



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

GREAT BRITAIN NEWS



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The photograph on the front cover (taken by the Editor) shows the Royal Barge, *Gloriana*, used by the Royal Family for the Jubilee Regatta, and relocated to the Olympic Park. Notice the reflection!

2012 – what an amazing year! The Jubilee Regatta, the Olympics, the Paralympics – so much both pleasure and pride for the whole country. For DKG GB it was also a very successful year. Look at the front of the three 2012 editions of the GB Newsletter to see how active and enterprising we were. Spring 2012 showed a picture of one of Loetitia's beautiful cup cakes, made specially to celebrate Beta Chapter's 30th Birthday. Summer 2012 showed our State President and European Regional Director with Brigitte Wichmann from Germany and Margarita Handschmidt from Estonia on one of the lawns at the venue for our GB Conference, a sunny Aylesford Priory. Autumn 2012 showed the European contingent at the International Convention in New York in July, where so much was going on.

2013 promises to be just as exciting, with our GB Conference in Tonbridge in March, and the European Regional Conference in Amsterdam in August. Meantime our Chapters continue to enjoy a range of activities which we shall hear more about in due course. Enjoy your membership of DKG International!

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!

Sheila Roberts
STATE ORGANISATION PRESIDENT: 2011-2013

Greetings and a sincere wish that 2013 will be a very good year for everybody. For all three chapters, the Autumn term has seen plenty of interesting visits and meetings culminating in successful Christmas celebrations.

The next big event, when all of us can come together, is our annual State Conference. This year it will be a day conference on 23 March, held in the very modern and attractive River Conference Centre, in Tonbridge, Kent. The centre is only a five minute walk from Tonbridge Station. For those who prefer to drive, the centre has its own private secure car park. The theme of this year's conference is 'Recognition and Support of Pupils' Needs in Mainstream Schools'. All of our conference speakers are experienced practitioners who are experts in their fields.

Kate Weedon, London, is a paediatric speech and language therapist and will help us explore how we communicate and how to identify and help those with communication difficulties.

Pauline Maddison, also London, currently Director of Children's Services in Wokingham, has been a senior advisor on School Standards for Department for Education (DFE) and also Advisor on performance improvement for Children's Services. She will talk on improving the life chances of the most disadvantaged children.

Dr Adriana Fishta-Bejko is our International Speaker, based in Canada. She will talk about teaching non-native speakers of English in her presentation on 'Equity and Equality in Education'. Kate York has heard her speak and says her presentations are truly amazing.

We are also delighted that Marika Heimbach our DKG European Regional Director based in Germany, will be joining us officially. Marika, as most of you know, is a lively, well informed representative who will be bringing us up-to-date with any initiatives and developments from HQ in Austin, Texas.

Please display the flyers, invite non-members to come and return the booking forms as soon as you can so that we can make this a really worthwhile event, both educationally and socially. We have such excellent presenters of the highest calibre that I really hope we show them that we, in GB State DKG, are a committed and enthusiastic group of educators

The other big event of the year is the European Regional Conference in Amsterdam, 7 -10 August. The Regional Conferences are always great events and as one of the liveliest European cities, this one in Amsterdam promises to be no exception. I look forward to seeing as many GB members as possible there.

At the time of going to press our contributions for Schools for Africa Fund stands at £825 (see *Carole's notes on Schools for Africa below for details*). Well done everyone who has contributed to this joint enterprise. Raffles, selling books and other things, film showing, donations in place of Christmas cards, and even a Murder Mystery Day, have all helped raise this very decent total.

Finally, as my biennium comes to an end in June, please give plenty of thought to electing a new GB President for 2013-2015. Please don't hide your talents - take on a leadership role! I know first hand the wonderful level of support you will receive. In so saying, I thank the many of you who have helped me through the last couple of years. Particular thanks must go to Gloria, Kate, Kathy and Diana for their hard work and the tremendous support, advice and guidance they have unstintingly given me. Many thanks also to Di for her hard work in editing GB News and to Mary for her patient form-filling. Thank you.

Editor's note: see further information on Kate Weedon in the Gamma Chapter Report on page 20 and on the Murder Mystery event on page 18

SCHOOLS FOR AFRICA

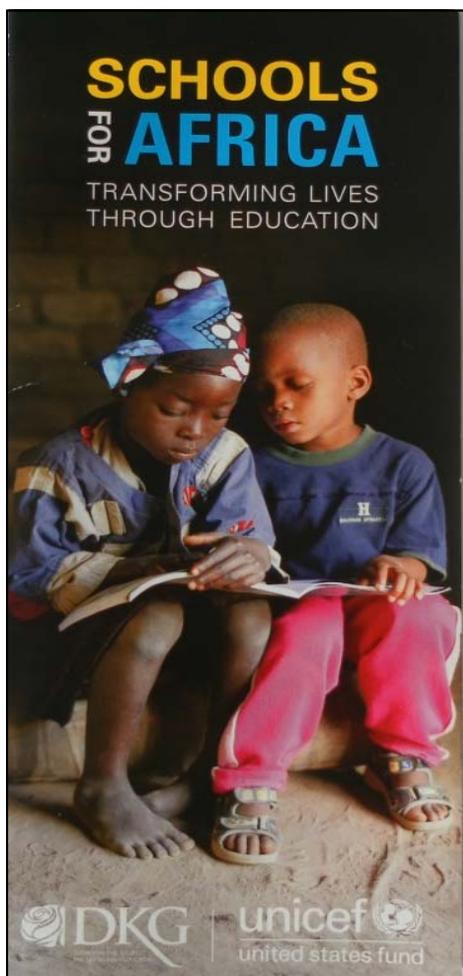
In 2011 the state of DKG Great Britain decided to support the 'Schools for Africa' campaign as part of our World Fellowship. 'Schools for Africa' is a joint campaign founded by UNICEF, the Nelson Mandela Foundation and Hamburg Society for the Promotion of Democracy and International Law in 2004 to promote education for children in Africa. The campaign aims to increase access to quality basic education for children with a special focus on girls, orphans and vulnerable children.

The campaign initially worked in Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa and Zimbabwe. This was extended in 2009 to include Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Ethiopia and Madagascar. In these countries UNICEF is working with governments, local authorities, communities and other partners to:

- build and rehabilitate 1,000 schools;
- create schools that offer a safe and protective environment where children can learn and play;
- provide access to clean water and separate sanitation facilities for boys and girls in those schools;
- supply exercise books, pens, proper furniture and other school and sports materials;

- train 100,000 teachers to provide children with quality education and basic life skills;
- educate children about proper hygiene and HIV prevention; this knowledge is passed on to siblings, parents and the community at large.

In the period 2011 – August 2012, £464.70 was banked. £100 of this was from Gamma chapter, collected from book sales, raffles etc. Another £297 was donated from Beta and Gamma and £67 from Alpha. On the strength of this the delegates attending the conference in New York took with them £500 in cash which they paid into HQ.



Since September we have already had £250 banked for the cause - £150 from Alpha's murder/mystery evening and a £100 donation from Dorcas in lieu of her attending the New York conference. Gamma chapter has collected £75 at their Christmas social from the sale of walnuts from Sheila's garden in France and donations made in lieu of sending Christmas cards to each other. It is amazing how quickly small amounts of money add up!

I urge all of you to decide as a chapter how you are going to fund raise this year and make a real difference. Please share all your brilliant ideas with the other chapters; if you send ideas to me I will pass them on. Thank you for all your hard work and I encourage you to 'get fund-raising'! Let's make 2012/13 a record breaker. **THANK YOU.**

Carole Stirling (Gamma Chapter)

CANTERBURY STUDENTS IN NORTHERN UGANDA

As a Governor of Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys, Canterbury, I have been very proud of our sponsorship of students at Dr Obote College in Northern Uganda for 11 years. Each Langton House (there are four, named after former students who were killed in the First World War) sponsors at least 2 students, raising money to help pay for their schooling and accommodation during term time for as long as required. We are proud to have assisted 20 students in this way in the past, and are giving every support to the 9 Dr Obote College students currently being sponsored.

We have enjoyed teacher exchange visits before, but this year was the first visit of Langton students to the College. Four Langtonians who completed their A Levels in the summer, have taken a gap year and travelled to Uganda. Their 3 month visit will strengthen the link between our schools, and will undoubtedly change the way they view the world. As one student relates: `The Head Teacher's programme keeps us all on our feet from 6 in the morning until 10 most nights – yet they are so eager to study, to work. After being here for a week, it becomes only too clear how vital the link between our schools is, not just for them, but for us as well. We have so much to learn from each other`. Another relates how on a visit to the home of one of the teachers, they stopped at a Memorial at Barlonyo. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) headed by Joseph Kony in 2004 killed more than 200 people in one day here. In the early 21st century the North of Uganda, near the South Sudanese border, was a dangerous and volatile place. Many farming families were forced off their land by the threat that the LRA posed. A majority of the displaced people collected in camps such as the one at Barlonyo, which housed 11,000 people, protected by 60 government troops.

There is so much to do in supporting education in Africa – whether by individual schools or by organisations such as DKG and Unicef.

Diane Billam (Gamma Chapter)

Simon Langton students getting down to marking some work!





Dr Obote College students

EUROPEAN FORUM COMMITTEE MEETING

2 & 3 NOVEMBER 2012

This year's meeting of the European Forum Committee was held in Paterswolde, in the northern part of The Netherlands. We met at the home of Riet Smits, who is currently Chair of the Steering Committee for the 2013 European Regional Conference. I had not expected to be representing Great Britain at the meeting but our State president, Sheila Roberts, had a long-standing prior commitment on 3 November.

Unfortunately the Regional Director, Marika Heimbach, was prevented from attending the meeting by a clash of dates – the DKG Administrative Board was meeting at the same time in Austin, Texas. However, each European member state of DKG was represented. The main business of the meeting was to plan and organise events to be held at the Regional Conference in Amsterdam next August: the pre-conference seminar and the meeting of the European Forum. The topic selected for the pre-conference day is 'Education for Everyone'. State Presidents were to be asked to nominate appropriate speakers from among their members by early December.

An innovative development was the introduction of a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for the Forum. The main objective will be to 'activate the goals' of the Forum so that ideas are turned into action!

The Forum Operational Guidelines were reviewed. It was agreed to recommend incorporating some flexibility regarding the date on which the committee meets – this would make it possible to avoid a future clash with the autumn meeting of the Administrative Board. The suggestion from Jess Curtis (Beta Chapter GB), made previously at this year's Forum meeting in New York, about a contemporary alternative to the original DKG song was re-introduced and clarified. Members of the committee liked the suggestion and agreed to take it back to their own states for discussion, with a view to turning the idea into action at the meeting in Amsterdam.

Maintaining continuity for the conduct and business of the Forum was discussed at some length. The outcome was the suggestion that the Forum needs a 'consultant', something akin to the role of a parliamentarian, to be able to answer questions regarding previous decisions and procedures. It was decided to invite Diana Bell (Alpha Chapter, GB) to take on this advisory position. With regard to the European Forum website, the following recommendation was made:

Activities of the European states, and all minutes of Forum meetings, are to be put on the European Forum website, run by the European Webmaster. The advisory committee which supports the webmaster will be asked to oversee further use and development of the website, which will include ensuring that all items posted by member states are up to date, and that news of events in each country is published promptly.

Considerable concern was expressed about the dates currently being allocated for European Regional Conferences and the following was recommended:

In 2015 the European Regional Conference will be held in Sweden. It is crucial that the dates of the conference are suitable for all our members. The EF Committee members will ask the State Presidents to send Ingibjörg information about the school summer holidays in their countries. Having this information the Regional Director has good grounds for discussing the dates with International Headquarters.

Unless dates can be found which fall within the holiday periods for each of the European member countries, there will continue to be members who are unable to attend because they will be back in school!

Overall, it was a very positive and forward-looking meeting. Committee members communicated well and the discussion was sometimes quite 'robust', but the outcomes were congenial and differing points of view were respected. There was very little 'spare' time, but during the lunch break on the full day of the meeting, our host took us for a brief visit to the Museum De Buitenplaats te Elde, where she serves as a guide. Research on Google will show what an unusual and interesting place this proved to be!

Kate York (*Gamma Chapter*)



From left:

*Oddny Damsgaard (Norway),
Kate York (GB), Catherine
Bringselius Nilsson (Sweden),
Anu Ariste (Estonia), Ingibjorg
Jonasdottir (Iceland), Riet Smits
(Netherlands), Kamini Nielsen
(Denmark), Heli Pikkila
(Finland), Dagmar Ullmann
(Germany).*

Don't forget we need nominations for State Officers for 2013—2015, and for the Great Britain Achievement Award! (see page 10)

NOMINATION OF STATE OFFICERS 2013—2015

Our current State President, Sheila Roberts, will complete her biennium in office on 1 July 2013. Nominations for her successor, and for a new Vice State President, are invited and a form is enclosed for this purpose. Please give careful thought to members who you would like to see considered for these important posts and do try very hard to persuade them to stand for office. This may be difficult as some members live far away from the main group so travel costs may be a problem, others may claim to be too busy with work or family ties and say that they have done it before and it is time for others to have the opportunity. Persuade them by mentioning the positive things of holding the office. Personal development in leadership and management, special friendships made with those who have done the work before and offer to help, a permanent seat available at Executive meetings, opportunities for yet higher office in the Society, friendships made with other Chapter members and those from abroad – travel opportunities. Good luck! The Society will not run without members holding these important positions.

Unity Harvey (*Alpha Chapter*)

GREAT BRITAIN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award, consisting of a rose brooch in silver and amber, is given every 2 years, and is Great Britain's way of honouring a DKG member for something special.

The criteria are:

must have been an active member for 5 years;

must have shown one or more of the following:

raised the profile of the society in Great Britain;

raised the profile of Great Britain within the European Region or

International Society through service or achievement within
the society;

;

shown distinguished personal development or courage in adversity so that it motivates others;

provided a special service for Great Britain State.

Please submit any nominations with a short citation (about 50 words) to Carole Stirling. The deadline is end February 2013. (Past recipients are Lillian Lynch, Phyllis Kern, Loetitia Stone, Pam Irons, Gloria Redston).

GREETINGS FROM ABROAD

Maud Thompson (Gamma Chapter) emails that she has not forgotten us! She has, however, had a very difficult year, attending to family matters both at home in France, and here in the UK. In particular there are concerns about her mother. Maud promises to keep in touch, and to write something for GB News next year if possible. She sends best wishes for the New Year.

Carol Dawson (Gamma Chapter) has recently visited, and we were very glad to see her with Robbie at our Christmas Party (see pages 22/23). She devotes much time to music, especially singing. She conducts a German choir, SingkreistMallorca, and has recently returned with the choir from a tour in Austria and Germany. She has also been asked to start a Mallorquin choir in her village in Mallorca, which she feels will be something of a challenge.

She has also met two English ladies who live there, another recorder player and a pianist, and they meet together to play each week, and have given concerts with the choir. She continues to meet with the group of ladies from the village who are eager to improve their English, and Robbie Scahill has also got to know these ladies on her visits. Carol continues to attend Spanish classes, and has just started Catalan as well! So—as she says in her email—there is never a dull moment! Whatever troubles Spain is enduring, in the villages people are getting on with life and continuing to enjoy their traditional Firas and Fiestas.



GREAT BRITAIN STATE CONFERENCE
23rd March, 2013
9.00 am—5.30 pm
The River Centre
Tonbridge

RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT OF PUPILS' NEEDS IN MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS

Speakers:

All of our conference speakers are experienced practitioners who are experts in their fields.

Keynote Speaker: Dr Adriana Fishta-Bejko



Adriana is our International Speaker, based in Canada, she will talk about teaching non-native speakers of English in her presentation entitled:

Teaching Everybody`s Children

Kate Weedon is a paediatric speech and language therapist working in London.

**Speech and Language Therapy -
Identifying and Supporting Children with
Communication Difficulties**



Pauline Maddison is currently Director of Children's Services in Wokingham, has been a senior advisor on School Standards for DFE and also Advisor on performance improvement for Children's Services.

**Improving the Life Chances of the
Most Disadvantaged Children**



Marika Heimbach Our DKG European Regional Director will be joining us officially. Marika will be bringing us up to date with any initiatives and developments from HQ in Austin, Texas as well as the latest plans for the Regional Conference in Amsterdam.

Other conference features include:

- A panel of 3 speakers with Marika speaking from the German perspective will answer questions from the audience
- Announcement of Officers for next biennium
- Recipients of the Great Britain Achievement Award and the Canterbury Award

Great Britain State Annual Business Meeting follows the conference

- After conference **Dinner (optional)**

Please refer to Registration Form (enclosed and on web-site) for conference expenses. Registration: will be from 9.00 am.

Please complete the form as soon as possible and PLEASE invite guests as they will be very welcome!



Welcome to the Olympic Park

I was fortunate enough to see both the athletics and Synchronised Swimming at the Olympic Park. It was a tremendous experience that began the moment I reached Stratford Station. There was a one-way system operating and large numbers of people walked through in a very orderly manner. A charming voice continually welcomed us and told us to keep right, walk straight through the barrier and not to use our train tickets. There were plenty of police and volunteers on the route, all helpfully answering questions, directing and welcoming people.

After the airline-type security check we were into the main site. Thousands of people milling around. In one area there was a feeling of 'big brother' as we were asked to 'keep walking and don't stop'. The friendly volunteers, in their purple and orange outfits, were everywhere, inviting a good atmosphere. People chatted to each other to find out what was happening when a roar went up.

We walked as far as the Velodrome, all very interesting: snacks being sold at a 'treat' Kiosk, the Athletes' Village with national flags hung from balconies and the beautiful planting along the canal areas where the Royal Barge was moored.

At last it was time to take our seats. We got to the main stadium and were able to have a look from the ground floor before we took our seats in the 'gods'. I must mention here that the stadium was ringed with WCs, mostly ladies, in fact there were so many that there was no queuing - a first! The main stadium was very grand. We climbed a large number of steep steps to our seats, with no desire to rush down again to buy a beer as many people seemed to be doing. After donning our Union Flags we awaited events. A 'warm-up' man put us through our paces, how loud could each section cheer, how to clap getting faster and faster. We were ready for the off!

Amazing how you can be watching the Shot Put or the Pole Vault and suddenly realise a race has begun. We would hear the gun a split second after the runners began. Sitting way above the cauldron we could see the heat-haze visible above it. The races were best viewed on TV, but for sheer atmosphere the stadium was the winner.



Diana`s ticket

Sadly Holly Bleasdale did not win her medal in the Pole Vault; it was interesting to see how few athletes actually got over the bar each time it was their turn. It looked harder than on TV, I wondered if all the clapping affected their concentration. Dai Greene did not win a medal either; I really wanted to wave my flag!

My hopes were raised a few days later on seeing GB in the Freestyle Synchronised

Swimming with a lovely piece about *Peter Pan and Tinkerbell* that allowed an amazing 'crocodile' formation. Spain also gave us an exciting performance, but Russia won - again!

Watching Usain Bolt's medal ceremony, the splendid woman from the Shot Put who looked so delighted taking her lap of honour, the hurdles being brought in with military precision and removed in the same way. The athletes were wonderful, giving their all, but I was so proud of the organisation from beginning to end. That also deserved a medal.

Diana Bell (Alpha Chapter)

Diana`s view of the Stadium



THE PARALYMPICS



The Stadium at night, with the cauldron shown on the television

I was lucky enough to attend the last day of the Paralympics in the Olympic Park. It was a scorching hot day to explore the Park, seeking shade wherever we could find it. We had tickets for the evening session, and as you can see from the photos, we were only a few rows back from the track, with the finishing line on our right, and the specially designed podium for the award ceremony in front of us.

The athletes are inspirational: we watched sitting javelin from wheelchairs, shot-put by women no more than four feet tall, high-jump by people with only one arm or artificial legs, running by people with one or two artificial legs, and the really exciting wheelchair racing. The sound of 80,000 voices urging racers on is something never to forget. The stadium after dark was stunning, with the torches gleaming against the darkening sky. We finished around 11 pm, and helped by the marvellous volunteers, we all found our way to Stratford Regional or International, or the Under-ground. I was so proud to be British.

Diane Billam (Gamma Chapter)



Wheelchair racers preparing to receive their awards.

Oscar Pistorius on his 'everyday' legs to receive his award



Oscar Pistorius of South Africa on his running legs

ALPHA CHAPTER REPORTS

In August I hosted a Murder Mystery Dinner which raised £150 for our 'Schools for Africa Project'. The service was excellent (Thank you Kevin and Ray) and the guests pretty much got into the spirit of things. (*see report on next page*)

On 15 September we met for a buffet lunch at Dulwich Hamlet Junior School. This gave everyone a chance to have a chat and settle in. Claire Purcell showed members the wonderful up-to-date attractive classroom full of new technology. This was my first meeting as Chapter President and I wanted members to explore how they saw the Chapter moving forward over the next two years. I am hoping to capitalise on all of the best that we currently offer but also look for areas to improve. In this way I hope to pass on a strong legacy to the next Chapter President in 2014. I asked members to explore where we are, and where we want to be in two years' time. This allowed for plenty of discussion. Members not present were asked to send in their ideas.

In October we visited the market near Maltby Street; mainly excellent cheese, wine, cold meats and vegetables - we should have brought our shopping trolleys! We met our speaker, Pauline Maddison, for lunch at an interesting old pub on the way to London South Bank University. Pauline has had a distinguished career in many aspects of Children's Services. In her fascinating and lively talk she explored the history of provision, as well as examining current priorities and trends. She spoke movingly about improving the life chances of the most disadvantaged children. If you missed out on Pauline's inspiring talk then make sure you come to the GB conference on 23 March as she will be speaking again. At the meeting we discussed membership and publicity for our meeting in April. We were delighted to hear the news that Claire is expecting her second child. Diana was presented with a card and gift to thank her for her work as Chapter President.

Our November meeting began with a fascinating presentation by Sheelagh Mealing on the training and development of the 'unqualified work force' within our nursing profession. Sheelagh outlined her work at London Southbank University, where her department offers relevant and much-needed training courses to support this important NHS workforce. Members found many parallels within the education world. Using ideas collated from the previous meeting, members continued the discussion on the way forward for Alpha Chapter. 'We meet, discuss and explore ideas through regular meetings and outings', seemed brief and to the point. We may use this on the flyer for our membership drive.

Future Meetings and Events:

19 January: 12.30-2.30 join us for the postponed Christmas celebration of our DKG membership. Please let Dorcas know if you are coming and what food you will bring. At 2.30 we will share an update on news and events. At 3.30 we have 2 speakers: Barbara Kern will share her experience of being involved in the Opening Ceremony of the Paralympics, and Naomi Riches, MBE, will talk about becoming a Paralympian Gold Medallist. The venue is Holy Trinity Church, 3 Bryan Road, Rotherhithe, London SE16 5HF..

9 February. 2.00pm. London South Bank University. Sarah will speak about 'The lived experience of home education'. Full meeting afterwards.

16 March. Brunswick Square 11.00 – 2.00pm, a visit to the Foundling Hospital. Short meeting afterwards.

23 March. State Conference.

20 April. 2.00pm, Institute of Education. Cindy Glover will speak about a current project to develop self-help groups with early stage dementia. Liz Day will speak on Improving London Schools. This is a special 'Membership' Drive which we will advertise. Do bring guests along.

18 May. 11.00 - 2.00pm, Hampstead, visit to Willow Road, or Fenton House and Gardens, (National Trust Properties). Short meeting afterwards.

15 June. 2.00pm. London South Bank University Talk by Sandra Doyle who will focus on her work as an illustrator and volunteer for the Natural History Museum.

July. TBA. Visit Brixton Market and Windmill.

Dorcas Rogers (*Chapter President*)

MURDER MYSTERY—A FUND RAISING EVENT

August 18th 1961 (well 2012 really) saw a group of 7 acquaintances meeting for lunch at "Mama's Kitchen", Soho (well 40 Somerford Way really). They had come together to have a little bite to eat and a glass of wine or two in the convivial cafe that was run by Mama Cornetto and her son Fabio. Their guests that afternoon included Talcy Malcy a music business manager, Clint Westworld a former Hollywood actor (very dodgy sporting a pink coy-boy hat!), his sister Vivienne who is an up-and-coming fashion designer, Christine Cooler (an out-of-work model and would-be actress) and Bonnie Shott (an American jazz trombonist). *Actually these shady 1960s characters were really none other than some of the GB DKG's most wanted list.* Very soon after the guests had sat down to their 3 course meal of "egg mayonnaise" or "prawn cocktail", lasagne and "key lime" pie or tiramisu, there was a knock at the door and the local bobby on the beat dropped a bombshell. One of Britain's biggest rock and roll stars Marco Poloneck had been found murdered in Mama's kitchen and they were all under suspicion of his murder.

Why were we all together? It was a fund raising event for 'Schools for Africa' and Alpha Chapter had decided to host a murder mystery lunch. None of us



Participants enjoying refreshments in the Garden

had been involved before so it was with some trepidation and plenty of enthusiastic acting that we all participated. Guests had been allocated a character before arriving and invited to come in costume. The photo shows how well they did! The game evolves over the 3 courses of the meal, with clues being presented, suspects being cross-examined and everyone around the table being prepared to adlib –

sometimes with hilarious effect. Some confusion reigned to start with but as the afternoon wore on everyone got fully into role and by the end we had pinned the murderer down (you never know who you can trust but we know who did it!!!). Whatever the participants thought they were coming for they left having had an enjoyable afternoon, having seen a very different side of people they thought they knew!! We also raised £165.00 for the charity `Schools for Africa`.

Dorcas Rogers (Alpha Chapter)

BETA CHAPTER REPORT

Our Summer outing this July was to Craffhole in Cornwall, where once again Beryl regaled us with her generous hospitality. It is therefore particularly disappointing that Beryl has decided to leave us. As a major figure in the development of the Beta Chapter and indeed of GB State she has contributed significantly over the years. She was Chapter President for Beta 1988-1990, GB State President 1991-1993, GB Representative on the Personal Growth and Services International Committee 1998-2000 and has been a recipient of the Golden Gift Award. Her greatest enthusiasm has been for links with the USA, where she attended many International Conferences and, with an Educational Fellowship, ran for a time a student exchange between her London college and one in the USA. Beryl is less enthusiastic now over our growing commitment to Europe and having retired from teaching, feels it is time to retire herself from DKG. We shall all miss her.

'Bloody but unbowed' we carry on. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed our last meeting where Zoe gave a most fascinating insight into the Open University and how it has changed over the 30 years she has been acquainted with it. Loetitia insisted on doing all the catering – and I'm happy to report she hasn't lost her touch one bit. After a delicious chicken pie and all the veg. she served us with Queen of Puddings. It is Loetitia who is Queen, as far as Beta is concerned!

It's good to know that Sue Blackburn is pursuing her own educational aims, in the field of psychology, and due to her recent connection to Plymouth University, has been instrumental in helping Jess and Sue Torr develop links with the University on behalf of the Shout It Out Learning project.

Sue Torr has subsequently run a very successful workshop at the University as part of an undergraduate module on Disabilities as part of a Social Science degree. Some useful links have been made with students and tutors, and we are hoping (fingers firmly crossed) that some new members may result. Meanwhile Beta contributes as best it can towards Sue's valuable literacy project by raising much-needed funding, helped as it has been by the Educational Foundation Award.

On **Saturday 8 December 2012** we went to Plymouth Art Gallery for two current exhibitions, 'Women in Art' and 'In Pursuit of Art', the story of John Eastlake, a Victorian Plymothian who became the first Director of the National Gallery in London.

Gail Gladwin (*Chapter President*)

GAMMA CHAPTER REPORT

Once again, Gamma is very fortunate to have Beechwood School in Tunbridge Wells as a venue. We get coffee and tea, a lovely room and use of AV equipment if needed. Even the parking is easy.

We have had three meetings since the new biennium began. The first meeting was a talk given by Susan Rogers, a Kent Librarian and Archivist, about a Tunbridge Wells-born woman, Pauline Gower. It was her father, a solicitor and MP for Gillingham, who founded the Sacred Heart Convent School, which is now called Beechwood, where we hold our meetings. Pauline, a bright, popular girl, became a pilot, when girls had few opportunities to be other than housewives

and mothers. She became the first female to take a flight. She set up an aviation company staffed entirely by women., and was a friend of Amy Johnson. In 1942 she was awarded the MBE for her services to aviation, but sadly died aged only thirty-six, in childbirth.

Our second meeting was a workshop given by Kate Weedon, a speech and language therapist, who is Clinical Team Leader for a group of primary schools in Brent. She gave us a picture of her role, who she works with, and how she identifies communication difficulties. Working in partnership with parents, school staff and other professionals maximises the children`s full potential, both socially and academically. She interspersed the various elements of communication with lively activities which made us think (which we all do very well!), and effective descriptions of the role of Speech and Language Therapists. She explained that human communication was about sending and receiving messages. 10% of children suffer a language disorder, whilst among young offenders it may be as much as 70%. Kate explained that therapists also help adults to regain vital communication, and relieved swallowing disorders, stammering, difficulties with Parkinsons, Multiple Sclerosis, Motor Neurone Disease, Tourettes Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy and the aftermath of strokes. We took away lots of ideas to try with children (and grandchildren!).

Our final meeting of 2012 was a craft morning followed by a bring-and-share lunch at Robbie Scahill`s house. Two ladies showed us how to make bead bracelets which kept us busy for two hours. I think we were all well pleased with our efforts. Seventeen members were present! Robbie was, as always, very well organised and a great hostess, despite having arrived home from Majorca the night before. Many thanks, as always, Robbie. We had a brief meeting about future activities and look forward to a lively season in the coming year.

Sandra Blacker (Chapter President)

*Kate Weedon, speaker at our
second meeting*



THE BEADKEEPERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

At the Gamma Chapter pre-Christmas meeting, we enjoyed expert tuition from Georgina and Michelle of *The Beadkeepers*. As their leaflet explains, they run jewellery and beading parties `for those aged 5 – 105`! They produced beautiful, sparkling, quality beads and charms in an array of colours and shapes combined with quality non-allergenic chains and connectors.



Gamma members are a picture of concentration!

our product. The photos show how the two girls led us through the various processes. Three different types of pliers had been provided, plus a myriad of charms and beads from which to select, and the various connecting pieces needed. I was so impressed with the quality of the tuition: many teachers I have come across would have benefitted from their technique of careful demonstration and explanation, and endless patience. We also took up on their suggestion to bring food, cake etc for the last half an hour, to finish the party off perfectly.

We had over two hours of great fun, and surprised ourselves with the quality of



Our instructors, Georgina and Michelle with Sandra and Carol



This picture shows a bracelet after the wires had been threaded through the beads using the pliers shown. There are two other kinds!

And this picture shows three finished masterpieces! The editor is very proud of the one in the middle!



It has become a Gamma tradition, over the past four years anyway, aided by Robbie's generous offer of hospitality, to hold a craft event at our pre-Christmas meeting. We have made table decorations, Christmas wreaths, cards – and this event with beads more than upheld the tradition. I wonder what Sandra has in mind for next year?!

Diane Billam (Gamma Chapter)

Mary and Sheila (our State President) in animated discussion with our instructor





STATE PRESIDENT 2011-2013

Sheila Roberts
Morvan House, Shoreham Lane
St Michaels
Tenterden
Kent TN30 6EG
saroberts123@aol.com

ALPHA CHAPTER PRESIDENT 2010-2012

Dorcas Rogers
40 Somerford Way Nelson`s Reach
Rotherhithe London SE16 6QW
dorcasrogers@btinternet.com

**BETA CHAPTER PRESIDENT 2010-2012
(Caretaker President)**

Gail Gladwin
17 Hartley Avenue
Plymouth
Devon PL3 5HP
sggladwin@live.co.uk

GAMMA CHAPTER PRESIDENT 2010-2012

Sandra Blacker
13 Longmeads
Tunbridge Wells
Kent TN3 0AT
dkg@cwcomm.fsnet.co.uk

EDITORIAL TEAM

Diane Billam, Gail Gladwin

DISTRIBUTION

Kathy Hodgson

PRINTER

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

DKG WEBSITES

www.deltakappagamma.org/GB
www.dkg.org www.dkgeurope.org

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