



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

GREAT BRITAIN NEWS



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On page 23 there is a reminder that we need new Chapter Officers for the next biennium, 2012—2014. Do please think about putting yourself forward for one of these offices.



A medieval roof-boss from Southwark Cathedral—or maybe it's a Green Man? See Diana Bell's report.

This edition shares news of recent events within the Chapters, as well as updates on the European Forum Committee meeting in Tampere, Finland, and a report from Kate York on her activities as European Regional Director.

It also gives some more information on our next GB State Conference on March 23-25 at The Friars, Aylesford, Kent.

Please let me have any contributions for the next edition of GB News, by post or email, by 23 April. Text in Word or similar is best. Accompanying photos are especially welcome!

The photo on the front cover shows the cake made for Beta Chapter's 30th Birthday Celebration. Congratulations Beta!

Stop Press!

On 18 December, Claire Purcell of Alpha Chapter gave birth to daughter Olivia Rose.

Both doing well. Congratulations from us all!

LETTER FROM THE STATE PRESIDENT

Spring is in the air - well we hope it will be soon. I wish everyone an excellent 2012. A special welcome to our new members in each chapter. I hope to meet you all at our State Conference in March. The diary dates for all three chapters seem full of interesting visits and meetings and it's great to be able to participate in the various functions - when distance allows.



A very important diary date is our State Conference, the weekend of 23rd-25th March. The theme is 'Rising to the Challenge' - the challenge of educational needs, inclusion and enhancing musical talent. This year we have booked a venue with a difference, Aylesford Priory. The priory, founded in 1242, is absolutely beautiful, and is sited on the banks of the River Medway, close to Maidstone in Kent. It was originally a Carmelite Priory but when Henry V111 decided on his policy of Dissolution of Monasteries, the monks were evicted and it was given to Sir Thomas Wyatt. (He was born at nearby Allington Castle and we are delighted that Gail Gladwin will be talking about his life and work on Saturday evening). The Carmelite order bought the priory back in 1949 and have repaired and renovated extensively. Plus, one of the highlights is the wonderful carvings done by a Polish Carmelite, and the famous pottery made on site and for sale. To add to the delights of the venue, the food is very good and the price amazing. Where else could you find 2 nights' accommodation and all meals from Friday to Sunday afternoon for around £100?

Ours speakers will be inspiring. In the morning, our keynote speaker, Dr. Jacqui Ashton Smith, Head of Helen Allison School for Autistic Children, who is an expert in Education and Autism, will talk particularly about the different ways Autism manifests itself in girls and their specific needs. There will be plenty of time for questions. Later in the morning Kevin Sewell, registered blind, will talk about his experience of education and how he has managed success in the face of adversity. In the afternoon, Aidan Scahill, a recently qualified teacher, will talk to us about developing enthusiasm for music in primary schoolchildren, especially in 'uninterested' boys. It should be a lively session. Please see the programme for further details, including - not least - entertainment in this issue and send in your booking forms asap.

The summer highlight is the International Convention in New York. Look at the DKG website for booking details. We will be staying at the ideally placed New York Sheraton. The programme is looking truly amazing. (And for us Europeans New York has to be the closest international venue yet.) Book early and get good flight deals.

Another very important feature for this year is chapter officer elections. There will be training for incoming Chapter President, Vice President and Treasurer on Friday, early evening at the Aylesford Conference. No doubt chapters are currently involved in election of officers - and a sign of a chapter not flourishing is a dearth of people wishing to take on responsibilities. Maybe some of you feel reluctant to put yourself forward as an officer, but

please don't be modest—if I could do it, then anybody can! Remember, there is plenty of help and expertise in each chapter to support the role. Responsibilities can be divided up between interested members so no one person carries everything. Please give serious thought to helping your chapter forward!

Lastly our various State Committees are forging ahead with achieving the objectives of our Strategic Action Plan. Also fund raising for our joint DKG/ UNICEF project of Schools for Africa is flourishing, with money donated from book sales, Christmas cards and donations from showing the film, 'The First Grader' to friends.

I look forward to seeing everybody at Aylesford in March.

Sheila Roberts

**DELTAKAPPAGAMMA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
NEW YORK 24—28 JULY 2012**



Kate York's wonderful photo of the Statue of Liberty should whet your appetite to go to the International Convention. This is always a most interesting and sociable experience.

For information about registration and accommodation go to the International Website www.dkg.org and follow the links to the International Convention. You also need to organise flights soon as availability will reduce as time progresses—it's London Olympics time as well!

TRAVELLING ON

Since the Regional Conference in Baden-Baden I have continued to travel on behalf of Europe, but I have also been on holiday, which involved yet more travelling! More of that later.

I accepted an invitation to Estonia at the end of August for a meeting of both their chapters, which amounts to a State Meeting really. Arriving on the day before the official meeting, I was met by Margarita (the State President). We spent the evening with Antoinette (Teta) Minuzzo and her friend, Margaret, who 'just happened' to be in Tallinn as part of a Baltic tour. The following day, we all attended the meeting, which was held in the Education Room at the Outdoor Museum. (Di Billam will remember our last visit in March, when there was thick snow on the ground.) I was very impressed by the progress which had already been made with SAP; chairs of various committees outlined their aims and the means by which they planned to achieve them. We were entertained with some regional music, played on traditional instruments. An MP came to tell us about the challenges of being a woman in parliament. She is convinced that the main weakness about parliamentary procedure is that other MPs don't read briefing documents properly, if at all! I had been asked to emphasise the international aspects of DKG, so I outlined my own story about the increase in my international visits, friends, and outlook since becoming fully involved at regional and international levels, as well as with my own chapter and state.

In mid-September we took a 'proper' holiday—24 days on the P&O *Aurora*. Sailing from Southampton, we crossed the Atlantic to New York, where the ship moored within walking distance of Times Square. This gave me 2 days in which to see the 'lie of the land' and to visit some highlights which I might not manage next July. I have included some photographs to whet your appetite if you haven't already booked your room! Unfortunately, we were unable to visit Newport (fog) Bar Harbour (delayed in Portland due to an electrical propulsion problem), or St Johns, Newfoundland (weather too stormy to enter the harbour). However, we thoroughly enjoyed Boston, Portland, St John (New Brunswick), Halifax (Nova Scotia) and Quebec.

Towards the end of October, another flurry of DKG commitments took over. I went to Amsterdam for a 'handover meeting' between the Steering Committees of the last and next European Regional Conferences. These meetings are a valuable way of sharing experiences, answering questions, and passing on detailed reports about successful (and otherwise) aspects of the planning and organisation of the most recent conference.

The following weekend took me to Tampere in Finland with Di Billam, where we attended the November meeting of the Forum Committee. Di has written about our experiences there, so suffice it to say that we made detailed plans for the Forum meeting in New York. We also held extended discussions about what our Forum is trying to achieve.

After 2 days back home, I was off to Texas for a series of meetings held over 3 days. As RD for Europe, I serve 'ex officio' on the Committee of the International Speakers Fund. The opportunities provided by this fund are relatively under-used at present. Our plans included ways in which to advertise the scope of what an asset the fund can be. We looked at ways to widen the scope of the brief given to speakers, and decided that they could be requested as speakers at group meetings of chapters as well as at State Meetings. Speakers could even be involved in meetings or conferences run by outside organisations in partnership with DKG, resulting in a quality speaker as well as promoting the Society at the same time.

My second meeting was with Jensi Souders (International President), Corlea Plowman (Executive Director) and the other four Regional Directors. We shared the best and worst moments of our respective Regional Conferences and discussed experiences and ideas which might help with future planning.

The remaining 2½ days were spent on the agenda for the Administrative Board! At the time of writing, I have just received confirmation of the `Actions Taken` by the Board. My next task is to write to State Presidents in Europe with some commentary and background explanation about the significance and impact of the major items.

On the final day of the Board meeting, we were all given our allocations for visits as Society representatives to State Meetings in 2012. I was delighted to see that I will be able to attend the Great Britain Conference in March! I will also be going to Finland and Michigan in an `official` capacity, but hope to be able to attend other state meetings in Europe as a visitor as well.

Kate York
(Regional Director)



Kate took this picture as they sailed away down the river in the evening. The reflections were fabulous, but the picture was taken mainly to show the progress of rebuilding at Ground Zero. Eventually there will be 4 new towers. At the moment numbers 1 and 4 are under construction. The picture shows Tower 1 in the central background (with two cranes on top).

A half-day visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art (highly recommended) included a walk in Central Park. Kate loved the contrast between the tranquil lake and the city skyscrapers in the background. Our International Convention hotel, the Sheraton, is not too far from the Park!



EUROPEAN FORUM COMMITTEE MEETING TAMPERE, FINLAND: 4—6 NOVEMBER 2011



The photo shows the representatives from the member states, plus our European Regional Director, meeting in Tampere, Finland in early November. There were representatives from 8 of the 9 member states: the Denmark representative had hurt herself while horse riding and it had not been possible to find a replacement in the time available.

We were all made very welcome by our Chair, Eija Paukkuri, who very kindly provided bed and board for all but one of us who stayed with another member nearby. Her beautiful house is shown on page 9: she and her husband, Pepe, had designed it themselves to provide room for their large family. Another photo (page 8) shows the roses, blooming for the third time this year at a time when there would normally be at least a foot of snow and daytime temperatures below zero! Kate and I had started from her house in Westerham on Friday at 5 am, being driven by Tony to Heathrow Terminal 3 for a 7.30 flight. We landed in Helsinki, bought tickets for the coach, and as directed boarded the coach which we thought would take us directly to Tampere. We were rather alarmed to be dropped off in a layby, particularly as we were the only passengers on the coach and the driver did not speak any English – but all was well, another coach awaited us. We bought our return tickets, and were driven very swiftly through the Finnish countryside to Tampere, where we were met by Eija.

The group assembled during the afternoon and evening, and we were treated to reindeer stew and other Finnish specialities. On the Saturday morning we were driven in 2 cars to the school in Nokia (yes, the company was founded there!) where Eija is Head, and assembled in the staff room. The photo (page 9) shows the phone booth – such classy Scandinavian design! The meeting started at 9.30, and we worked very hard during the day to cover an extensive agenda. We considered a letter Dorothy had written which expressed her concerns about the Forum meeting in Baden-Baden, agreed that we had to do better in New York, and planned how we would do so. It was, however, considered that the pre-conference seminar had been very successful. We followed with discussion on

the future of DKG in Europe, and agreed that all the notes should be distributed to every member, via State and Chapter Presidents, so that everyone could be involved. We looked at the Standing Rules and worked on appropriate amendments, considered proposals from European member states, and accepted the budget for the meeting, including the Regional Director's expenses. The photo (page 9) shows the Sweden representative handing over the contribution of €1 per member which they have now agreed to make. All our European member states now make this contribution. We also discussed the European Achievement Award, and decided to recommend that €25 should be collected biennially, with a brooch or pin as appropriate.

We then looked at changes in the European Forum Committee in 2012, and agreed that the present mix of terms of 2 or 4 years made it possible to have some continuity, which is very important if we are to keep momentum going. We then developed an Action Plan for the New York meeting, concentrating particularly on the booklet which needs to be available for each member present. We thought the best format, 2 hours being the total time allowed, would be 1 hour for the business meeting, followed by short presentations by some members who had presented at the pre-conference seminar at Baden-Baden, and discussion by everybody of the educational issues which had been raised. We finished at 7 pm.

An excellent dinner back at Eija's followed, and we all felt we had achieved a great deal, particularly in building on our special European relationships. It is strongly recommended that all members join the DKG Social Network: go onto the website, where top right you will see Social Network, and log yourself on. You then become a member of the DKG Network, within which interest groups can be formed. Go for it!

Diane Billam (GB Representative, 2010-2012, European Forum Committee)

Fancy having roses in bloom in Finland in November! These are outside Eija's house.





A beautiful example of Finnish design—plenty of room for a big family!

This is another beautiful piece of design—it's the phone booth in the Staff Room at Eija's school—can you see the transparent sides to cut out noise?



A momentous occasion, when Catherine Bringselius hands over the Swedish contribution to the Regional Director's expenses. With her is Anu Ariste of Estonia.

WORLD TEACHERS DAY

WEDNESDAY 5 OCTOBER 2011

Where would 'Professional Women Educators' mark this auspicious day – in a school of course! Eight members of Alpha and Gamma Chapters made the intrepid journey to the Oasis Academy in downtown Coulsdon. Because of building works on site the head teacher arranged for us to park at the Coulsdon Manor Hotel, where he picked us up in the school mini bus.

At the time we visited, the school resembled a building site but there were no excuses, the school was functioning as usual, everyone was just getting on with it. We were escorted to the new sixth year area of the school: the sixth form has only started this year. Here we were given refreshments and had the opportunity to chat informally with the recently elected Head Boy – George. George epitomised the whole school ethos; pupils are supported not criticised and the child is at the centre of a 'hub' which cares for every aspect of their life not just academic success. As the child is at the centre, the school becomes involved with families and their needs as well. There is a centre on the site where parents can come to receive help with anything. There is a plan to have a G.P.'s surgery and hopefully, a brand new primary school all on site.

George spoke to the whole group about the changes he had seen in the school in the last three years since it had become an Oasis Academy. He spoke about a 'bad' school where he had only had his brother to look up to, but now it is a 'good' school he feels the school and its staff are his support. The change in the school is reflected by the change in his life and has given him a sense of purpose. He has defined a career path for himself and aims to become an officer in the Royal Marines. A very impressive young man and one the school is very proud of.

David Millar is the inspirational head of the school and epitomises the whole Oasis ethos. He spoke about the school which he and his staff have taken from a school in special measures to one which Ofsted now rate as good with aspects of outstanding, in just three years! He told us of the school's zero tolerance policies, their uniform policy and their aim to make every pupil feel proud to belong to a school which cares for and supports them. The child is at the centre of every decision and they know this. The staff are also fully supported and helped if needed. The feeling is one of being part of a family and also the community.

We left feeling that we had been somewhere very special and wishing all schools could be like this. We asked if it were possible for us to visit once the builders had left and the school was using the new buildings, David assured us we would be most welcome. We can't wait!

Carole Stirling (Gamma Chapter)



David Millar showing members round the school.



THE OASIS STORY

Everyone loves a good story. Even in primary school `storytime` was something we would look forward to. For just a few minutes our imaginations would be stretched and our hearts would leap as we heard of heroes and heroines, of lands undiscovered and amazing adventures.

At Oasis we believe we have a story to tell. It is a story of hope and transformation; of community and peacemaking; of inclusion and equality; of the ending of injustice and the coming of wholeness. It is a vision for community—a place where everyone is included, making a contribution and reaching their God-given potential. But it isn't just a story. Instead, at Oasis we are committed to all of this becoming reality; to seeing people and communities transformed and we do this by developing Oasis Hubs. Beliefs always drive behaviour and right at the heart of this Oasis vision is a clear set of beliefs and a strong ethos. It is this ethos that acts as the lens which guides all our work, our approach and our behaviour. Our ethos is expressed in five clear statements:

- **A passion to include everyone**
- **A desire to treat everyone equally, respecting differences**
- **A commitment to healthy and open relationships**
- **A deep sense of hope that things can change and be transformed**
- **A sense of perseverance to keep going for the long haul.**

Our desire is that wherever anyone encounters Oasis, it is this ethos that they will experience, whether that be in one of our Academy schools, housing projects, youth work, children's centres or any other area of Oasis. Ethos must come first; and when it does, it makes the world of difference.

Jill Rowe

(Oasis Ethos Development and Resourcing Director)

Alpha Chapter

On 5 October I joined Gamma to celebrate World Teachers' Day with a visit to the OASIS Academy in Coulsdon. We met a wonderfully inspiring headteacher, and pupils who were really enjoying their school experience. The Head Boy 'spoke from the heart' and was a delight, a credit to his school. (see report on previous pages).

Later that week Alpha, with Gamma members, walked along the Thames on a 'Bell's Guided Tour' (see article). We returned via Borough Market and after an excellent lunch upstairs at the George (and slight detour) we arrived at London South Bank University. At our meeting Hilary Goy proved to be an excellent speaker; we thoroughly enjoyed her interesting illustrated talk about the Girton pioneers. Hilary's research showed that one lady had even written in her diary how bored she was – they were not quite as expected! I am delighted that Hilary has now joined Alpha.

Our lively meeting brought much discussion and ideas for the future. We have been asked to re-visit some places that members had missed. We are also looking at ways of raising money for the 'Schools for Africa' Project, and are keen to recruit new Alpha members.

Our November meeting started with a tour of Southwark Cathedral. Although there were only six of us we were given the most wonderful guided tour by David Payne, the Visitor's Officer. The Cathedral is so full of history, and David made it so interesting, that we ran over time. As our speaker was coming a long way we decided to ask if he could manage another date. This turned out well as the trains were causing problems that day.

We had our Christmas social at my house on 10 December. So many people were generous with food that we had a mighty spread. It was good to just have a relaxing time and chat. I am delighted to report that Anna Evans, a retired headteacher, has joined Alpha Chapter.

Future Meetings and Events:

Saturday 21 January 2012. Norna Moses is speaking about her jobs in the education world since retiring as a headteacher. Her latest job involves working with a school that trains new teachers. 2.00pm at Dulwich Hamlet Junior School, Dulwich Village, London SE21 7AL. Lunch 12.15 onwards in the Crown and Greyhound, Dulwich Village.

Thursday 23 February 2012. Wellcome Trust Curator, Kate Forde, will talk and show us around two exhibitions: *The Incurably Curious* and *Miracles and Charms*. 11.00am at The Wellcome Trust Museum, 215 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE. Just across the road and up from the British Library. There is a good cafe at the Wellcome Trust, so meet for coffee from 10.30am.

Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 March 2012. GB State Conference at Aylesford Priory, 'The Friars', Aylesford Kent ME20 7BX. Very reasonably priced interesting weekend, see website for more information.

Saturday 21 April 2012. Warren Stuart will speak about promoting learning in prisons at many levels. He will focus on the development and delivery of mental health awareness for prison staff; developing care skills training for prisoner-carers and the development of a reflective learning tool specifically for criminal justice workers. Walk and lunch beforehand. Meet outside at 1.50pm for a 2.00pm start at London South Bank University, London Road, Elephant and Castle.

Saturday 19 May 2012. Visit to Highgate Cemetery. Details nearer the time.

Saturday 30 June 2012. Unity Harvey will speak about 'The Value of the Wetlands'. 2.00pm DHJS. Lunch 12.15 onwards in the Crown and Greyhound, Dulwich Village. Morning visit to be arranged.

Diana Bell (*Alpha Chapter*)

Bell's Guided Tour: A Walk by the Thames

Alpha Chapter were joined by Gamma members at London Bridge Station, (the first proper London railway terminal). We crossed the road near London Bridge which, until the 18th century, was the only bridge across the Thames. This version, completed in 1973, is at least the fourth bridge on the site.

We went down Nancy's steps, just on London Bridge. These were made famous by Charles Dickens in *Oliver Twist*. Nancy is overheard talking on these steps about Oliver, and this leads to Bill Sykes taking his revenge. At the bottom of the steps, in Montague Close, we saw the only remaining arch of Rennie's bridge built in 1831. In the photo you can see the Shard, the newest building in the area, due for completion in 2012. It will be the tallest building in Europe reaching 72 storeys and will include a spectacular viewing gallery at 800ft. It will have retail, the plush Shangri-La Hotel, offices and private apartments.

There has been a church on the site of Southwark Cathedral for over 1000 years. The Church of St Saviour and St Mary Overie (over the river) belonged to Augustinian monks, their buildings and lands were bought by Lord Montague at the dissolution of the monasteries. The church became the parish church in 1815, but it was cold and damp. As the railways were extended and the population grew, a new diocese was needed. A new nave was built in 1890 and the church became Southwark Cathedral. As we walked past the rear of Southwark Cathedral we saw the statue of Minerva and some amusing lights. We passed the Mudlark Pub, named after the children who scavenged along the Thames mud at low tide in the 19th century and before.



Cathedral and The Shard



The Mudlark Pub



The Statue of Minerva



The group in front of the Golden Hind



The start of our tour of Southwark Cathedral



The George Inn

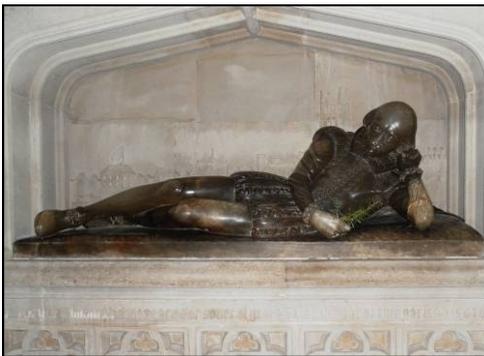
The old London Bridge of 1209 had 19 low narrow stone arches making it impossible for large vessels to get upstream. The river was slowed and often froze in winter, allowing fairs to take place on the frozen Thames. Rennie's Bridge had five arches. Vessels from all over the world could go upstream and trade here at places like St Mary Overie dock.

Nearby is the replica of the Golden Hind. This little ship encompassed the world in the 1570's with Sir Francis Drake. We watched one French student who, with his flag aloft, appeared to want to take the boat for France!

Nearby we looked at the remains of the Bishop of Winchester's palace. The bishop in medieval times was one of the most powerful men in the land. His London palace was huge. We saw the remains of his fine first-floor hall, mostly 13th century with a 14th century rose window. The three doors below belonged to the kitchen, buttery and pantry. The Bishop of Winchester had his own prison, 'The Clink', a particularly unpleasant place. It is now turned into a museum. We walked on along the river in the area known as Bankside. This area was low-lying and so a river wall was built. The area was outside the control of the City of London and so various unlicensed entertainments, such as theatres, bearpits and inns grew up in the late 16th century. The only inn still left is the Anchor built in 1775. Samuel Pepys sat in a 'little alehouse along the Bankside' on the evening of 6th September 1666 and watched the Great Fire burn most of the City of London.

As we reached the Globe Theatre we decided it was time for a coffee. Shakespeare belonged to a company of actors called The Lord Chamberlain's Men and wrote plays for the four local theatres, including the Globe. The original Globe had been dismantled in 1599 and re-erected in Bankside. It burnt down in 1613. The latest 1997 version is authentic in its construction, but has excellent fire safety features. After coffee we walked back towards Borough Market. We saw people queuing, most were men. Apparently they were there to taste whisky! We soon arrived at the George, the only surviving galleried inn in London. They serve good food.

Diana Bell *Alpha Chapter*, photographs by **Lavinia Soul** *Alpha Chapter*.



Memorial to William Shakespeare in Southwark Cathedral. He lived nearby when working in the Rose and Globe Theatres.

(photo by Di Billam)

Beta Chapter

To celebrate our 30th birthday (1981–2011) we decided to take ourselves out to lunch, to a pasta restaurant in historic Barbican, near to the place where the Pilgrim Fathers set out for America. I realise now, writing this, how very special it was that both Beryl and Loetitia were there who had been with the chapter from its earliest days. The day itself was made very special when Sheila, Mary, Evelyn and Gloria all joined us. The icing on the cake was, literally, that – Loetitia produced thirty delicious cup cakes for our dessert, all decorated in DKG colours (see front cover). After the meal, Zoe took us on a guided tour of the historic sites, until rain stopped play. But it wouldn't be Plymouth without the rain, would it! (For Evelyn's account, please see the GB website).

Following our 30th birthday celebrations in September, an event marked with many generous gestures of goodwill from Alpha and Gamma, and greatly enjoyed down here in Plymouth, we hardly drew breath before the 'Big Push' Taster Day arranged to take place in October. To our complete satisfaction, this generated not only a very welcome new member, but moved us as a chapter to a fuller understanding of our own aims and goals.

I am very happy to report we initiated Sue Blackburn on 5th November, and celebrated in traditional style with sparklers, lit from the DKG initiation candles! Sue gained a first degree in Ecology and has been teaching here in Plymouth University, where, during her last few years there, she became involved in working on wider educational issues with various centres of excellence in teaching and learning. She was also the widening-participation officer at Seale Hayne. In addition, until last year, she was a community director of the Millfields Development Trust in Stonehouse, helping to fine-tune their Widening Horizons programme. We feel very lucky to have her with us, and look forward to her talk planned for the new year.

Our Christmas lunch, very well attended, was a jolly affair, held at one of Plymouth's Yacht Clubs, which has magnificent views out to sea and nestles under the great wall of the Royal Citadel.

Forthcoming meeting will be on **Saturday 4 February 2012** 11 o'clock at 1 The Square, Stonehouse, Plymouth. Sue Blackburn will talk on ecology, teaching and learning. TBC



Gail Gladwin

(Beta Chapter)

The 30th Birthday!



GREAT BRITAIN STATE CONFERENCE 2012



The Friars, Aylesford Kent ME20 7BX

Friday 23 March—Sunday 25 March 2012

Rising to the Challenge



The challenge of special educational needs, the challenge of inclusion and the challenge of enhancing every child's musical talent

Saturday morning

Keynote Speaker:

Dr Jacqui Ashton Smith:

Education of Girls with Autism.

Dr Jacqui Ashton Smith has worked in the field of autism education for 30 years. She has been Principal of the National Autistic Society 'Helen Allison School' for 20 years.

Dr Ashton Smith has done extensive research into the different ways girls on the autistic spectrum present, and their specific educational needs. She will speak about raising awareness of autism in girls, in order to have an earlier, more accurate diagnosis and improve their quality of life and potential as adults.

Kevin Sewell: Success in Adversity.

Kevin, registered blind, via special school education, went on to attain an honours degree in English and Drama. He now works at a university as a skills lab technician. He will talk about the pros and cons of special schools.



Saturday afternoon

Aidan Scahill: Generating enthusiasm for music in primary school children.



Aidan, a former Scots Guards musician and now a primary school teacher, will show how, by introducing and involving pupils in many different musical genres, they become motivated and respond enthusiastically to his innovative methods.



Regional Director for Europe: Kate York will bring us European and International news of DKG from her many meetings overseas.

Great Britain State Annual Business Meeting

Canterbury Award

Other Conference Features Include:

Friday evening

Training for incoming chapter officers will be offered at 5.30pm

A talk by a Carmelite Brother: 20th Century Re-birth of an Ancient Priory

Singing with **Jess Curtis**



Saturday Evening

Gail Gladwin: A talk on the Medieval poet Thomas Wyatt, past owner of Allington Castle.

Dancing with **Dorothy Haley.**

Sunday Morning

A trip along the River Medway on the Allington Belle

Sunday Lunch at the Priory.



Please refer to the GB Website for details of accommodation and Registration Form. www.deltakappagamma.org/GB

GAMMA CHAPTER

As I sit here surrounded by Christmas cards, holly and a beautiful Christmas tree I realize that another year has whizzed by! What an eventful year it has been. The summer was every bit as enjoyable as I had hoped. We all had a wonderful time in Steinbach, enjoying time with our European friends and admiring the wonderful scenery. The cruise on three rivers was a delight and a time to admire the amazing German cities and countryside. I know that everyone had a special time.

It didn't seem long before we were all gathering for our September meeting. We were very privileged to watch a film on which Sandra Blacker's daughter had been part of the production team. The film is called 'The First Grader' and tells the story of an 84 year old Kenyan man claiming his right to a free education. I think most members of Gamma Chapter had one or two tears, I know I did but the pop corn and choccies helped to cheer us up. It certainly made you think about the true meaning of education and how our society takes it for granted. If you have the chance to see the film please take the opportunity. We used it as a starting point for a discussion on how we could become involved in raising money for 'Schools for Africa'.

On October 5th (World Teacher's Day) members of Alpha and Gamma Chapter were fortunate enough to visit an Oasis Academy in Coulsdon. It was an inspirational day and we all came away wishing that all schools could have a staff and head teacher who had the same ethos and good practice we witnessed. Hopefully this is the shape of things to come! We hope to make a return visit so if anyone else would like to join us watch out for information. There is a full report elsewhere in GB News.

Several of us joined Alpha to enjoy a very special 'Bell's Amazing Tour' along the South Bank. This was followed by a delicious lunch, and a scenic walk to South Bank University to listen to a very interesting talk by Hilary Goy on 'The Girton Pioneers' – a very enjoyable day.

At our meeting on the 5th November Jo Blamires from the 'Kent Autistic Trust' spoke to us about autism and the help and support there is available for parents. This was a very enlightening talk. She spoke clearly about autism and the huge range of behaviours within the spectrum. This was a lady who knew her stuff! She helped us to appreciate the difficulties experienced by pupils and the frustrations felt by parents. In all a very informative meeting.

Our Christmas meeting was held at Robbie's house and was a social rather than a business meeting. Irene Walker demonstrated some of the techniques of card making and we had the opportunity to make three of our own – great fun !!! This was followed by a shared lunch and a lot of laughing and chatting. As always we have to thank Robbie for opening her house to us and for the hospitality shown to us. We were thrilled to welcome two new members, Claudette Law and Sheila Bulley. Very exciting to welcome new faces. Unfortunately we were sad to find out that Martine Perus has a new teaching post in Dubai, which means that she will not be able to attend our meetings. However she has promised to keep in touch and we are, of course, thrilled for her that she has this great opportunity and we wish her every happiness and success.

2012 has finally arrived and we have the Olympics to look forward to as well as all our Gamma meetings. Our first meeting of the new year is on **14 January** when Sheila Brazier, a JP, will talk to us about the justice system and present us with various scenarios which we will have the opportunity to make judgements on and pronounce sentences. I think it should be very challenging.

I have been in touch with UNICEF in the hope that they could provide a speaker on their 'Schools for Africa' project but unfortunately they do not provide speakers. Please watch the web site for details of the February meeting. However please put the date in your diaries now, **4 February**.

Our State Conference is **23—25 March** and our April meeting will be a bluebell walk so the date will be decided nearer the time, Sheila will keep us informed when the bluebells are at their best.

Our May meeting is on the 19th at Beechwood as usual followed by an outing in June. Please put all dates in your diaries and watch the web site for details.

It only remains for me to wish you all an amazing new year and hope that 2012 is good to you all.

Carole Stirling (*Gamma Chapter*)

MAKING CHRISTMAS CARDS



As Carole Stirling says in her report, Gamma Chapter's Christmas celebrations included a very enjoyable card-making session, led by Irene Walker (in black and white jumper below). As you can see from the photo below we were all concentrating hard, and making a lot of mess!

On the left, Ros Price shows off her very commendable effort.

A really enjoyable party—thank you Carole for arranging this and Robbie Scahill for hosting.



Your Chapter needs you!!

It's time to elect our new Chapter Officers for the next biennium:

2012–2014.

We need a new President, Vice-President and Treasurer for each Chapter. Training is being provided at the State Conference in March, and we need to have held the elections before then.

Your current Chapter President has the matter in hand—but why don't you put yourself forward for one of these offices? There is plenty of assistance, advice and help available from other members, some of whom may have filled those offices themselves.

Go on—go for it!

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Mission Statement

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