving across the vertical screen of water. As I sat there high up on the sides of the valley I thought of Lake Roosevelt behind. If the dam burst we would

not stand a chance of survival. That is how it must have been for the Native Americans when Lake Missoula breached its dam, no chance for anyone.

I feel that life around Spokane could not have been easy for settlers in the past. Those that came in recent history appeared to be second generation settlers who realised that, with hard work and good luck, they could make a good life in the area. It appears that many were successful.

*Unity Harvey Alpha Chapter*

## Celebration of Life



Kate York, European Regional Director 2010-2012, at the Celebration of Life \*

The Celebration of Life ceremony held special meaning for Alpha Chapter members this year.

Kate York, our new European Regional Director writes, 'as I placed the crimson-edged white rose among the red ones, it was a very solemn moment to honour all the European members no longer with us. I couldn't help thinking of Ellen Rosier, whose name was in the programme booklet. I remembered her wrapping gifts at Strawberry Hill, then donning a mob cap and serving strawberries - just three short years ago'.

*Editor*

## SOCIETY BUSINESS: The New Constitution & Standing Rules

During four of the General Sessions we listened to the proposed International Constitution and Standing Rules being read out loud. There was some discussion, and a few motions and amendments were put forward.

It would be good if our European website [www.dkgeurope.org](http://www.dkgeurope.org) were linked from the DKG International Website [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org) in the same way that chapters and states may be linked. I hoped my motion to include regional websites in our Standing Rules guidelines would facilitate this, but the motion was defeated – we are not a chapter, nor a state. We will have to keep trying!

It was a very special moment during Session five, and greeted with a cheer - when the new DKG Constitution and Standing Orders were passed.

For me the main change was in membership; the Constitution now reads: **'An active member shall be a woman who is employed as a professional educator or has retired from an active position'**.

*Diana Bell Alpha Chapter*

## All dressed up for the Banquet



Our new International President, Dr Jeni Souders, with her Vice Presidents and Regional Directors. \*



One of the unforgettable ladies from New York. The International convention will be held there in 2012. \*

Carolyn Rants, Immediate Past International President Introduces the next President, Jeni. \*



## A Few Special Convention Photos

View from the back



Unity, Barbara & Lavinia outside the Convention Centre.



The Davenport's beds needed a stool!

## DKG PROJECT: Schools for Africa

'Schools for Africa' is a joint campaign founded by UNICEF, the Nelson Mandela Foundation and the Hamburg Society to promote education for children in Africa. The campaign will increase access to quality basic education for children with a special focus on girls, orphans and vulnerable children'. (UNICEF brochure).



In Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Ethiopia and Madagascar, UNICEF is working with governments, local authorities, communities and other partners to: Build and rehabilitate 1,000 schools; create schools that offer a safe and protective environment where children can learn and play, provide access to clean water and separate sanitation facilities for boys and girls in those schools, supply exercise books, pens, proper furniture and other school and sports materials, and train 100,000 teachers to provide children with quality education and basic life skills. They want to educate children about proper hygiene and HIV prevention with this knowledge being passed on to siblings, parents, and the community at large.

Through its United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) status DKG is allowed seven official representatives who attend a variety of briefings and conferences. The relationship has opened the door to many opportunities, especially in dealing with issues related to education, women and children around the world. Over the years DKG members have raised more than \$250,000 for various educational causes in developing countries.

After their successful campaign to help Afghanistan, DKG has now joined forces with UNICEF, in their 'Schools for Africa' programme - 'Transforming Lives through Education'. Any donations may be sent via UNICEF in London.

See DKG Website for more information. *Editor*

## A Reward of Delta Kappa Gamma Membership With thanks to the State President of Alaska

Was it in 2003 that I first met Judith Ireton? "I'm coming to Alaska one day," I said excitedly. "Come and see me," said Judith. My dream came true this year when Diana Bell, Lavinia Soul and I took a small detour on our way to the International Convention at Spokane! We travelled via Seattle, Anchorage, Mt McKinley, Denali, Whittier, Vancouver, and again to Seattle before finally reaching Spokane.

How lovely it was to see Judith waiting for us at Anchorage airport, to be chauffeured to our hotel with all our luggage and be given a blueberry pie for supper. We were lucky to be shown the local market in glorious sunshine before it closed for the week. How I wish I had bought more - wood, bone, ivory and stone carved ware, silver and fabric items too. We found a stall with local fish to

Eat and Judith's husband Joseph was persuaded to join us for the evening at our hotel/flat, the 'Grand'. Next day Judith took us to see things we would never have found for ourselves. We spent the next morning at the Native Heritage Centre where we learned about the history and traditions of the Athabaskan, Yup'ik, Inupiaq and Unangax / Alutiiq peoples. This was presented both in a modern theatre and by touring round a life size village. We could not have seen this elsewhere.

After we were all fortified with a reindeer burger, we went on a salmon hunt. We found two places where we could see them swimming upstream in the wild. Although we were offered salmon to eat many times later in our holiday, this was the only time we saw them actually in a river.



Thirst took us to a tea shop. Even in London I had not seen one quite like this. Indian and China teas, every imaginable herbal tea together with many coffees and seemingly hundreds of spices were attractively arranged with appropriate drinking ware. Judith then drove us to Potter's Marsh where we saw newly fledged tree swallows braving the fierce winds and a lone bald eagle perched in the trees. After dinner, when Judith went home, we basked in the continuing sunshine sitting by the coastal path.



Unity, Diana, Judith & Lavinia at Potter's Marsh

Next day we found our own way to the Anchorage Museum and later to the gift shop where Judith was working. The gifts were enticing and our bags became considerably heavier. Judith had not deserted us. She still found time to take our luggage to the next hotel where we joined our tour to Mt McKinley. "If the weather is still fine you must find a plane and go up the mountain," she said - but that is another story.

**Unity Harvey Alpha Chapter**

## Postscript



Recently I sent an article to GB News about my experiences as a school governor. I was surprised and touched by the warmth of the response I received from members about this. It obviously struck a chord with many of you. I thought that you might be interested in the most recent developments during these last few months since my article appeared.

The impact of the hard work and increasing professional skills of our staff over the last three years has been shown in the improved performance, attendance, motivation and aspiration of our pupils during this last school year. I don't wish to appear mawkish or sentimental but it has truly been like watching a plant that you have helped rescue and tend, seeing it tentatively put out new shoots and buds then suddenly finding it has burst forth into bloom. Well, for us the summer



term of 2010 has been a blossom time for the school.

Our year 6 children had worked hard for their KS2 SATS tests. They took them very seriously, coming in during Easter holiday for revision sessions, but without the level of stress and panic that has been present in former years. They knew they had prepared well. We were hopeful but nothing prepared us for the results when they came through, 93% had gained level 4 or above in English and 97% had gained level 4 or above in Maths. From our position as the worst performing primary academically in the borough 4 years ago, indeed we were mentioned in the national press that year as in the lowest 10% in the country, we were now among the top performing schools in our borough, a borough which prides itself as being in the top 5 academically in the UK.

Suddenly everyone wanted to know us. We had every educational bigwig in the Local Authority from the Director of Education down, wanting to visit us and calling to congratulate the school on its achievements. Our year 6 were thrilled, 2 of them got places in local grammar schools and all the rest got good places from their choice list. This is no mean achievement in a borough where parents apply from all over London, the South East and beyond to get into our secondary schools and only 25% of local applicants achieve a borough grammar school place. We had just 2 children left without a place but that was because in spite of several 'Form-filling for parents' sessions held at the school to help, these parents had not bothered to complete and return the forms - they assumed we would be able to arrange for their children to go somewhere! You can't win them all.

It has not just been about improved test results, a school is much more than that. Attendance has improved, the standard of the school drama production this year was way above anything we have achieved formerly. School clubs and activities have proliferated. We have a very active School Council. We are becoming a school of choice for parents. Meanwhile we are receiving requests for our staff, both teaching and non-teaching, to act as mentors to other schools locally and for staff from other local schools to visit us to observe good practice. Now that our new children's centre building is open and running we have been asked to take over the local play service operation, so that is our next task. We are also aware that cuts are coming and we will have to work hard to protect and maintain the good work we have done, particularly for our vulnerable children.

Maintaining the standards we have achieved will not be easy but we now know it can be done and we are looking forward to the challenge. There will be a lot of hard work for all of us but we are a strong and more experienced team now, one that I hope I will be able to contribute to for as long as I am useful to it.

**Joan Carroll** *Alpha Chapter*



Pupils enjoying reading in a 'Reading tent' at Joan's school

## Recorders

I belong to a recorder group called 'The Canal Boat Ensemble': we may be slow but we get there in the end. We had a wonderful time in March, when we had been invited by the Coordinator for Music in Thanet's Primary Schools to join forces with 210 primary school children from Thanet Schools in their annual music day. She had seen us play in the Thanet Music and Drama Festival, when we had won a silver cup for the best Ensemble of more than 6 players. The only instruments the children play are the descant recorder and the ocarina, both of them high-pitched, and the idea was to let them hear what a full consort of recorders sounded like. We demonstrated the sopranino, descant, treble, tenor and bass recorders to them. We played, they played, we sang together.

Then some of the children had the chance to try out a different instrument, we all practised our parts for a specially arranged piece of music we were all going to play together as a culmination of all our efforts. We did: 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' has never sounded so good!

This was a delightful occasion, well organised by staff from the 9 different schools, the children were well-behaved and enthusiastic: it was a privilege to share in such a worthwhile activity. We were there as members of the 'University of the Third Age' (U3A) and our founders always intended that we should interact with and enrich the whole community. The schools had hoped that the children could see that playing the recorder could be a lifetime activity: our conductor (Ursula Steiger who also led our singing at the Canterbury Conference) showed them her own recorder, given to her when she was six years old in Switzerland, and which she still plays. It was a wonderful day: I was only sorry we were not able to take photographs.

*Diane Billam Gamma Chapter*

## CANTERBURY AWARD

Now is the time to apply for the Canterbury Award.

This award supports a member with an educational project, or assists with expenses for first timers towards attendance at the International Convention. The deadline is 30th November 2010.

Full details and forms can be obtained from Carole Stirling at [john.carolestirling@btinternet.com](mailto:john.carolestirling@btinternet.com)  
*Editor*

## Websites

Our international website is now at [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org) it is easy to access, for example, 'Library' has all the State websites, Forums, the 'Schools for Africa' Project and forms. The new European website at [www.dkgeurope.org](http://www.dkgeurope.org) includes our European history, European Forum minutes, archived EuForia, contact details for presidents etc. [www.deltakappagamma.org/GB](http://www.deltakappagamma.org/GB) is our own GB website with all the State news, events, calendar, state officers and plenty more. Do check these sites out regularly.  
*Editor*

## CHAPTER REPORTS

### ALPHA CHAPTER

We had a very successful visit in May to the Sands Film Studios in Rotherhithe. The warehouse building was in an area that had once been on the banks of the Thames. It had beams made from ships that were broken up locally at around the time of Trafalgar.

Sands is a working film studio, period costume and prop-making hire company with a photograph library of the local area, which also works with

local schools and residents. Members were most impressed by the work being done by Sands which at the time of the visit was under threat of eviction from their premises by developers. This was an Aladdin's cave of garments and props, a fascinating and very informative visit.

In June some members attended, and helped as stewards, the Children's Concert at St Bartholomew's Church, Sydenham. This concert was part of the Sydenham International Music Festival and was packed out. A performance of *The Carnival of the Animals* was enhanced by a children's fancy dress competition. This was followed by some lively Scottish airs and dances with a performance from a splendid Highland piper, in full regalia, which had the children dancing in the aisles, if they could find any space.

From the Silver Mines to the Silver Vaults - Alpha members enjoyed the visit to the treasure trove that is the Silver Vaults in Chancery Lane, our eyes boggled, but purses stayed closed - for now.

After lunch our walk to Dr Johnson's house, where we found a treasure trove of words, took us past some buildings old and new - one two-storey building had a fully planted vertical garden on the wall!

Alpha Members outside Dr Johnson's House



Roof beams made from ship's timbers



Our August visit was to the Wellcome Museum, Euston Road, to see Skin: Objects, Marks and Impressions. Firstly we had an informative talk, drawing out the hidden stories and significance of some of the objects and artworks. Everything from surgery and skin disease to tattoos and false noses! One wall screen showed a video of what we thought was a parasitic worm erupting from the skin - we later found it was a spot being squeezed...

After lunch we went to the British Library to see their Magnificent Maps: Power, Propaganda and Art Exhibition. This brought together 80 of the most impressive and beautiful maps ever made, from 200AD to the present day. They were arranged by room to show how maps can be works of art, propaganda pieces, expressions of local pride, have spiritual resonance, enhance the owner's status, be used for indoctrination, or as an educational tool. Two most interesting exhibitions (and both free) in one day proved tiring, but well worth the effort.

**Barbara Kern** *Immediate Past CP* and **Diana Bell** *Chapter President*

### **Forthcoming Alpha Meetings:**

11<sup>th</sup> September 2010, 2.00pm, Dr Sally Hulin, Consultant Child Psychiatrist, will speak on 'jiggly children' – children's behaviour at school, those who might have a mental health illness. Room C2 St Mary's University College, Waldegrave Road, Twickenham TW1 4SX.

16<sup>th</sup> October 2010, 2.00pm, Martin Biron, 'Second life' interactive learning. How to teach a class from your home using computers/IT. Room C104 St Mary's.

20<sup>th</sup> November 2010, 2.00pm Sue Patey, Great Ormond Street Deputy Chief Pharmacist, will speak about 'Prescriptions for children and the role of the children's pharmacist'. Dulwich Hamlet Junior School, Dulwich Village, London SE21 7AL.

11<sup>th</sup> December 2010, 12.00, Social Occasion 'Get Together' with everyone bringing a plate of food. Venue to be agreed, Diana or Unity's house.

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2011, TBA

26<sup>th</sup> February 2011, Speaker not yet confirmed, hopefully Linda Osborne will speak about her International Inclusion Project. Venue DHJS.

26<sup>th</sup> March 2011, TBA. 7th May 2011, TBA. 18 June 2011, TBA.

## **BETA CHAPTER**

The good news is we're still here – and the health of our members over whom there has been most concern recently is definitely on the up and up. But summer has seen us dispersed into various activities and we could only muster a small contingent for our summer outing – an altogether agreeable affair, a visit to the National Trust property of Lanhydrock (please see Loetitia's report) made all the more memorable by the fact that our State President, Di Billam, came with us. We're now setting our sights on finding a good local speaker for our Autumn meeting. I'm hopeful that a full cohort will be able to attend and it will then become a realistic proposition to plan ahead and come to a decision about the future of the chapter.

## **Forthcoming Beta Meetings:**

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2010, 11.00 for 11.30 TBC Speaker TBA.

11<sup>th</sup> December 2010, Christmas party TBC.

All meetings held at 17 Hartley Avenue unless otherwise stated and include lunch.

*Gail Gladwin Caretaker Chapter President*



### **BETA CHAPTER'S VISIT TO LANHYDROCK**

It was perfect weather on July 3<sup>rd</sup> when Beta Chapter made their summer outing to Lanhydrock in Cornwall. Unfortunately a number of Beta members were unable to be with us due to unforeseen circumstances, but we were delighted to welcome Diane Billam, who made the journey to the West Country to join us.

Lanhydrock is a beautiful granite family house set into a wooded hillside; it is approached from the east, via a gatehouse entrance, through a formal rose garden which was in full bloom. To the right of the house is another formal layout, a parterre of colourful begonias.

Originally the house was built by Sir Richard Robartes and completed by his son, probably in 1651. The family survived the parliamentary years and was returned to favour by Charles II, with Sir Richard being made Earl of Radnor. About two hundred years later, a descendant removed the east wing which had enclosed the central courtyard, leaving the present U-shaped plan. In 1881 the south wing suffered a disastrous fire which also damaged the central range; luckily the Long Gallery with its 17<sup>th</sup> century plasterwork ceiling survived. The Lord and Lady Robartes never recovered from the shock and both died shortly afterwards. The house was rebuilt by their son with every Victorian convenience to meet the needs of his large family and included a schoolroom and nursery wing.

It is a fine house illuminating the life of a local landed family, giving a taste of the way the house was run, with personal glimpses of members of the family, including a dress made for a ball at the turn of the century in 1900.

Visitors enter the house through the outer and inner halls going through the dining room which is laid for dinner, then on to the kitchen and the food storage and preparation areas.

In the kitchen is an elaborate arrangement of roasting spits once operated by a large fan fitted in the flue above the fire. On the table and shelves are utensils and equipment that brought back many memories of our grandmothers' kitchens. However, the superb 'batterie de cuisine' in the cupboards made from locally-mined copper, made us thankful that we were not responsible for the cleaning and upkeep of this and the best copper pans.

The scullery was used for the washing-up of the kitchen crockery and utensils, and for the preparation of vegetables which were cooked on the small range.

The daily baking took place in the bake house where the oven took four days to heat to a steady temperature but then maintained the heat with a very economic use of coal; it is painted with a blue paint which we were told helps to deter the flies.

Next door is the dry larder followed by the fish larder with cool slate slabs and ice chests. There is a shallow copper box to be filled with hot water which would keep a salmon warm while it was being carved. On to the meat larder, where sides and joints of meat would hang from steel bars across the ceiling. The dressed meat was kept in an insulated chest.

The final rooms in this part of the house are the two dairies: the dairy scullery where the milk was kept, churned into butter or made into clotted cream, and the dairy proper which is a cool room with a marble slab and slate runnels served by spring water piped from the hill above.

Off the corridor on the ground floor open Lady Robartes' room, the steward's room, the billiard room and the smoking room.

On the first floor is Captain Tommy's bedroom, where is kept the suitcase, packed as when he went away to war. He was killed in the Battle of Loos in September 1915 while rescuing a wounded comrade under heavy fire.

The nursery complex is a self-contained area in a wing designed for the growing family of Lord and Lady Robartes, and included the schoolroom with desks and slates for the pupils.

The two main bedrooms used by Lord and Lady Robartes were separated by a bathroom with a very large bath accessed by use of a stool and inhabited by a large (plastic) spider.

Lady Robartes had her private boudoir next to her bedroom, and further along the corridor is the morning room and the drawing room. The Long Gallery runs the length of the upper floor of the north wing and survived the fire leaving the superb plaster barrel ceiling undamaged by the disaster. Visitors are invited to play the grand piano and while we were there, one took advantage of the offer.

Finally we visited the Parish Church of St Hydroc, which stands immediately behind the house. It contains interesting memorials and the chancel has been extended to allow the insertion of a memorial window, but the most memorable alteration to the chancel is the finely-carved white alabaster reredos representing the Last Supper, executed in bold relief; each figure in the composition carved with great artistry and skill. The church has a peal of bells, one of which is the 15<sup>th</sup> century recasting of a 10<sup>th</sup> century Athelstan bell, which is sometimes used for a tolling bell at funerals.

Although Lanhydrock has only a very small population, the church is in regular use and is much loved by the people of the parish. It made a fitting end to our visit and we returned to Plymouth after an interesting and satisfactory day.

**Loetitia Stone** *Beta Chapter*

## GAMMA CHAPTER

The members of Gamma Chapter had a real treat in May when Andrew Stiller 'led' us through 'A closer look at poetry'. He showed us, with reference to several poems, that although poetry has basic themes, it is the approach and structure of the poem which makes the difference. He quoted Auden who answered the question, "What is poetry?" very simply with, "Memorable speech" and Coleridge who said, "Poems are the best words in the best order", both quotes succinctly summing up the theme of the talk.

The June meeting was unforgettable – what a feast for the senses. On a bright, sunny morning a large group of us met at Glyndebourne to attend the pre-dress rehearsal of Verdi's 'Macbeth'. Having watched the first half we adjourned to the stunning grounds to eat our picnics. We were then treated to a tour of



Attending the dress rehearsal

Glyndebourne and a privileged look backstage. What an experience! Then it was

back for the second half. This was truly a day which satisfied all our senses, a magical day.



Picnic at Glyndebourne

The final meeting of the year was held at Robbie's house. This was not a formal meeting but an opportunity to enjoy each other's company with no official business. A tea party with strawberries and cream was much enjoyed and a plant and book swap raised £25 for Gamma funds.

Gamma Chapter were well represented at the International Conference in Spokane. Having all arrived by different routes, members had a wonderful time, fulfilling various assignments, attending workshops and just having fun with friends. The various reports in this issue will tell us more.

### **Forthcoming Gamma Meetings:**

18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2010, 'Kate's Travels'. Kate York will give an illustrated talk on her world-wide adventures.

9<sup>th</sup> Oct 2010, TBC.

13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2010, Jean Day will speak about counselling children, young people and their families.

11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2010, 'Christmas Festivities' at Robbie's house, 36 Ridgeway Crescent.

**Carole Stirling** Chapter President



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