



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

GREAT BRITAIN NEWS



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*Bettina presenting her art and craft at the Conference.



Welcome to this edition of GB News. Like other outgoing State Presidents before me, I have moved from one set of challenges to another! Without Diana's unfailing help and support I would not have

managed to get this far.

This edition is mainly about the European Regional Conference in Steinbach, near Baden-Baden in Germany. Thank you to everyone who has provided copy and photographs. Members from other States who see our GB News always comment on the quality and quantity of colour photos, and I hope to keep up this excellent record.

There was not room for everyone's contributions this time—my apologies—but some will appear in the next edition. As always, we shall need reports on meetings and visits, as well as anything else of interest that members have been doing, seeing or hearing! Copy in by 30 November please—text and photos separately is best.



Sportschule, Steinbach*

Great Britain State Conference 2012

will be held from **Friday 23 March to Sunday 25 March** at The Friars, Aylesford, Kent. Please reserve these dates in your diary! Details and registration form with the next edition.

Photographs with an asterisk * are courtesy of Photographs by Jim, Floresville, Texas. They can be seen and purchased online through www.photographsbyjim.org

Sheila Roberts
STATE ORGANISATION PRESIDENT: 2011-2013

I am very honoured to have been elected by you as State President and look forward to working together over the next biennium to formulate and achieve the aims of our GB Strategic Action Plan. Membership retention and expanding our chapters is probably the most important aim for us and for all of DKG whether in USA or Europe. I would like to thank Di for her hard work in leading us so effectively for the last 2 years. The conference she organised in Canterbury was memorable, with such fantastic speakers. Quite an act to follow.



What an interesting Regional Conference in Baden-Baden. We were 23 GB members and 5 guests, so a very good contingent from Britain. Kate worked indefatigably, as did Tony and a fair number of GB State members, many of whom also ran workshops. The keynote speakers were very good, particularly Professor Carl Parsons whom many of us heard speak at our Canterbury Conference. British practice of excluding pupils from school brought gasps of disbelief from many of our continental colleagues. It was a pity he was not given time for questions. Also excellent was Professor Dr Christian Pfeiffer with his research into the detrimental effect of too much TV and computer use particularly by teenage boys, which can lead to addiction as well as underachievement. I know Dorothy has a brilliant idea for us to use his presentation with teachers in local schools. (Perhaps a very good way for us to raise DKG's profile in our areas and maybe even attract new members). I thoroughly enjoyed the three training days at Baden-Baden. I was amazed at the energy and enthusiasm from the Headquarters staff who led the training. This was their fifth Regional Conference in a row and they had flown to Europe straight from Canada, arrived jet-lagged at lunchtime and immediately set to work in preparing for the new state president and secretary training which began that same evening. We began again next morning at 8.15 am and went through until 9.30 pm, - and again the following day. The material, including Constitution, was presented in such a clear and lively way - no sleeping on the job at these seminars. Now, if only I could remember all that was said! Still, we were all assured that help is just an email away and I am sure I shall need that help. I am also very assured by the expertise and experience of so many of our GB members and know I will be looking to them for advice.

There will be many occasions for celebration during the coming months. Beta Chapter celebrated its 30th birthday on 24 September, and we all wish every success to Beta in the future. On 5 October it will be 'World Teachers' Day' and Alpha and Gamma plan to celebrate it together by visiting the Oasis Academy in Croydon. I wonder how much media coverage will be given to 'World Teachers' Day' or what teachers will do to raise their positive profile and morale generally?

The big event for all of us will be our GB State Conference which will be the weekend of Friday 23 - Sunday 25 March. It will be held at Aylesford Priory, which is an ancient priory just off the M20, near Maidstone, Kent. Trains are from Victoria to Maidstone where some of us locals will collect you from the station. We are aiming to keep the cost low but the content good! Our keynote speaker is Dr Jacqui Ashton Smith who will be speaking about her research into Autism in girls, the different ways they present and their specific educational needs. I hope most of you will be able to be there - and partners and friends also very welcome, of course. Several of our continental colleagues have said they wish to join us, so it promises to be a good weekend.

Lastly, it was very surprising to see the line-up of European members who are on an International Committee and realise that currently there are no GB members on any committee, apart from Kate, who as European Regional Director is on the Administrative Board. This is unusual. There are opportunities to be on an International Committee—see DKG’s website for details. Think about applying for a scholarship to further your academic qualifications. What about applying for ‘Golden Gift’ and attending two weeks of leadership training at the University of Texas in Austin? Speak to Kate, Joan, Mary or Gloria about their fantastic experience of the training but remember the closing date is 1 December 2011. So many opportunities await. Persuade someone in your chapter to take up the challenge and discover the advantages of international committee membership, or further their qualifications by taking advantage of scholarships or Golden Gift Leadership training.

I look forward to meeting everybody over the coming months.

Sheila Roberts *State President*

FIRST KEYNOTE SPEAKER: PROFESSOR CARL PARSONS



The title of Professor Parsons’ talk was ‘Exclusion from School: perspectives from the UK, US and mainland Europe’. He has published both articles and books about school exclusions, and other associated issues, such as its relationship to poverty and ethnicity. His own view is that school exclusions should be illegal, and that its frequency in the UK compared with the rest of Europe is shameful. He sees education as a vital part of socialisation, the making of citizens, and believes that access to opportunity is a human right. The educational process should aim to correct inequalities, not accentuate them.

He was pleased to report, however, that permanent exclusions are reducing in England. He believes that there is a political dimension: the conservative view is that each person is responsible for his or her own behaviour, whatever the previous experiences may have been, where the socialist view would be that society also has responsibility. The loss of education, which can never be

regained, tends to happen to those who are already struggling, and in many cases have multiple difficulties and disturbances in their lives, such as domestic or drug abuse, broken families, or frequent changes in where and with whom they live. He showed the statistics from the UNICEF Child Wellbeing study of 2007, which shows the UK at the bottom. In respect of relative poverty, we come sixth, with the Scandinavian countries at the top. We are low down on welfare payments bringing people out of poverty, in spite of what our Press may say. Young children have been 'named and shamed' in our newspapers, pilloried as being the scum of the earth, together with their families, their various welfare benefits totalled on the front page, as if it is the child's fault, and he (it is usually a 'he') is on a mission to defraud society.

So why should we worry about a loss of education, which includes socialisation? Is education a privilege or a right? There are clearly some social justice issues here, as some children are more likely to be excluded than others: the poor, some ethnic groups, and SEN especially. Professor Parsons believes there are five barriers to improvement: there is a will to punish, it is difficult for school and other providers to collaborate, there is an absence of back-up all the way up the line, headteachers won't play ball, and there is a lack of financial creativity. We should accept that some pupils cost more to educate, care for and develop than others. The proportion of prisoners who have a history of exclusion and loss of education is very high, and this costs far more than earlier remedial, concerted action would have done. We should be aiming for zero exclusions, which requires us to consider why we are here, to establish explicit principles and protocols, to broaden school experience, build bridges for managed moves between schools, develop alternative provision with a personalised curriculum, develop multi-agency working and earlier intervention, share and reinforce our vision of the way forward, and maintain the hub which supports joint working between schools. We should aim to build up full service community schools, with common partnerships, involvement of a range of services, an extended school day, and open sites. A number of challenges to be faced: our role is to educate, not to punish, we should recognise and meet the full range of need, we should aim to design and manage a system of education and care which meets the needs of all children, we should target special needs, and society needs to accept differential allocation of resources.

By this time I was feeling mortified, as governor of a local grammar school. I chair the Resources Committee, and led the complaints recently when funding was taken away from us to provide extra support for those who need it more, and chaired an Exclusions Appeal Panel which turned down appeals against both a permanent and a fixed-term exclusion. This was the third time I had heard Professor Parsons speak on exclusions: yet again I realised how far we have to go in England, to care for and educate all our children.

Diane Billam *Gamma Chapter*

Media Use, School Achievement and the Crisis in Boys' Performance



Dr Pfeiffer, an eminent German professor of Criminology, gave an address which was as good as a crime thriller, the very restraint of the title giving a clue to the rigorous research procedures, but none at all to the shocking evidence it produced: that playing violent computer games damages the brain. Over the years, carefully controlled experiments have established that the higher the exposure to the media, the lower the school achievement. To begin with, girls and boys were achieving roughly the same results, but then girls started to overtake boys, and the gap is still growing. In Germany, the percentage of children leaving school without qualification is 36% for girls, and a massive 64% for boys. Although results are particularly alarming in Germany and Austria, where the school day ends at one o'clock with no afternoon school activities, similar trends are apparent throughout Europe, Canada, America, Australia and New Zealand.

Why are boys doing so badly in relation to girls? One common assumption is that boys need male teachers in order to thrive. Dr Pfeiffer's research suggests that the gender of the teacher makes no difference, either to boys or girls, with one exception: in sports, girls with male instructors got poorer results. Of real significance is the young person's access to media and technology in the bedroom away from adult supervision. Consistently boys have more of it than girls, and spend more time on it, and more grow addicted to it. Further research has tested out particular computer games and their effect; and is conclusive that the more violent the game, the more addictive, and the longer it takes for the mind to adapt to other tasks. The conclusion seems to be that poorer academic results amongst boys is due to the fact they have more access to technology so spend less time studying than girls. And because of their preference for war games, the highly charged emotional content of which has the effect of wiping memory, they take longer to change to new fields of concentration. In one experiment, the audience was divided into two; on the right they were shown a gentle love story, on the left a story with brutal action; both films containing exactly the same advertisements in exactly the same order, both at the start and during the film. At the end, the love story audience could recall significantly more than the action story audience.

What can be done about this appalling state of affairs? Dr Pfeiffer recommends giving parents a lot more information about the harm the technology can do; no TV screens in bedrooms for the 6-10 age group and preferably not till age 14. Most important, set the children a good example yourselves, and offer alternative activities. There have been very successful results recorded in New Zealand where teachers may reduce their teaching hours (contractually 26 per

week) by six, if they offer optional tuition in a hobby or skill. In South Chicago, where every school day starts with 45 minutes of physical activity, there is no difference between the academic attainment of girls and boys; and obesity rates have tumbled too. As yet, we in Great Britain don't have the same discrepancy shown in the German results, but the trend is moving in that direction. We all need to be alert both to the dangers and the possible solutions.

Gail Gladwin *Beta Chapter*

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE TRAINING

I had no idea what to expect from the Education Excellence pre-Conference Training Day I was asked to attend on the Wednesday. I was pleasantly surprised to be given 45 Euros towards additional overnight costs and a weighty professional looking portfolio to take away and study at leisure. This, together with the purposeful leadership of the programme from Sandra Smith Bull from headquarters (Austin, Texas) signalled that DKG is investing in developing its mission. My colleagues at this training event were nominees representing each European country involved, with varied experience of DKG.



We initially heard about the formation of this new committee only last year at the International Conference in Spokane (2010). It was established in order to promote international projects, support early career educators and to encourage a range of programmes and activities that further education excellence worldwide, thus translating DKG's laudable goals into positive action. I was encouraged that here I might find answers to the questions I had publicly voiced about DKG's mission in the past. The intention of this training is that each member, grandly called 'State EE Chairs', should be involved in the planning and subsequent reporting of an Education Programme from 2010-13 in each country that meets DKG's goals. These are for two world wide initiatives:

- a) The UN Schools for Africa Project
- b) Support for Early Career Teachers

and for various state or chapter developed activities to address DKG's further goals of

Increasing members' professional pride

Focussing on excellence in education

Understanding the DKG/UN relationship

Increasing global awareness

Impacting education law and policy.

It seems sensible to align the efforts of DKG in fundraising and disbursing funds for Schools in Africa with UNICEF's Global project that has established agreements with African countries to distribute resources where they are most needed. I am encouraged to see Ethiopia as one the target countries, having visited recently and now involved in business enterprise training project. We are all likely to be more involved when we can make personal connections as other members of the training group did when they began to discuss the second project of providing mentoring support for early career teachers.

This project was developed in response to large numbers of teachers dropping out of the profession in the first few years in USA, but not all countries reported the same concern. As we discussed Teacher Training programmes in different countries we agreed that the teaching profession had different status, pay and conditions in each country, training programmes vary and mentoring is also variable. In Great Britain mentors are provided to students in their initial training year from both Universities and the schools where they train and in the subsequent statutory 'Induction Year' a mentor is provided by the school. Of course this training can be variable. There is also a National online Teacher Support Network, with free counselling services, developed by one of our teaching unions. So although as a group we recognised that DKG members might well be supporting young professionals through personal connections, thorough research of existing provision would need to be undertaken before a more systematic approach could be introduced and it might indeed duplicate existing provision.

This illustrates the challenges of implementing DKG's vision across countries with very diverse systems. I am tasked with disseminating these education goals across our three chapters and jointly developing projects to promote our core education purposes, which need to be reported on as soon as March 2012, so any ideas welcome! One such event might be showing a film called 'The First Grader' about an elderly Kenyan who insisted on his right to an elementary education, which had not been previously available, by attending a small village primary school. The story, told at the British Film Festival, about the making of this film in rural Kenya was as affirming as the film itself in advocating education as a basic human right.

Liz Day *Alpha Chapter*

Barbara Schindelhauer, who leads the Institute for Preschool Learning in Germany spoke about 'Numberland', which aims to help children to acquire a profound, well-structured understanding of the basic numbers 1—10 and the numerals up to 20.



*Dr Jensi Souders (International President) and Kate York (European Regional Director) enjoy the sunshine outside the Sportschule.

*Brigitte Wichmann, Germany State Organisation President 2009-2011 and Conference Chair,. All their hard work bore fruit in a very successful conference.



Some thoughts from the Farewell Lunch programme:

Growing old beats the alternative—dying young.

Life isn't tied with a bow but it's still a gift.

No one is in charge of your happiness but you.

The Iceberg of Strasbourg - a cautionary tale about the part which lies beneath the surface

Strasbourg, the European capital - within easy reach of Steinbach; less than an hour by coach. An historic city, with famous landmark buildings, and home of the European Parliament. Moreover, a local, high-profile, *woman* MEP, strong on 'women's issues'. Surely the ingredients for a keynote speaker, an informative visit to the impressive Parliament building, and possibly a leisurely cultural river trip to see the highlights of the city? Indeed - or so we thought.

"Always get it in writing" is the mantra of our Executive Director, Corlea Plowman. So we did. Coaches provisionally reserved - in writing. Email confirmation that the selected MEP could immediately offer 95% certainty of being available, both to speak and to facilitate a visit to the Parliament building. Could we live with a 5% possibility of not succeeding? Dare we take this 5% risk until mid-March - the date when the MEP's diary for the coming year would be confirmed? Well, yes to the 5% risk, but not comfortable about waiting from November until March for certainty. However, the opportunity is too good to miss, so we'll live with the uncertainty.

A river cruise as well? In theory, no problem. The timing would work. It would give an opportunity to spend time with friends, float past impressive landmarks, and listen to an informative commentary - what could be better? But, no. At the height of the tourist season in August, there was absolutely no room for manoeuvre about chartering a boat. Next-best option? A choice of free time in Strasbourg or a city coach tour with a well-informed English-speaking guide. An acceptable alternative.



Living (if somewhat uncomfortably) with the 5% risk factor, the 'Programme at a Glance' is structured (in January) for publication (in March) to include a keynote speaker, workshops, boxed lunches, coaches, Parliament visit, and tour options to be confirmed - plenty of English-speaking guides, absolutely no problem.

Mid-March arrives and, with it, the bombshell! The diary for the MEP cannot accommodate our request. The reason given almost lacks credibility - she will be on holiday with her husband, the dates to fit his work commitments.

Take stock and a deep breath. Abandon the whole plan and start again? Try to find another MEP? We'll pursue the latter option. Absolutely every MEP in the region, male and female, will be on holiday. Try British MEPs? Same response. So now what? Abandon the whole plan and start again?

Please, no. We can't be so close to the European Capital and Parliament and not include it! OK, we'll compromise. The plan for the morning will definitely become 'Plan B' and a highly-recommended member will be confirmed straight away as keynote speaker without further ado. An earlier start will also be adopted to accommodate the greater-than-expected number of workshop proposals. We'll settle alternative arrangements for the afternoon. It is now late March.

Boxed lunches - no problem. Coaches still provisionally reserved - no problem. Can the Strasbourg Tourist Office provide enough English-speaking guides for a tour of the Parliament area? Absolutely no problem. Details will be sent in writing.

Mid-April arrives. Nothing in writing, but an 'I don't know how to tell you this' phone call. Only *one* English-speaking guide will be available. The others will speak French or German. At this point the Regional Director throws a major wobbly turn. Who is the Director of the Tourist Office? Who is the Mayor of Strasbourg? An English-speaking international conference with 250 delegates *will not* accept tour guides whose commentaries will have to be translated. A strong letter, in French, is composed and sent. It works -the requisite number of English-speaking guides will be provided. Confirmation in writing follows. The same guides can give guided coach tours of the city.

And that was how the matter was settled—at least in theory. Boxed lunches, coaches, and English-speaking tour guides were all confirmed in writing. An open choice of free time or a coach tour of city highlights would follow a guided visit to the Parliament Quarter. An emergency phone number was issued for use by anyone unable to return to the coaches by the agreed time.



You, dear readers, know the rest better than I do!

(This article is dedicated to the members of the Steering Committee of the 2013 European Regional Conference.)

Kate York *Regional Director*

BLACK FOREST NIGHT

Within thirty minutes of the formal opening ceremony, the Sportschule hall was transformed into a `street party` arrangement of tables and chairs ready for the celebration that was Black Forest Night: a melange of local culture, food and drink. We had all had the opportunity to taste some of the local wines – in fact there were more opportunities during the conference (the area is surrounded by vineyards and wine cooperatives) – and we sat in groups down the tables.



A local dance group marched to the stage, dressed in typical costume, dirndl skirts, boleros, scarves and breeches (no lederhosen disappointingly!). They performed folk dances which consisted of twirls, claps, stamps and promenades, accompanied by an accordionist. The performance was stately rather than energetic. Between dances there were demonstrations of straw shoe making and spinning (not the kind done at the gym). There were a couple of `humorous` sketches but the jokes were `lost in translation` if one couldn't speak German. Monika Huber, Germany's State President and hostess for the evening did her best.

We all queued for a while to collect our buffet meal which was lavish and delicious, an opportunity to sample regional delicacies and pile on the calories. Whilst we were still eating, the dancers returned and persuaded members of the audience to join in and try to maintain their dignity – well done Harry Roberts and Jim Scahill for maintaining theirs. There was a tombola and Evelyn was lucky enough to win an edition of `Jurassic Park` in German. Hope she didn't have to pay excess baggage on Ryanair. (Editor's note: *no, she didn't!*).

An entertaining evening, well organised and a good start to the Regional Conference.

Sandra Blacker *Gamma Chapter*

Canterbury Award

This award was initiated by GB State to help members develop both as educators and as enthusiastic participants in Society events and affairs. Look for details on the website, or ask your Chapter President. Don't forget that applications must be in by 30 November 2011 to Sandra Blacker dkg@cwcomm.fsnet.co.uk

NIGHT ON THE TOWN IN THE KURHAUS, BADEN-BADEN

Written light-heartedly at the table mirroring the mood we were in – happy, relaxed and worry free.

We were Posh but there was no Becks! Oops! I forgot about Ray. He was a good substitute as he had changed from his shorts. The ambience was opulent, with each room décor showing a different design and architecture. The first task of the night was to choose our drink. Sue, Unity and Dorcas decided to start the night with panache and have a glass of champagne. Lavinia and Diana lucked out having chosen a rather unique Riesling but ended up with a bottle each – they thought they were ordering a glass! The décor was princely, half timbered, chandeliers and polished floors coupled with a view out over the park. Napkins and silver service too. Giggles, photos, drinks, more drinks, more photos and we all ready to eat. The anticipation was electric and all this happened in the first ten minutes. A search party was despatched to find a lost Barbara. She remained lost.

The genteel tone of the evening returned with La Basque by Marin Marais, a musical interlude with Martina Franzus on the flute, and on the clavier Suzanna Fink, Monika Huber's music teacher who trained at the Freiburg Conservatoire. All the music was composed by musicians associated with Baden-Baden. It was peaceful, relaxing and beautiful, especially a piece composed by Luise Adolpha Le Beau whose works were not performed during her lifetime as she was a woman. Believe it or not they are still not performed today in concert halls: we cannot understand that, as the music lifted the spirit and took us all back to a bygone age. Our President, Jensi Souders, who plays the flute herself, gave rapturous applause.

Dinner was a mixture of delicious canapés. Some of us thought they were just a starter and chose sparingly, others in the know piled their plates high. We made up for it with pudding though and tried everything – chocolate mousse, passion fruit mousse, fruit tart, apple cake, fruit salad, crème caramel and so on. Wow, knicker elastic was stretched! The haunting notes of Gaetono Donizetti's Sonate C-Dur and Largo Allegro completed the evening – piano and flute players' fingers dancing on the keys creating a haunting melody, moving the spirit to soar. Finally the deep notes turning into a lively duet: the flute dancing with the piano, whirling and twirling along the keyboard. We all loved it. A marvellous end to a delightful meal. The heavens brought a rain storm as we arrived at the bus stop to return to Steinbach. As we went, the strains of 'My Bonny Lies over the Ocean', 'Hang down your Head Tom Dooley' and 'Hi Hi Hippy Hi' could be heard. And so to bed.

Lavinia Soul and Unity Harvey *Alpha Chapter*

ALPIRSBACH

The weather for our pre-conference visit to Alpirsbach was warm and sunny so it was a perfect introduction to the beautiful Black Forest countryside with its dark, dense forest-clad mountain tops and lower slopes covered with ripening vineyards and fruit orchards and fields of maize and sunflowers. Alpirsbach is typical of many of the villages and small towns of the Black Forest with its traditional steep-roofed houses and window boxes and flower beds full of brightly coloured blooms.

We were met at the Monastery by a knowledgeable guide who explained the history of the monastery and its church. Founded in the 11th century by a group of Benedictine monks, the tall elegant, Romanesque monastery church built of red and yellow sandstone has a quiet contemplative atmosphere and excellent acoustics. These can now be exploited to full effect by a beautiful, new organ installed just two years ago. Normally this sits in the right hand side of the apse, but for recitals it can be raised on a cushion of air and moved on its wheeled base to the centre of the aisle to be heard to best advantage. We were fortunate enough to be present for a brief recital which demonstrated its magnificent range and power.

The adjoining original monks' living and working quarters were very simple and pleasant. Our guide pointed out, however, that with the harsh winter climate and little heating allowed life was very Spartan. Because of the climate the monks were restricted to producing documents not books and the average life expectancy of an Alpirsbach monk was just 29 years. Something the monks were able to produce well was beer and when the monastery was dissolved following the Reformation in the 16th century the tradition of brewing was taken over by a local family. The Alpirsbacher Klosterbräu remains a family brewery to this day enjoying a good reputation. Our group was able to confirm this when we visited it as our second Alpirsbach visit of the day. We were seated in the Brewery's bar with large glasses of their products, alcoholic or non-alcoholic, to sample



while their guide outlined the history of brewing around the world, from its beginnings 8,000 years ago in Babylonia to the complex brewing industry of the 21st century. It was an expert, lively and fascinating lecture given while we, as the class, carried out a practical testing of the products.

Our journey home was again through very pretty countryside but I think that for

many of us the enthusiastic participation in the brewery workshop made us too sleepy to appreciate it. We could, however, reassure ourselves that we had taken part in a very healthy activity when we remembered how our lecturer had emphasised the health-giving and antibiotic nature of their beer because of the quality of the hops and yeast used in its production.

Joan Carroll *Alpha Chapter*

VISIT TO FREIBURG AND THE BLACK FOREST

Valeria was our Italian guide. It was a beautiful day, and we walked from the coach park through the city. I have visited twice before, and was again captivated by the square around the Cathedral, full of stalls selling flowers, fruit, vegetables, and all kinds of local craftwork. We saw both the medieval gates, Martinstor and Schwabentor, both very distinctive, although it was sad to see McDonalds so prominently sited close by! We also passed Germany's oldest inn, Zum Roten Baren, which formed a nice contrast. We were told that Freiburg is very proud of 'being green', with considerable reliance on wind and solar power in the area, and indeed on the journey noticed that many houses had had solar panels added to their roof. It did make me realise that we have some catching up to do.

Freiburg, with around 200,000 inhabitants, is reputed to be the warmest city in Germany. The name means 'free castle', as the city bought its freedom from its feudal overlord in the middle ages. The city was bombed in November 1944. Luckily the cathedral was spared, although the area around it was flattened. I was struck by the similarity here to Canterbury and Exeter, both cities badly bombed, but in both cases the cathedral largely unharmed. Best not to think of the hideous damage we did to each other's towns and cities elsewhere. The cathedral, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, has a glorious spire, built in 1330, which we could not climb as it was a Monday morning when it is closed to visitors. I did climb it on a previous occasion, although my timing was not very good as I reached the top of the belfry just as the bells and clock began to chime for midday. Beautiful sounds fortissimo! The high altar has a painting by Hans Baldung Grien, dating from the early sixteenth century, showing the crowning of the Virgin as the Queen of Heaven, accompanied by a heavenly orchestra. The university was founded in the fifteenth century to educate young men for the civil service. Today it adds to the life and vitality of the city, and together with tourism provides most of its economy.

Leaving Freiburg we drove through the Black Forest, stopping high up at Mummersee, a small lake, which some of us walked round. The scenery around was stunning, and the villages and vineyards reminded us which part of Germany we were in. The local wines are famous, and we had freely partaken of the local vintages with dinner, enjoying the wines of the small local producers which are not exported, and do not travel well in the car boot either. Altogether this had been a most interesting day. We shall certainly remember the beautiful scenery, and the highlights of the city, especially the Cathedral – not forgetting the icecream.

Diane Billam *Gamma Chapter*



Never seen five alpenhorn before!



Cathedral Spire



Germany's oldest guesthouse, Zum Roten Baren. And very pretty it was too!

TWO CONTRASTING WORKSHOPS

The Uses and Challenges of Web 2.0 in Education: Developing students' Self-directed Learning Skills

There were 25 people present at this workshop led by Eygló Björnsdóttir from Iceland and Katrin Saks from Estonia. Eygló explained how the Two-way Web is used in education and the many possibilities it offers to students, especially for those who would otherwise have long distances to travel for classes. It can be accessed through different sources such as Face book , Twitter or Flickr. However, through Wiki-Wiki, students can add to discussions, each using a different colour and the teacher can see what has been added or deleted and asses the work of individual students.

Katrin uses these Virtual Classes on the Web for 16-18 year old students. It promotes students' independence and responsibility for their own learning. They have to assess where they are and their progress on a learning scale. They have four classes a week where tasks are uploaded on a Web Blog. These are discussed by other students and they receive personal feedback from the teacher.

Robbie Scahill *Gamma Chapter*

So you Think You Can't Dance?

Thirty five people attended Dorothy's workshop. Unfortunately, because the hall was locked, the workshop was twenty minutes late in starting. We warmed up with moving round the room in time to international tunes. We then learnt the basic steps for both circle and line dances without the music. This was then put to music and everyone joined in with gusto. The next stage was to put these steps into a dance. This proved to be a little difficult but great fun. We moved on to a square dance which we were just getting the hang of when time ran out. Although Dorothy was disappointed not to have covered more and reached the finale of the "International Promenade", everyone had a great time and really enjoyed the workshop.



Robbie Scahill *Gamma Chapter*

BY TRAIN TO THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE



us

We discussed 'getting there' and flying from Stansted to Karlsruhe-Baden Airport (the closest to Steinbach) seemed a good idea, but the 'plane left after nine at night, and we don't enjoy travelling to Stansted. Other airports and flights were suggested, and then it dawned on that the train was a viable option.

The three of us, Lavinia, Unity and I, met at St Pancras on 31 July nice and early. We passed through railway security and on to the train which left 20 minutes late. Bettina and Sandra joined the train at Ebbsfleet International and were seated in the next carriage. An easy two-hour train ride to Gare du Nord - we had caught up ten minutes too, giving us 27 minutes to change railway stations. Our carriage was close to the barrier so we got off and out quickly. We strode along the 'short' more difficult route (thanks to instructions on the website *The Man in Seat 61*). Out of the station, turn left, walk as far as you can and then turn right, down the steps - the hardest part with cases (Lavinia's carried by a 'nice' man). Made it to the Gare de l'Est in ten minutes!

Another couple of hours saw us in Strasbourg. We three were collected by Lavinia's friend who drove us to Steinbach via his house for refreshments. There we saw his fascinating workshop with its 1903 Bugatti, Wright Brothers aeroplane engine and his wife's art. We reached the Sportschule by early evening.

The return was just as easy, this time by taxi to Strasbourg and then the train via Lille. Finding Eurostar's platform at Lille took a few moments, but we were soon ensconced and had a smooth ride home. Sadly the escalator on the northern line not working, and concern over the riots, brought us swiftly back down to earth.

Diana Bell *Alpha Chapter*

Photos: Lavinia and Unity in Strasbourg Station, and the fascinating 1903 Bugatti



ALPHA CHAPTER

On 14 May 2011 there was a joint meeting with Gamma Chapter. Before the meeting some of us visited Borough Market, a fascinating place especially for 'foodies'. We then had a pleasant lunch at The George Inn, the last galleried inn in London. Later, at London South Bank University, Jane Mouny spoke on 'A female psychiatrist in a man's world'. Joan Carroll writes:

A female psychiatrist in a man's world

The title of the talk at the joint meeting of Alpha and Gamma chapters in May puzzled me when I first saw it on the programme. I had been under the impression that all branches of medicine, like education, had strong female representation. Our speaker, Jane Mouny, soon made it clear that this had certainly not been the case when she had begun her career in psychiatry and that although today 60% of psychiatrists are female they are certainly not highly represented in the upper ranks of this branch of medicine even now. Two quotations Jane gave from the opening remarks of the then Dean of St George's at her induction day in 1973, a separate day held for female trainees only, gave a flavour of the daunting road ahead. They were welcomed as "fortunate young ladies" and then told "you are all going to be GPs". In fact 10% of her intake, including Jane, went into mental health specialism. She attributed her choice to the inspirational teaching she experienced during her training. Later, partly by seeking out good female role models in her field, Jane was able to progress in developing a depth of knowledge and breadth of experience in many aspects of psychiatry.

Trying to cope with the demands of family life and career meant that Jane made frequent moves around the country and gained experience in a wide range of aspects of psychiatry including academic psychiatry. An important decision during these years was to opt to work part-time and take up a post in forensic psychiatry in Greenwich. Forensic psychiatry deals with mental problems linked to crimes such as arson and violent assault. These areas of psychiatry have remained important to Jane and over the years she has trained in family psychiatry at the Tavistock Clinic and gone on to work in various aspects of forensic and family psychiatry around the country. She sees the links between these branches and quoted from an interview with a female forensic specialist she admires, Gwen Alshead, who works with prisoner/patients at Broadmoor: "Rather than dangerous I think of them as sad, having often experienced the extremes of neglect and abuse in early life they then suffer the stress of the effect of their crime."

Jane pointed out that while some offenders with mental health problems are picked up through court liaison or on admission to prison this does not always happen and even when it does not all are offered a hospital place or treatment.



Jane is currently running a specialist unit in Cornwall as a locum and wants to continue her family/forensic work but as she has worked as a tutor specialising in the needs of women doctors she has also become involved in the Royal College of Psychiatry's volunteer scheme to teach overseas and will be going to teach a short programme in the Sudan in June. As evidence of the need for forensic and family psychiatrists Jane brought with her books of poetry and art produced by patients from clinics where she has worked. They added illuminating and poignant contributions to an excellent talk on a subject about which too little is known and understood. **Joan Carroll** *Alpha Chapter*

A number of Gamma members joined in our visit to the British Museum on 27 June for 'Afghanistan, crossroads of the Ancient World'. It was a real treat to see the 'wide range of ideas, traditions and cross cultural connections that have existed in Afghanistan.' The four sites presented were 'among the most exciting and important archaeological discoveries in central Asia.'

We met at Dulwich Hamlet Junior School on 22 July. Some members had visited the excellent exhibition at Dulwich Picture Gallery first, and lunch was at the local pub. Four Gamma members joined us. Joan Carroll minuted the meeting – 'Before the business meeting and after a viewing of the school's impressive art and craft exhibition Claire Purcell led a group of excited DKG pupils into their first lesson in playing the steel pans. Claire was forced to exercise stern class control at times but after an hour the group was able to produce a creditable harmonised version of the nursery rhyme *Mary had a Little Lamb*.' 'Glowing with pride in their achievement, members moved reluctantly back to the main school to attend the business part of the meeting.' We had fun!

A few of us went on Wednesday 13 July to the Wellcome Collection to view an exhibition on 'Dirt: The Filthy Reality of Everyday Life'. The exhibition took six different places and times showing changing attitudes, these included a Dutch home in 17th century Delft, a street in early Victorian London and a Glasgow hospital in the 1860s.

A group of nineteen, including Gamma members, family and friends, walked to the Olympic site on 23 July. Our *Blue Badge* Guide gave us lots of interesting information about the history of the area and people working for the Olympics. Some of us followed up with lunch at Canary Wharf.

Future Meetings and Events:

5 October 2011: World Teachers' Day. Join Gamma at a visit to an Oasis Academy. Details nearer the time.

8 October 2011: Meeting. Hilary Goy will speak on 'Who were the Girton Pioneers?' A glimpse of the kind of woman who decided to defy convention and enrol at the new college for women. General talk with pithy bits! London South Bank University, London Road Building, Elephant and Castle. 2.00pm. Lunch nearby, maybe walk by the River Thames first, see local sights such as the Clink!

12 November 2011: Visit instead of planned meeting. TBA.

10 December 2011: Social at Diana Bell's house. Partners/husbands welcome.

21 January 2012: Meeting. Norna Moses will speak about her jobs in education since retiring as a headteacher. Her latest is working with a Southwark school that trains new teachers. 2.00pm Dulwich Hamlet Junior School, Dulwich Village, SE21 7AL. Lunch locally.

25 February 2012: Please note that this date will be changed to mid-week to visit St Bart's Hospital Museum and the local area. More details nearer the time.

24 – 25 March 2012: State Conference at Aylesford Priory, Kent, ME20 7BX.

21 April 2012: Meeting at LSBU, speaker TBA.

19 May 2012: Visit to be arranged.

30 June 2012: Meeting at DHJS, speaker TBA.



Di Billam takes our flag into the Conference on Day 1 –

Sheila Roberts retires it at the end.

And what a wonderful time we had had in between! Di's picture also appeared in the local German paper with the report on the conference!

Both photos by Jim.



BETA CHAPTER



The July meeting of **BETA CHAPTER** was attended by six members who spent part of the afternoon exploring the north shore of Hooe Lake in the suburb of Oreston, Plymouth. Their hostess, Pat Constable whose house is sited there, gave a potted history of the area pointing out the Bronze age burial mound of Burrows Hill, the route of the old railway and the adjoining fresh water lake of Radford. The group walked the footpath next to this tidal lake imagining the historical characters of the 16th and 17th Century who have sailed these waters, like Sir Francis Drake bringing home his horde of silver, Sir Walter

Raleigh trying to escape trial and execution and Sir Richard Grenville fighting the Parliamentarians.

Evidence of the industry during the 19th and 20th centuries surrounds the lake with the remains of two stone barges, the engine house chimney at Hexton Quay and several hollowed-out quarry faces, the limestone for which – 4.5 million tons – helped to build Plymouth's famous, mile-long breakwater. Pat was only able to give the group a brief glimpse into the area's rich history but this can only lead the way for exploring the north shore of Hooe Lake - Part Two, on some other occasion. The photograph shows Beta Chapter members being show an old map of Oreston by Pat Constable. Hexton Quay is in the background.

STOP PRESS 1. Doug, Pat's husband, has suffered a minor stroke but fortunately seems to be making a full recovery. We wish him good health.

STOP PRESS 2. Sarah is now a Grandmother!!! Congratulations to her, her daughter and to the little one.

STOP PRESS 3. Sue Torr's Learning Project is holding a Celebration of Reading Day on Sunday 11 September between 12 and 4.30pm at Devonport Guildhall, Plymouth, featuring a new book written by Sue's writing group called 'Voices'. Sue will be promoting the book in Waterstones during the following week.

Forthcoming meetings

24 September 2011: celebration 30th Birthday lunch venue TBC

15 October 2011: Beta's Big Push 'Taster' Day at 15 The Old Wharf, PL9 7NP

10 December 2011: Christmas Party at 17 Hartley Avenue from 11.30-2.30
TBC

GAMMA CHAPTER

Having returned from our Regional Conference a few days ago, the pleasure and excitement of belonging to an International Society remains with me. The opportunity to meet and converse with educators from across Europe and America is a great privilege and very stimulating, as well as great fun. I'm sure you will enjoy reading people's reports of the time we spent together.

Another year has ended for Gamma Chapter and our summer meetings fulfilled all our expectations. In May we had a joint meeting with Alpha. Unfortunately I was unable to attend but those who did had a wonderful time. They started by meeting at Borough Market, which I understand is pure joy for 'foodies', followed by lunch at The George Inn and then on to London South Bank University where Jane Mounty spoke on 'A female psychiatrist in a man's world'. There is a full report on pages 19-20.

On Wednesday 15 June we went to Batemans for a tour of the house and garden. We were fortunate that the water mill was working and we had the opportunity to buy freshly milled flour. The gardens were a delight and the plants for sale were very tempting but not as tempting as the restaurant! It didn't seem to matter that the rain came on later.

Our last meeting was at Robbie's house where we had a wonderful cream tea, with 'extras'. Unfortunately inclement weather stopped us from being able to sit out in Robbie's beautiful garden but the plant and book swap raised vital funds for our chapter. It was a purely social occasion, a chance to sit, chat and enjoy each other's company, A fitting end to a busy year!

With plans in hand for next year I look forward to busy and exciting meetings, facing the challenges in education today.

Dates for 2011-2012

5 October, 5 November, 10 December, 14 January, 4 February, 23 -25 March, 28 April, 19 May, dates for June and July to be decided. For topic, speaker and venue please see web site.

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