



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

GREAT BRITAIN NEWS



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This copy of a painting by Gwen Gutwein, referred to by Mary Wardrop on page 15, is reproduced by kind permission of the artist

From the Editor

This edition of GB News includes some reports on the International Convention held in Indianapolis in July/August this year. Only five members went this time, so you will see some names repeated more often than usual as we sought to cover the parts of the Convention we thought would be interesting to all members.

If you look at the photo on the front cover, you will see that there were only about 25 European members present. If you compare this with the corresponding photo from two years ago, you will see that there were about 75 European members present in 2012.

Contributions for the next edition by 15 December please—it would be good if we could include any Christmas activities. As always, in Word, with photos attached to an email. Many thanks to all. dbillam@hotmail.com

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The photograph on the front cover is of European members present at the International Convention in Indianapolis. * Photo by Jim

Diana Bell

STATE ORGANISATION PRESIDENT: 2013-2015

85 Years and Beyond: Advancing Key Women Educators for Life



Visits to Kenwood House in Highgate with Alpha and Down House, home of Charles Darwin, in Downe near Biggin Hill Airport with Gamma, were a wonderful start to the year for me after all my worries with Brian's ill health. Having had to spend so much time in Greek hospitals it was good to get home and back into the swing of things. The latest chapter programmes look very well thought out, with plenty of good speakers, interesting visits and other activities. Do try and get to as many as you can, bring friends, meetings are always better when the room is full!

Members have told me what a wonderful time they had at the convention in Indianapolis. I have read articles about this very exciting event (more can be found in this edition of GB News) and am sorry to have missed it (due to Brian's illness). Apart from the excellent speakers and workshops on offer, I gather that the hotel was a terrific Marriott flagship only three years old. I have also been told that the banquet was 'the best ever'! Di Billam did the honours; she carried the Union Jack and attended all the meetings in my place. I am very grateful to her for this.

I am also pleased to report that Unity Harvey attended the 'Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World' meeting at Indianapolis at my request. Her presentation on 'Water' was well received. She has written an article which focuses on this vital issue which she is happy to send: for a copy just e-mail her at unity.harvey@btopenworld.com

Members voted in our new International State President, Dr Lyn Schmid, and I look forward to her biennium. We also welcome our new Europe Regional Director, Marianne Skardéus. Marianne is known to many members in Great Britain and I am sure she will continue the excellent leadership of Marika Heimbach.

Sadly Dr Pamela Irons, well known throughout the Society, passed away in July. Eight members attended her funeral. A truly lovely woman, Pam was instrumental in the formation of Great Britain State. Read more about Pam's life and work in this issue. We also lost Dr Irene Murphy, Past International President 1994-1996, who died in August. Evelyn Goodsell writes: 'She was a lovely, gracious lady and a stalwart of the Society. I first met her at the Conference in Canterbury and at Conventions since then. Another great member lost.'

Some dates for your diary. Our Great Britain State Conference will take place on 28 March 2015. Joan Carroll and Barbara Kern have been to visit a new Central London venue, which sounds very good and that we hope to use. 5 - 8 August 2015 is the European Regional Conference in Borås, Sweden - 'The City of Sculptures'. The First Hotel Grand is one of Sweden's leading convention centres and it is right in the centre of the city. I hope many of you will be able to attend.

There is a September deadline for members to register their interest to become International speakers. In past years we have had a number of GB members speaking in various countries on many different topics. I know there was some interest, so I hope we will have members joining in this time.

There may also be some of you interested in becoming a member of an international committee. There are often opportunities to put your name forward for nomination. This biennium Kathy Hodgson, our State Treasurer, is a member of the International Finance Committee. There are also opportunities to apply for a scholarship to further your academic qualifications, and an amazing opportunity to attend two weeks of leadership training at the University of Texas in Austin, the 'Golden Gift'. Just look at the DKG main website www.dkg.org for details.

In November the members of the European Forum Committee will get together for our first meeting of the biennium. Amongst other things we will review the European Forum Guidelines and prepare for the EF meeting in Borås.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you in your chapter meetings during the coming months.

Diana Bell

Anna Evans has written an excellent article about her work in Haiti. Due to lack of space in this edition, I have asked Di Billam to keep it for the next GB News when we can put in all the pictures that go with the article.

Diana

SOME DATES TO REMEMBER

28 March 2015	Great Britain State Conference
5—8 August 2015	European Regional Conference
5-9 July 2016	DKG International Convention
	Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Centre
	Nashville, Tennessee

IN MEMORIAM: DR PAMELA IRONS



We have just had to say farewell to Pam Irons, our first international leader, loved and respected in Britain, Europe and the Americas. It is impossible to recognise the strength of DKG in Europe without realising that Pam was the founder of the idea that European women should be granted the creation of a European Region.

Pam began her career by obtaining a degree at Liverpool University, followed by many years of teaching in Lancashire before she was appointed as a lecturer at the Teacher Training College in Eastbourne.

There she met John. They were a wonderful couple, John with his world-wide bird watching, and Pam with her passion for the growth and principles of DKG and her vital interest in the Pestalozzi movement. Pam rapidly became a well known figure throughout DKG – who could resist her charm, her elegance, her intellect and her devotion to DKG ideals?

For many years, Pam was greatly valued in the USA, where she knew so many of the early leaders in the society, and thus had considerable influence. By her example, she gave many of us the desire and confidence to serve on international committees, and to become closely involved with members from other regions and countries. As the leader of both Britain and Europe, Pam encouraged expansion in Europe, and was appointed as the Area Representative for Europe on the Administrative Board. She analysed the pros and cons in the situation, and presented statements for the Administrative Board and for wider general discussion. She felt that women of Europe from several different countries would create a new source of ideas to widen outlook in the DKG Society. She was supported by members from the Netherlands and Sweden in all these campaigns.

We all in Europe owe Pam heartfelt thanks for her work within DKG, but also for her friendship and her sympathetic understanding. Pam was a friend indeed. We miss her care, her wisdom and her affection.

Dorothy Haley (Gamma Chapter)

(The photo was taken when Pam received the Great Britain Achievement Award at Glyndebourne in 2009)

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, INDIANAPOLIS, 2014

The Opening Session of the 2014 Convention began right on time and, for the first time ever, members not present could watch the proceedings in their own homes. We met in one of the ballrooms of the JW Marriott Hotel (there are ten ballrooms!) with our International President, Dr. Beverly Helms presiding. After the 'Call to Order', we watched the 'Presentation of the Flags'. Sadly, our President Diana was unable to be there, so the Great Britain flag was carried by Diane Billam. Various warm welcomes were given, the first by the Mayor of Indianapolis, Mayor Gregory Ballard. He was followed by Lois Vogel, Indiana State Organisation President, welcoming us to Indiana and then Darlene Trusty, the Convention Steering Committee Chair, welcoming us to the Convention.

Dr Fusa Nakagawa, SOP Japan, gave a short talk entitled, Sharing our Vision-Strengthening Our Society. She was followed by a soloist, Reiko Sumi from Japan singing 'Kawa No Nagare No Yoni' so beautifully the entire audience rose immediately to give her a standing ovation.

Jan Nerem, from the Eunah Temple Holden Leadership Fund Committee, introduced the keynote Speaker. She was Sarah Sladek, author, entrepreneur, generation expert. Sarah is the Founder, and CEO of the XYZ University which provides concrete and effective steps to attract and retain members of all ages. She is the author of 'The End of Membership as We Know It' and specialises in creating future-focused, relevant organisations that successfully reach today's younger generations. We were reminded of the loss of members since 1991 and that only 25% of our members are under the age of fifty. Throughout her talk we felt challenged. We were reminded that technology had changed more in the past five years than in the previous fifty. It was a tremendous time to be alive and we must adapt to the new era but not leave old traditions. Time is a precious commodity-we must make the most of every single minute/day/happiness YOLO-(you only live once).



We must develop new markets, master the art of adaptation, share leadership, celebrate history, plan destiny, dwell in possibility! After such an inspiring talk, Sarah was given a standing ovation.

Evelyn Goodsell (Gamma Chapter)

*Photo by Jim

SECOND GENERAL SESSION



***Photo by Jim**

There were 1200 members present for this session. We had been told earlier that there were nearly 400 First-Timers present, hopefully many of them new members and not just existing members who had decided to come along for the first time.

Ron Rosenberg spoke about 'Hidden Secrets to Doubling your Memory', starting off with an exercise for everyone present. A number of sheets of paper had been distributed, and we all looked at the first page and studied the 'List of Words to Remember'.

We had 45 seconds to try to memorise 15 random words. Then we looked at 9 faces with names underneath, with the aim of memorising their names and attaching them to the correct picture. We then tried to recall as many of the words in the original list as we could, trying to list the words in order. I failed dismally: I got 4, only 2 in the correct position in the list, giving me 8 points (1 for each word, 3 if in the correct position in the list). There were some present who did much better, of course, and I suspect not a few who did worse! As for the names and faces to remember, least said the better.

So what to do? Ron told us a story which linked all the words. I was amazed to find that I could then repeat every single word in the correct order – we all could. Going back to the faces, we tried to pick out distinguishing features (beard, nose, teeth etc) and make up phrases to help us remember: eg, Mr Starnowski – stars now on skis. I didn't do quite so well on this exercise, but right at the end of his talk we were all able to chant the story which linked the words, from beginning to end. In general, to enhance memory skills, Ron said we learn by associating what we're trying to remember with something which is unusual or unlikely. We remember things that are strange. The most effective associations are those involving quantity, size, pain, or they are disgusting! To remember names and faces, make a ridiculous association between the person's name, and an outstanding feature of their appearance. You can use substitute words if this is easier. Even if this method isn't totally successful, it will surely be more than you are doing now. Never under any circumstances tell someone you've just met what the outstanding feature was!

Ron filled his talk with humour and jokes. He moved around and managed to

Ron filled his talk with humour and jokes. He moved around and managed to be conversational with an audience as large as this was. He used a number of anecdotes to make his point, and said we need to take advantage of chance encounters and look for new opportunities, play to our strengths and mitigate our weaknesses. I found much to reflect on in his talk.

Diane Billam (Gamma Chapter)

CONFLICT AND EMPOWERMENT

Dr Ellen J Kennedy was the keynote speaker during the Third General Meeting. She is the founder of 'World without Genocide', educates her audiences about past and present conflicts and empowers them to take positive action. She started by stating that knowledge is not power: it is knowledge + action which gives power. She said that slave labour and exploitation of people (particularly children and women) as sex workers is still rife: it is estimated they number 29 million throughout the world. Trafficking in drugs, people and guns is thriving, with sex trafficking the fastest growing criminal activity. The CIA estimates that 50,000 people are trafficked into the US every year, and that 244,000 American children and youths are trafficked. This trade is estimated to be worth \$32 billion annually. Organ harvesting is a particular problem, mostly kidneys, with around 20% of all transplanted kidneys in the US estimated to be via trafficked people. The impact of Type II diabetes can only make the position worse.



The causes of sex slavery include genocide, economic and political instability, natural disasters, gender discrimination, weak rule of law, and organised crime. Many people, desperate to escape their circumstances, pay others to smuggle them into countries where they feel they will be better off. They are taken in by offers which include a residential certificate and a job. 40 cities have set up Human Trafficking Task Forces. More information can be found on the website www.worldwithoutgenocide.org.

Diane Billam (Gamma Chapter)

**Photo by Jim*

CONSTITUTION AND STANDING RULES

DECISIONS MADE DURING THE CONFERENCE

The possibility of far-reaching changes added to the atmosphere of the 2014 International Convention. Detailed planning was evident – there were two Q & A workshops about proposals for changes to the way in which DKG elections are conducted, and one about proposed changes which could affect future Regional Conferences. At well-attended sessions, searching questions were asked, and members were given answers which were clear and well explained. In addition, all members at the convention received a 16-page printed booklet entitled *2014 Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and International Standing Rules*, together with a printed Q & A sheet about matters relating specifically to elections, and a further sheet stating the order of consideration and the grouping of proposed amendments.

Amendments to the *Constitution* and *Standing Rules* were presented and discussed within General Sessions. Any proposal could be *amended* by a majority vote, but a two-thirds majority would be required to *adopt* any proposed changes. This led to some very interesting moments: some proposals gained a majority vote, but *not* the two-thirds required to adopt the proposal being considered. The business was very ably and professionally conducted by the outgoing International President, Beverly Helms. Every member who wished to speak ‘for’, ‘against’ or ‘requesting further clarification’ had the opportunity to do so via microphones placed strategically around the room. So what major changes were decided?

Adopted:

- **New state organisations** shall have not fewer than 40 members, of whom 12 – 16 may be founders
- In addition to *DKG News* (published as now) and *The Bulletin* (all editions to be online, not posted, in future) there will be **a collegial magazine twice a year**, posted, which will focus on: teaching tips, chapter programme ideas, and personal reflections.

Not adopted:

- Changes to the way in which DKG elections are conducted. (Thus the brief of the International Nominations Committee remains unchanged.)

- Changes to the current articles determining the conduct of **Regional Conferences**. (Note: 500 in favour, but 377 against, so no two-thirds majority)

No massive overrunning of sessions! No additional late night sessions! Details of the voting on all proposed amendments will be available when the full minutes of the convention are published.

Kate York (Gamma Chapter)

WORDS OF INSPIRATION AT THE EUROPEAN FORUM

There is no other profession more interesting, challenging or full of responsibility than that of a teacher/educator. Sometimes a teacher has to be a doctor who can easily find the patient's painful and weakest spot and start healing it. Sometimes teachers are builders who carefully lay the bricks, one by one, to finally make a fortress or at least establish a foundation for the children who can then start building on their own. Teachers often have to be psychologists who can understand the windings and turnings of a human soul. Very often, we can say mostly, a teacher has to be an artist who creates something extraordinary. The better she is with her paintbrush and the choice of vivid colours - the brighter, clearer, and finer her painting will be. A teacher is like a gardener who has been given many little plants. The more care and love these plants receive, the more powerful and beautiful they will be. Whatever the teacher's role is – it is important that she encourages her students with her energy and creativity. However, a teacher is only human and even her energy resources run out eventually. Therefore the key question about teaching is – how to be, and more importantly stay bright, energetic and youthful throughout the years? How not to burn out and spend energy uselessly?

Here I would like to share a thought-provoking story with you: **The Woodcutter**: Once upon a time there was a very strong woodcutter. He asked for a job from a timber merchant and he got it. The pay was very good and so were the working conditions. For those reasons the woodcutter was determined to do his very best. His boss gave him an axe and showed him where he was to work in the forest. The first day the woodcutter cut down 15 trees. His boss was extremely impressed and said, "*Well done. Keep it up. You are our best woodcutter ever.*" Motivated by his boss's words, the woodcutter tried even harder the next



day, but he cut down only 10 trees. The third day he tried even harder but cut down only 7 trees. Day after day the woodcutter cut down fewer and fewer trees. "*I must be losing my strength*", the woodcutter thought. He worked over-time, but it still was not enough. He went to his boss and apologized, saying he could not understand what was going on. The boss took one look at the axe and asked, "*When was the last time you sharpened your axe?*" "*Sharpened my axe?*" the woodcutter replied. "*I had no time to sharpen my axe. I have been too busy trying to cut down enough trees.*"

Our lives are like that. We sometimes get so busy that we don't take time to sharpen the "axe". As a plant needs light to grow, so does a teacher need time for herself, to grow personally and professionally. We all need time to relax, think, and learn. If we don't take the time to sharpen the "axe", we will become dull and lose our effectiveness. A good teacher likes to learn, otherwise it would be difficult to inspire others.

Anu Ariste (Estonia)

(Photo of Anu by the Editor)

EUROPEAN REGIONAL BREAKFAST

The Theme at our Regional Breakfast in Indianapolis was Peace.

A warm welcome awaited the Europeans for their Regional Breakfast as they greeted familiar faces and mingled with friends from our eight nations. Peace flags decorated every table and the menu reflected the preparations planned most effectively by the Forum and other European representatives.

Following a splendid breakfast, Gudbjörg Sveinsdóttir (Iceland) began by quoting "Peace is Many Things". She was followed by a guest from Connecticut, Anita Satriano, and Chair of the committee for "Curriculum for a Peaceful World." Anita shared with us the history of the formation of this group to promote peace, protect the environment and celebrate diversity and which was founded by Jean Morascini of Connecticut, who subsequently received a Human Rights Award. Regular newsletters are circulated 3 times a year to 22 countries, 18 in DKG plus Ghana, Uganda, Australia and Italy. We heard of a variety of workshops demonstrating how social issues and conflicts can affect children's learning and how this developed into a document for educators 'A Teacher's Guide to a Peaceful Classroom'. The DKG members in Connecticut have demonstrated their enthusiasm and continuum of Workshops and Break Out sessions at Regionals and Internationals including Indianapolis, which was entitled at this Convention as 'Global Peace Round Table. World Wide Educational Initiatives'.

Anu Ariste (Estonia) recited a poem about Peace, followed by a delightful new DKG song from Norway, in which we all joined to the best of our abilities, and were rewarded by Ingrid Christiansen giving us a DVD to take home and practise! Cor Wolf-Heins (the Netherlands) distributed a Peace Card, with a flower coloured by a child. Riita-Liisa Arpainen had spent some time in Namibia with students who had made some splendid comments on getting on with others – ‘Everyone can make a team by sitting down together’ and ‘Ten tribes learning to work together can form a peaceful session’.

Kate York, her immediate predecessor as European Regional Director, presented Marika with a beautiful shawl, thanking Marika for her contribution to the Region during her biennium. The shawl was much admired by Beverly Helms and Barbara Day when they visited our Breakfast during our meal.

A collection had been made for the Emergency Fund, raffle prizes were drawn and distributed and finally members were invited once more to Boras, Sweden in 2015. Thank you to all who contributed to the programme and donated gifts.

Mary Wardrop (Gamma Chapter)

(Photo of Marika and her beautiful shawl by Editor)



THE PRESIDENT`S BANQUET

The Presidents' Banquet was an outstanding success from the word 'go'. Many changes were made to the usual style and order of events – and all of them were good! For the reception period, a cash bar was accompanied by top-quality hors d'oeuvres, served on tables outside the banquet room.

The main event began on time, everyone went straight to their tables and Jensi Souders made the introductions, after which the International Chorus sang three items. The outgoing regional directors introduced the 2013-2015 state organisation presidents, then the Irish Blessing preceded the meal – and what a meal it was! A plated (very fresh) salad was followed by an entrée of grilled chicken-breast and prime steak – both cooked to perfection, followed by a delicious dessert.

The Installation Ceremony had been completely re-thought and was, I hope, more professional and smooth-flowing than in the past. Much work had gone into making this part of the evening a more enjoyable experience for participants



European Presidents (or their proxies) being presented at the Banquet

*Photo by Jim

and audience alike. Jim, our long-serving photographer, was busy with his camera throughout the evening, and there are plenty of pictures available at www.photographsbyjim.com!

Outgoing international president, Beverly Helms, indulged herself and everyone present by inviting Nancy Davis to sing *Wind Beneath My Wings*, then the gavel was formally passed to the new international president, Lyn Schmid. In an inspiring speech of acceptance, Lyn promised that new ideas will be trialled and evaluated. She said, "We must make decisions for the long run and continue to move to a higher level of value for members." In her closing remarks, Lyn said that DKG is, ".... more than a group of like-minded women. It's a spirit that I take with me for the rest of my life. Said in a very simple way, that's the magic of Delta Kappa Gamma."

Lyn finished by warning us that Rosalynn Carter said, "A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be." She closed by saying, "I hope you will join me this biennium in evolving the Society where it ought to be in order to sustain the magic."

Kate York (Gamma Chapter)

*Photo by Jim of Diane Billam carrying our Union Flag



The J W Marriott Hotel (photo by Editor) and the programme for the banquet (photo by Kate York)



A GOLDEN DREAM IN July 2014

When Trijny came to Aylesford in March for our GB Conference, she persuaded me to take a golden opportunity to join her at the Seminar in Fort Wayne prior to the 2014 international Convention in Indianapolis. It was a very special Seminar celebrating 50 years of the DKG Educational Foundation.

During these 5 decades (1964-2014) a total of \$2,850.328.11 has been raised for 858 Project grants. Continuous fundraising has assisted a Navajo community in Arizona, Yankton Sioux youth in South Dakota, Choctaw schools in Mississippi, Braille Transcribers recording for the blind and dyslexic, supported at-risk children through high schools, preschool children in Mexico amongst other groups, more recently Alaskan teachers training rural El Salvadoran teachers, and provided Cornetet Professional Development and Seminar grants. To celebrate the special occasion of this Seminar, the current Board of Trustees chaired by Elsie Gross from Florida, demonstrated 50 years during major world-wide events by means of Power Point presentations on large screens during 5 sessions clearly seen by the participants and with interesting explanations by the members of the Board, including Beverly Helms, Carolyn Pittman and Jensi Souders.

On the first morning since my arrival, we boarded a coach for a tour of Amish country. I had been looking forward to this visit and I was not disappointed. There was plenty to see during the journey – well kept crops of beans in the open fields, horses enjoying their freedom and occasionally trotting around in buggies and wagons, tidy buildings with only occasionally a few flowers, but none of the houses were surrounded by fences separating them from their neighbours and a variety of barns some clearly needing repairs. Eventually we reached the small town of Grabill with a variety of shops and friendly ‘hoosiers’ to greet us. I had heard the word ‘Hoosiers’ several times previously and decided to Google the expression when I arrived home.

Having wandered along to the Hardware Store, I found myself chatting with the owner about the Amish families. He dashed off to phone his cousin Linda, a local historian, who joined us all at ‘Nolt Haus’ where we were served a delicious lunch by members of the Amish community. (As the Amish do not use electricity we wondered if they had cooked our meals on a wood burning stove). I was introduced to a grandmother who seemed delighted to be able to converse in German. The community who had originally arrived in the town in 1852 from Alsace Lorraine escaped from Napoleon who had ordered them to fight with his army. Their families went to America in search of religious freedom. After the group, including children, sang to us, we were asked if we would like to join in singing ‘Amazing Grace’ with mothers, aunts, cousins and other relatives and of

course we agreed. Linda, the florist/ historian presented me with a basket of flowers with water in a cup and saucer to keep them fresh. To complete the day, I went out in a buggy with Louise a smiling fifteen year old, who had already completed her schooling, and would neither accept any payment nor an ice cream on a scorching hot day, after she had driven me around the town. Friday was a very full day, starting with a versatile storyteller playing the part of Johnny Appleseed aka John Chapman, a folk hero and pioneer apple farmer, born in Leominster, Massachusetts in 1792. He wandered throughout the countryside, following the steady stream of immigrants, arriving finally in Indiana. He made friends with the Indian tribes, gave away Bibles, bought and sold land and developed thousands of productive apple trees. Two mini presentations followed. Firstly, a local historian passed round a sample of the 20,000 artifacts from the collection in Fort Wayne Museum including a candle holder used by George Washington, a Tomahawk, an English pistol of Queen Anne's period, two hundred year-old sunglasses and flags with an English lion, a French fleur de lis, and Native American flags representing their 3 tribes. He described the geography of this part of Indiana and the oldest home in the region built for Jean Baptiste de Richardville, born in 1761 to a Miami Indian mother, Tacamwa, and a French fur trader father. Chief Richardville spoke 6 languages and he and his mother were amongst the earliest entrepreneurs native to Fort Wayne and Allen County. Together they built a trading empire based on control of the long portage between the St Mary's and Wabash rivers, joining two water systems and thereby completing a pathway for commerce that extended from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. A second mini presentation by a children's author brought the morning to an end.

Other new experiences followed on Saturday morning when we were delighted to follow up a visual tour through Amish country marvelling at the artistry of Gwen Gutwein exhibiting a few of her 'Indiana Barn' paintings. Gwen is aiming to make a collection of 184 barn paintings by 2015 (she has completed 134 so far). Her talk illuminated the variety of colourful but dilapidated barns previously on our tour of Amish country. Her booklet describes the Indiana Barn Foundation which has been formed to value the legacy of Hoosier farmers and preserve these historic barns as an asset to their cultural heritage. Here in England, we share a similar aspiration to protect the countryside and our own historic buildings for the future. The origin of the word 'hoozer' or Hoosier has been traced back to a Cumberland dialect in England and attached to a hill dweller or highlander. Immigrants from Cumberland settled in the hills of southern Indiana and the names Cumberland Mountain, Cumberland River and Cumberland Gap remain. Alternatively, when a visitor hailed a pioneer cabin in Indiana or knocked upon its door, the settler would respond "Who's yere?"

VISIT TO THE RACE TRACK IN INDIANAPOLIS

About a hundred years ago the roads around Indianapolis were almost non-existent, rutted tracks quite unsuitable for testing new cars so the motor speedway was built with thousands of bricks, hence the name 'brickyard'. Except for the finishing line, the bricks are now hidden beneath layers of tarmac which can reach up to 145°C and shimmer in the sun. To me the track is vicious with its concrete walls, only part of which is made of a type that 'gives' should anything hit it.

I went to the shop to get the requested hot-rod shirt for my son – an unmentionable term in Indianapolis - hot-rods are souped-up ordinary cars for the road. Being a complete novice, I asked a museum attendant, "Which are the most important cars to photograph for my son?" - helpful to me too. He explained the difference between a Nascar and an Indicar, the latter being cars with wheels protruding from the body. Then I had a ride around the track in a Nascar pace car, another new term. The pace car goes around first before the races and carries VIPs. Maybe such a prestigious ride was really wasted on me, but I still enjoyed the experience.

After lunch overlooking the golf course, four holes of which are inside the track, our group visited the Dallara works, in which, amid high security, were made parts for the cars. They were all hand made from highly specialized substances and rigorously tested. One of only three in the world test drive simulators was three storeys high but we only saw the containing walls. We learned that they were hoping that the cars would eventually reach speeds of 300mph. They realized that they would have to do this in very small stages from the present record that is, I believe, around 230mph. After trying various 'hands on' apparatus, we all collected our photographs taken, when we had entered, behind an unmarked Indicar with a green cloth backdrop. The background had

been changed to one of the track, a lovely souvenir of our day.

Unity Harvey (Alpha Chapter)

(Editor's note: unfortunately we cannot use the photo of Unity with the car, because of copyright issues: this is one taken by Unity)



A WORKSHOP ON WORLD FELLOWSHIP

Each day there were so many workshops to which we could go it was so difficult to know which to choose! On Wednesday I decided to attend the one given by members of the International World Fellowship Committee, entitled 'Embracing Our Vision Through World Fellowship, and discover how support of our DKG World Fellowship scholars is impacting education worldwide.

The World Fellowship organisation was set up in 1946 and continued even during the Korean War. Its aims are to make grants, in accordance with the International Standing Rules and when sufficient funds are available. The grants are awarded to students, from around the world, who would benefit from pursuing further advanced education in the USA and Canada. World Fellowship recipients receive grants for the duration of their studies and, in special circumstances, these can be extended. DKG members in States where there are World Fellowship students maintain contact with them, occasionally inviting them to their homes for a visit and a meal.

During the general discussion near the end of the meeting, we heard how some Chapters raise extra money by holding various fund-raising events at their meetings eg. weigh purses, sock auctions. At the end of their time in the USA and Canada, the students are expected to return to their respective countries to use the knowledge they have gained to improve the lot of their fellow country men and women. The workshop ended with the words of Malala Yousafzai occupying our thoughts: "One child, one teacher, one pen and one book can change the world."

Evelyn Goodsell (Gamma Chapter)

A VISIT TO WASHINGTON

Sadly I visited Washington alone because Diana was unable to be there but never the less I had a wonderful time. I found the airport shuttle bus to my hotel and quickly established a base from which to explore.

The first day I went to the Smithsonian American History museum, the Space museum and the American Indian Museum. Highlights were the huge 30x42ft fine wool American flag, flown at Fort McHenry in 1812 to mark the victory over the British, made by Mary Pickersgill and six girls; the timekeeping exhibits showing the developments in timekeeping since I was at college in 1960 and the ancient Indian river water semi-dams recently copied to make dry land productive once more. Outside the Indian Museum my attention was grasped

again as, in amazement, I heard echoes of the sounds of the nearby waterfall whilst walking past a large stone. The design must have been deliberate. I found that I had walked from 10am to 7pm spurred on by curiosity. I did not know I could still do it!

The hotel doorman advised me of a 7-hour coach tour taking in most of the main sites of interest so the next day was more restful. In particular, I enjoyed seeing the Senate building, the Lincoln Memorial and the Cemetery at Arlington. I also had 3 half days to spare on flight days, so went to the White House Visitor Centre, the National Archive and the Phillips Collection. Highlights respectively were seeing the south side of the house with the President's view to the Jefferson Memorial with its 6m high statue, Elvis Presley's special shoes (that allowed him to lean forward almost defying gravity!) and the original Renoir entitled 'The Boating Party,' a copy of which hung on my kitchen wall for many years.

I feel that I now know a lot about Washington, it is great to explore but I have barely begun.

Unity Harvey (Alpha Chapter)

Unity on her tour of Washington, in front of the White House.



Photos by Barbara Kern of visits referred to in her report on Page 19. Gigantosaurus: the Royal Society exhibit is a copy—the original is in the Children's Museum in Indianapolis, having been discovered on a dig nearby. The other photo shows that the Kenwood House visit took place on a wonderful sunny day!



ALPHA CHAPTER REPORT

After Alpha's April visit to the Discoveries exhibition of fascinating objects from the museums at Cambridge at 2 Temple Place, our June meeting reverted to a more serious educational mode. Liz Day gave us a presentation on current education policy-making proposals. She had attended a meeting for pressure groups at Westminster where the document "A better future for our schools" was the focus. The document is to be included in the Labour party's agenda for its 2015 election manifesto. The Westminster meeting proposed that a middle tier of independent directors of school standards should be established, and that education in U.K. needed to become apolitical. Alpha members had to do homework on the spot when we had to examine proposals from the Westminster meeting and present our views to the group.

For the first of our now annual series of Summer outings, some of us went to the Royal Society's annual exhibition in July. The atmosphere was buzzing, with interested crowds of all ages clustered round exhibits of the latest in scientific discovery (Bosons) and cutting edge development. Dominating the scene was the skeleton of the giant dinosaur. Also there was a model of Rosetta, the probe en route to rendezvous with and study a comet. Talk about Dream, Dare and Do! - Rosetta was launched into outer space 10 years ago! And, later in July, it successfully went into orbit round the comet.

August saw a group of us visiting Kenwood House in Hampstead, situated on the heights of Hampstead Heath with grounds falling south to London landmarks and the hills beyond.

This majestic Villa was the home of the great judge Lord Mansfield and his family, including his mixed-race niece Dido Belle. The house has recently been refurbished, and the rooms were fascinating, especially architect Robert Adam's library. It has the Iveagh Bequest collection of splendid masterpieces, and furniture. Also of importance, a good café which we enjoyed..

Planned meetings are: **Sept 6** with an Indianapolis report, **Oct 8** visit to the WW1 exhibition at the Imperial War Museum, **Nov 29** - Christmas Crafts at Rotherhithe. Next year, **Jan 17** Lesley Marsh speaking on Guiding Today, and **Feb 28** a visit to London Docklands Museum.

Barbara Kern (Chapter President)

DEALING WITH DYSLEXIA

Members of Beta Chapter visited Sue Torr's *Shout It Out* sessions in Devonport during the Summer and were impressed by the relaxed and friendly environment in the room. Many levels of literacy and numeracy take place every Tuesday evening, one of which is working with dyslexia. One member of the group describes how she experiences this difficulty: '*I'm like a computer able to take in all the things around me – just with a bad processing speed.*' Richard Branson and many other intellectually brilliant people are dyslexic, but pointing it out can be very frustrating for those trying hard to deal with it.

To diagnose dyslexia as a distinct area of learning difficulty can give those who suffer this condition a sense of relief. Too often, unrecognised dyslexia can leave a struggling learner being judged as 'thick'. On the other hand the term can be used as a cover for intellectual laziness. Forgetting dates and appointments is a dyslexic symptom that can lead to difficult situations: if an unemployed person forgets to sign on, their money can be stopped unless they can produce a medical certificate.

A certificate confirming dyslexia can prevent embarrassment and need for food banks. Two members of Sue's group who struggle with their reading wanted to take the dyslexia test; one member explained, '*I know the test is not going to make my spelling better but it will give me a reason to why I find it so difficult - and it is not my fault*'. Many dyslexics carry a sense of self blame – often associated with not being able to help their children with school work. A generous offer to reduce fees from an examiner and funding to SIO from DKG Educational Foundation enabled the test to take place and a certificate was issued to both of them.

They were both thrilled and wanted us all to know how they felt:

'It was fabulous to finally get tested, to know my strengths and weaknesses. Also to prove to other people that when I say I'm dyslexic I'm not lying.'

'It gave me a whole new outlook on life'.

Beta Chapter is proud of them.

Jess Curtis (Beta Chapter)



Photo of Gail with one of the learners at a dyslexia session

BETA CHAPTER REPORT

Throughout the year Beta has been engaged in strengthening links between DKG and Plymouth University via Shout It Out, a strategy that requires patience and timing. An important step in our relationship will be in October, when representatives from Beta have been invited to attend a meeting with University students and tutors involved with the SIO Community Project. We will be looking at the framework, pedagogies, teaching and learning that Beta members have observed at SIO evenings. This will be the first time that DKG will have been represented at the University.

Jess Curtis (Chapter President)

REFLECTIONS ON RIVERHILL HIMALAYAN GARDENS

Members of Gamma Chapter visited on a misty-moisty morning in July. 'Forum: the network for artists' had set up the national sculpture symposium in the grounds, and we were filled with wonder at the work of the six sculptors whose works were displayed all around us as we climbed to the top of the gardens, and back down again (to the coffee shop of course). Unfortunately I cannot include any of the many photos I took of these works, due to copyright issues, but I will certainly remember many of them for a long time.

(Diane Billam)

My highlights of the visit were firstly arriving at Riverhill in the mist and as it lifted seeing the amazing view to the South stretching far into the distance, then meeting one of the sculptors who had been part of the recent exhibition and lastly the relaxing lunch with others in the sunshine. The water features and planted beds were also most impressive. (**Liz Malik**)

I could not believe the great improvement that had been made since my last visit a while ago. (**Evelyn Goodsell**)

In the (almost) words of Charles Dickens: 'A woman who dares to waste one hour of time has not discovered the value of life', and we certainly wasted not a moment during our visit to the Himalayan Gardens at Riverhill.

(**Kathy Hodgson**)

Our trip to the Himalayan Garden was a great treat – wonderful sculptures, beautiful gardens and a great climb to have a (misty) view of Kent and Sussex. As we puffed our way up, there were rough wooden structures (dens) built by children to hide from the yeti (his home was hidden away!). The children will soon have a maze to get lost in as well. As we wandered through the walled garden, a quotation by Darwin, carved on a wooden plaque encapsulated the purpose of valuing our environment: 'How paramount is the future when one is surrounded by children'. (**Sandra Blacker**)

GAMMA CHAPTER REPORT

Gamma Chapter remains strong and lively. The number of members remains the same but some visitors have expressed interest in membership - fingers crossed.

We received the sad news of the death of Dr. Pam Irons, a founder member of GB State. Many of us will remember her gracious presence at meetings, her warm support of chapter officers and her great sense of humour. She will be missed.

Our final meetings following the conference at Aylesford were very successful. At Beechwood School, Harry Roberts gave a terrific illustrated presentation about fracking. We now have concrete knowledge of the issues and some great websites from Harry to deepen our understanding.

Two outings followed to complete our year. One to the Himalayan Garden at Sevenoaks and the other to Downe House, Charles Darwin's home. Both visits were blessed with bright weather. Seven people came to the Himalayan Garden and eleven to Down House. Liz Malik negotiated a group discount !

Many thanks to everyone in Gamma Chapter for their support. Liz, the new Chapter President, has assembled a good team for her biennium; dates of meetings at Beechwood are confirmed and a number of speakers have agreed to give talks. I am sure you will all give Liz your support.

Sandra Blacker (Outgoing Chapter President)

After a successful outing to Down House we are now looking forward to the new programme of speakers and outings for the year ahead. We are very grateful to Beechwood School for their continued support of our organization. The comfortable room with good equipment and facilities is in an ideal central location for us.

We have a variety of inspired speakers lined up and are in the process of juggling the dates to suit them all. A Christmas party with entertainment and shared lunch has been planned for 6 December. A winter outing is also on the cards, perhaps to the Towner Gallery or Redoubt fortress in Eastbourne. Any ideas for future speakers would be gratefully received.

We look forward to welcoming members, visitors and hopefully some new recruits to all our activities.

Meetings: (at Beechwood School unless otherwise indicated)

20 September: Megan Farmer will speak on 'Mindfulness'.

Other dates: **11 October, 22 November, 24 January, 7 February, 7 March.**
Christmas event **6 December**, summer events to be confirmed.

Liz Malik (Incoming Chapter President)

STATE PRESIDENT 2013-2015

Diana Bell
24 De Montfort Road
London
SW16 1LZ
dbell_is@yahoo.co.uk

ALPHA CHAPTER PRESIDENT 2014-2016

Barbara Kern
22 Queensthorpe Road
Sydenham London SE26 4PH
kernb_j@yahoo.co.uk

BETA CHAPTER PRESIDENT 2014-2016

Jess Curtis
17 Hartley Avenue
Plymouth
Devon PL3 5HP
jess.curtis@unicombox.com

GAMMA CHAPTER PRESIDENT 2014-2016

Liz Malik
Chilston House Flat B
Pembury Road
Tunbridge Wells TN2 3QN
elizabethandfarid@btinternet.com

EDITORIAL TEAM

Diane Billam, Gail Gladwin

DISTRIBUTION

Kathy Hodgson

PRINTER

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

DKG WEBSITES

www.dkggb.org.uk
www.dkg.org www.dkgeurope.org

Mission Statement

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