



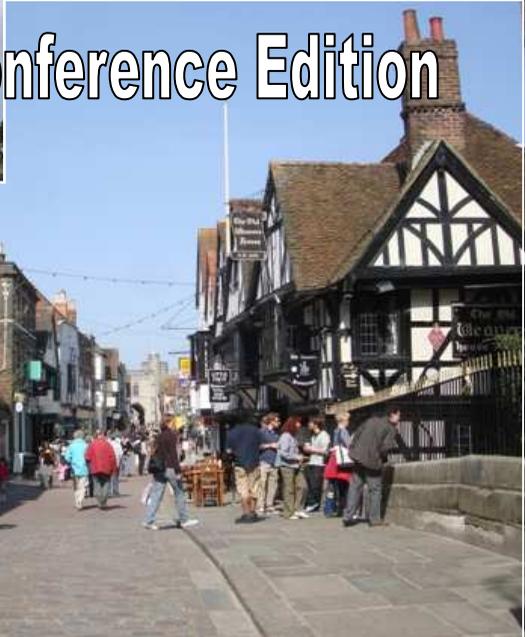
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

GREAT BRITAIN NEWS

Summer 2010



State Conference Edition



Volume 12 No 3

CONTENTS

	Page
State President's Letter	3
State Conference Events	4
Langton Star Centre	5
Newton for Ladies	6
School Exclusion	7
Conference Social Scene	9
Widening Participation	9
Estonia State Conference	12
Cambridge Expansion	13
Who will you teach to read?	14
Let's sing!	16
The importance of being early	17
Members' Art & Craft Work	17
Royal Society Exhibitions	18
New Faces for 2010	18
Chapter Reports: Alpha	19
Beta	21
Gamma	22
White Rose: Abigail Alcock	23



Canterbury. Medieval ducking stool, and cover photos of the High Street and River Stour, by Lavinia Soul. Cathedral photo from file.

FROM THE EDITOR

I write this fresh from our GB State Conference, held in Canterbury this year. As you will see we had some first class speakers who brought diverse and interesting subjects to life.

The weather was warm and sunny, just right for our enjoyable Sunday walking tour with our friendly 'Blue Badge' city guide who took us to interesting places that most tourists do not get to visit. We also enjoyed being rowed on the River Stour.

The biennium of my 'other' DKG job, chairing the European Forum, is coming to an end. One task that I am very pleased to have been involved with is creating the European Region Website. The geographical web address, www.dkg-europe.org, is similar to the new DKG main website at www.dkg.org. Do visit our website, Eygló Björnsdóttir, our Icelandic webmaster, has worked very hard to make it useful and interesting. All European State Websites are attached and there is a translation facility.

The next addition of GB News is due in September. Please send reports to me by early August. The main theme will be the DKG International Convention in Spokane, Washington State, USA.

Diana Bell Alpha Chapter
dbell_is@yahoo.co.uk

Diane Billam
STATE ORGANISATION PRESIDENT: 2009-2011

It was good to see so many of you in Canterbury for our GB Annual Conference. The exhibition of arts and crafts (page 17), so ably arranged by Ros, Carole and Dorcas, among others, was a credit to you all: I knew the talent was out there, and we had not had an exhibition for a decade! Evelyn's Quiz was puzzling enough to keep our interest – I am entirely neutral here as I was collecting the scores. And we sang! as well as I knew we could given the right encouragement (and some wine over dinner). The speakers were as good as I had hoped, and although we missed Birgit (Svensson, European Regional Director) because of the volcanic ash, Diana brought us up to date on the European part of what Birgit was going to say. It will be interesting to see the Evaluations, which Kate is kindly collating for us. I hope that all who came felt 'nurtured and inspired'.



Even the weather was kind to us, with the guided walk, the boat trip and Cathedral services all popular, and made even more enjoyable under a bright blue sky. There are more reports in this Newsletter, so I will not go into detail. Just to record my grateful thanks to all who helped so ably and willingly, and to all who wrote or sent messages to say that they had enjoyed themselves.

Reports given by Chapter Presidents showed how active we are as a group: having summer excursions is such a good idea when there is so much to see and do in our country. I have been to most of my own Gamma chapter meetings, to two Alpha meetings, and hope to get down to Plymouth to Beta in July. It is always a great pleasure to see our members in their own setting, and to learn so much from their activities. This also applies, of course, to our European fellow-members: you will see a report in this Newsletter on my visit to Tallinn for the Estonia conference in March, and I am going to Freudenstadt in May for the Germany conference. I was very pleased to welcome two Dutch members to our own conference: I offered them accommodation in my apartment, as we are always made very welcome when we go there.

There will be fewer European members than usual at the International Convention in Spokane, Washington State: air fares are very expensive

from Europe. It will be an important meeting as the Constitution and International Standing Rules are under review: you will have seen the `Delta Kappa Gamma News` for March/April 2010, including a very useful section entitled `What`s New in the Proposed Constitution`. For instance, it is proposed (lines 82-83) that the number of years `after retirement` for membership eligibility shall be increased from 2 years to 5 years. Something along these lines was proposed at the Oslo conference last year. The Convention will also, as always, be great fun, with something going on from very early in the day to very late. We will report back in the next Newsletter. In the meantime, I wish you all an enjoyable summer.

Diane Billam *Gamma Chapter*

STATE CONFERENCE EVENTS: Training & Quiz night

Training for Chapter Officers took place on Friday afternoon, followed that evening by Quiz Night with Quiz Master Evelyn Goodsell, centre.



Training: Lavinia, Evelyn, Carole and Unity



Training: L to R, Sheila, Robbie, Kathy and Barbara



Playing the Joker: Barbara, Barry, Lavinia and Ros



Quiz Night Winners: L to R Gloria, Janny, Kate and Tony. Di, collecting scores, is behind them



Enjoying the quiz: L to R, Loetitia, Gail, Jess, Mary and Trijny

Dr Becky Parker MBE: THE LANGTON STAR CENTRE

How Physics can come alive for young people

Director of the Langton Star Centre and
Head of Physics
Simon Langton School for Boys
Specialist Adviser to the
House of Commons Science and
Technology Select Committee

Having seen Becky on the *Horizon* programme I did have some idea of what to expect but I had not realised that my breath would be blown away! There was her vitality, her vast gesticulations, her dramatic facial expressions and her clear and very rapid style of delivery scattered with superlatives.



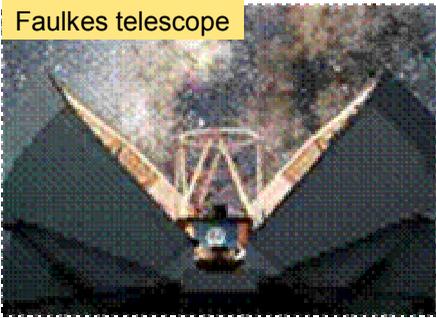
But what really amazed me, really took my breath completely away, was what she is accomplishing with her Physics students and the extent of her ambitions for them. Her fundamental aim is to get students thrilled by science and to do this she has organised cutting edge research projects for her students linked with CERN, NASA, Imperial College and the Faulkes Telescope Project. Her success can be measured by the fact that 170 students are taking A Level Physics, the highest number for a state school in the country. This one school provides almost 1% of all physics undergraduates in the UK. In 2009 one of the students was judged *The Young Scientist of the Year*.

Research at this level requires great facilities and a dedicated building for the *Star Centre* is almost finished. Becky said that it will be the best school centre for physics in the **world!** '**It will be phenomenal**'. It will have its own telescope linking to many bigger asteroid monitoring stations, an observatory, exhibition area and resource centre. Students from all areas of education will be encouraged to use the facilities. The school governors, supported by Kent County Council, agreed that the school should take on a massive loan to finance the building.

A party of 50 students each year visits the CERN laboratory in the Swiss Alps. This is the home of the Large Hadron Collider which has been in the news as scientists attempt to crash particles into one another at great speed in an attempt to recreate the beginning of the universe!

Using *medipix detector technology* gained from these visits and working with Surrey Satellite Technology Limited, the students have invented the Langton Ultimate Cosmic Ray Intensity Detector (LUCID) which will go into space in 2012. It is designed to measure high energy cosmic rays from outside our galaxy and this will help to predict damaging proton storms. NASA has asked for the data. It is hoped that *Medipix* detectors will be in schools across the world and all data will be shared. This is the CERN@school project and is confined to a few schools in Kent at the moment.

Faulkes telescope



Good use is made of the Faulkes telescopes, with their 2m mirrors, situated in Hawaii, Liverpool and Australia. The school has a weekly slot to search for Near Earth Objects such as asteroids or comets. The data is sent to the Minor Planet Centre where the asteroids are catalogued and their orbits defined. The children in Year 8 are particularly enthused by the search for NEOs.

As Becky spoke of the remarkable contacts that she has around the world and the access her students have to top international scientists I was left thinking how inspired they must be to continue this line of enquiry at university. There is so very much to discover amongst the billions of galaxies.



Becky's talk was totally fascinating. I would love to be a student in her classes right now.

www.thelangtonstarcentre.org

Gloria Redston *Gamma Chapter*

Dr Szenana Lawrence: NEWTON FOR LADIES

Dr Szenana Lawrence, a lecturer in Mathematics at Bath Spa University began her talk by explaining that the title 'Newton for Ladies' was a reference to Francesco Algarotti's work, written in the form of a dialogue between a chevalier and a marchioness, *Neutonianismo per le Dame*. He had been influenced by Professor Laura Bassi, an Italian scientist who was the first



Laura Bassi
1711 – 1777

woman to become a professor of physics at a European University.



Émilie du
Châtelet
1706 – 1749

Algarotti went to Paris in 1732 where he met Voltaire whose mistress at the time was another mathematician and physicist, Émilie du Châtelet. Her outstanding achievement was her translation into French, of Newton's *Principia Mathematica*. King Frederick the Second of Prussia said that du Châtelet was "a great man whose only fault was being a woman."

In the course of her talk Szenana explained that the modern development of calculus is usually credited to Isaac Newton, who was a key figure in the history of differentiation, because he was the first to apply differentiation to theoretical physics. She illustrated her talk with computer generated graphics, one of which showed the orbital pattern of Mars. At the end of her informative talk she gave everyone a copy of an allegorical poem in praise of Newton's work written by Desaguliers entitled *The Newtonian System of the World, the Best Model of Government*.



Robbie Scahill *Gamma Chapter*

Professor Carl Parsons: EXCLUDING CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL IN ENGLAND: Killing (some of) our children slowly



Professor Carl Parsons has been researching this regrettable phenomenon for 16 years. Previously a Primary School teacher, currently Professor of Education at Canterbury Christ Church University and Visiting Professor at the University of Greenwich, the speaker startled some of the members at the opening lecture of our Conference with his sub-title: 'killing (some of) our children slowly'. The statistics confirm that in England

we exclude more children from school and at a younger age than any other country in Europe. Moreover, the exclusion of pupils is not evenly spread over all sections of the population. The proportion of boys to girls who are excluded increase to 4:1 as they transfer to secondary schools and the peak year for exclusion is year 10, fifteen year olds in the first year of GCSE.

Sadly, personal intrusion by some of the British Press vilifies young children and publishes their names and photographs. Trijny and Janny, our guests from the Netherlands, affirmed Professor Parsons' understanding that children's names are never revealed in this context by the media in their country. He quoted an unacceptable comment from a member of a panel on a television programme which indicated a culture of condemnation of dysfunctional families without demonstrating authority, experience or compassion.

There was general agreement that what we really want is for the children to remain in school, be supervised and influenced positively, receiving a satisfactory education and not roaming the streets, causing trouble for themselves or the community in which they live. Carl provided examples where Head Teachers discuss with him opportunities to 'Broaden the School', money is provided to create a unit within the school, raising aspirations, building resilience and more ambition for both the children and their parents. Local Authorities have a co-ordinating influence. In some instances there is a Youth Service link, a school helps to pay for a PCSO on site, and peer group support encourages responsibility. Six units in London Boroughs, Kent's 15-17 referral units, Child, Adolescent and Mental Health Services, Behaviour Support Units and Instant Response were quoted as good examples of provision to assist disturbed youngsters. One especially interesting model was described: North Lincs Equestrian Centre where the youngsters care for the animals and must be quiet "in order not to upset the horses".

Throughout his presentation Carl Parsons demonstrated compassion and understanding of the needs of young people. He urged his audience to be 'political activists' and to:-

- ◇ Think poverty and social background
- ◇ Think communication to those who can make a difference
- ◇ Model best behaviour to support all
- ◇ Relate positively to all partners in the best interests of the children



Carl Parsons is the author of *Strategic Alternatives to Exclusion from School*, published by Trentham Books.

Mary Wardrop *Gamma Chapter*

Conference SOCIAL SCENE: meeting friends and the banquet



WIDENING PARTICIPATION: A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE HEALTHSKILLS4SCHOOLS

The aim of the **HEALTHSKILLS4SCHOOLS** project is to offer children in years 10 – 12 an opportunity to meet with university lecturers and students who are working in a field of study that the children might be considering as a possible career choice. We work with children with family backgrounds where further and higher education is not the norm. The classes are generally mixed ability groups often with at least half of the group seen as low achievers.

We offer four 'health skills sessions' (cardiac assessment, respiratory assessment, hand hygiene and infection control and basic life saving skills) and travel to the school with a suitcase of relevant nursing equipment including BLS manikins, stethoscopes, oxygen saturation monitors, light

boxes to detect UV germs on hands, tympanic thermometers and peak flow monitors. Each session is 1.5 to 2 hours long and is led by one or two academics and two university student ambassadors. The ambassadors are all studying to be health professionals (nursing, radiography, physiotherapy, occupational therapy) and have undertaken a one-day training session on the *Healthskills4schools* project and the techniques required when working with the children out in the schools. Many of these ambassadors will also be involved in other widening participation activities which include 'taster days' at the university, summer schools and mentoring schemes.

My professional background is in nursing and nurse education. I qualified as a nurse in the early 70s moving into nurse education in 1979. Many of the students who now enter nursing have far more diverse reasons for having chosen the course than simply 'the desire to become a nurse' and at least 60% of student population are in their late 20s or older. When working in the university the majority of my teaching is to nursing students who want to be there, are interested in, or at least can see the relevance of the topic being taught, and interact positively to the range of activities being used. I had no formal education experience of working with children and was hesitant about working with the year 10 – 12s. I quickly became aware that I would need to change the way I taught in order to match the very varied and dynamic nature of the children's needs.

Having been used to working in an environment that is conducive to learning with students who are mostly quiet and attentive it was a shock to the system to find that some of the schools we visited felt more like prisons (with locked gates and doors, corridors which lacked any real visual stimulus and bells ringing loudly through the building at the end of each session, with a subsequent stampede of pupils moving from one room to the next) and some of the children were lacking in attention span, disruptive and seemed to require my skills in crowd control rather than as a teacher. At the other end of the spectrum we visited schools where the environment was light and welcoming. Walls were covered with school art work and projects. We would be met at the reception by pupils who showed pride in their school and seemed keen to have us come to talk to them. I realised early on that I had to put my university lecturer style of teaching to one side. In the school environment I needed to focus less on what was being taught and more on how it was being taught. The sessions that went well, and left me feeling energised, were those where I was able to be flexible in my delivery, changing style of presentation depending on the interest being shown by the pupils. I have a clear memory

of one young boy who arrived late for class with his hood covering most of his face. At no time during the session did he make eye contact with me, and for most of the session he seemed to be lost in his own world. He would occasionally challenge me in what I was saying using short sentences and single staccato words but was unwilling to participate in the practical activity. If I had been asked if he had learnt anything from the session I would have said no. I was taken by surprise when at the end of the session he volunteered to get up and demonstrate to the group how to do mouth to mouth on the manikin. He had absorbed far more than any of his class mates, but once the demonstration was over he returned to his previous demeanour. I learnt very quickly from this encounter how important it was to not let my own personal judgements about a child's behaviour have a negative effect on how I interacted with them. I also learnt very quickly that how I was introduced, and then subsequently allowed to interact with the children, also had an effect on their subsequent behaviour. In one year 12 class the teacher had insisted that my colleague and I were referred to as Ms, rather than Mrs, or our preferred use of first names, and I was pulled up for referring to the pupils as 'ladies'. My belief has always been that you earn respect from your students through your behaviour patterns rather than the labels we are given. On this occasion it was particularly hard for us to develop the type of informal but polite interaction we usually used and the session did not work, with students becoming uninterested and unsettled.



I find the visits a challenge, they are often extremely tiring and I am often left unsure of what we have achieved. However I have come to realise that what I experience on the surface on the visits is really only the tip of the iceberg. If between us the ambassadors and I have sown some small seeds of interest in a possible career pathway, a glimmer of hope for one young person to see the possibility of a future at university or just simply that they are valued, then we are moving in the right direction. I was recently at a university open day when five young people came up to me and said that they remembered me from a school visit last year and had come to find out more about coming to study nursing. One of them said, "You made me realise that I can do anything I want if I work hard. Up till then I had been messing about at school but I surprised my teachers this year by passing my exams and applying to university".

Dorcas Rogers *Alpha Chapter*

ESTONIA STATE CONFERENCE, 6 March 2010

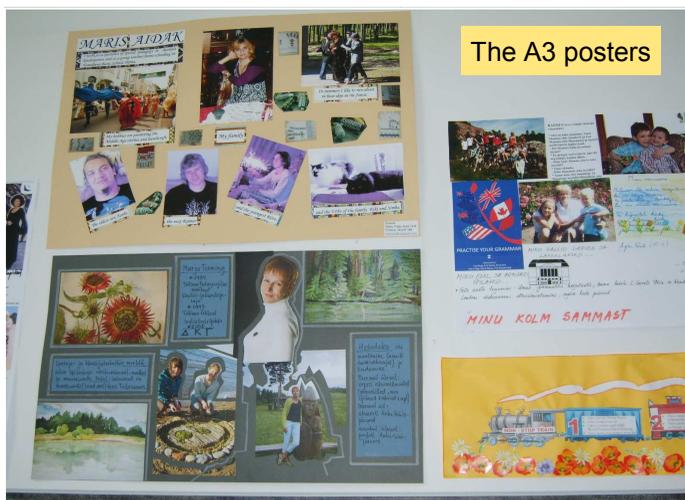


View from Anu's window

The conference was held in a school in Tallinn, the capital and largest city in Estonia. I had never been to Estonia before, and so I was pleased to get the opportunity to visit and to stay with their State President, Anu Joon, in her farmhouse home some distance away. Sigrun Klara Hannesdottir, from Iceland, also stayed with Anu. On Friday I was taken around Old Tallinn, which is beautiful and atmospheric, in contrast to the dreary Soviet-style buildings left over from the occupation.

Some of the presentations were in Estonian, which is a language related to Finnish and Hungarian, for which I had a whispered translation alongside, whilst others were in perfect English. Perhaps the most exciting event of the day was the installation of a number of new members, and a new Beta Chapter, most from among the new members, but some having moved across from their Alpha Chapter. They were all young women, and it was good to pick up their enthusiasm for our organisation.

One good idea – the new members had been asked to prepare an A3-sized poster entitled 'This is Who I am' (see the examples in the photo). You will see that it includes items on what people like, where they come from, what they do in their free time, where they have been – anything



The A3 posters

they like really. It needs plenty of display space, of course. What a good way of getting to know each other!

This was an inspiring and enjoyable weekend, well worth the joys of Stansted Airport in the early hours (hooray for Easyjet and online check-ins)! We are always made welcome at other State Conferences in Europe, and I can only encourage members to take part if they can. My next trip is Freudenstadt, Germany, in May.



Diane Billam *Gamma Chapter, State President*

CAMBRIDGE EXPANSION

I think it is true that most members gain so much through our membership of DKG that we want to share our enjoyment; we bring in friends and acquaintances as often as we can. This leads to some growth in our GB membership. We need to keep nurturing our own chapters in this way. Expansion into an unknown area is something that has been rarely tried because there is no local network.

However, our energetic State President Diane and equally active past presidents Diana and Kate have been working with a team to form a new chapter in Cambridge. This idea grew following a successful State Conference in Cambridge in April 2009. Our starting point was to find a speaker and venue. There is some DKG funding for expansion, but venues, though attractive, were too expensive. Diana was able to find the Seminar room at Addenbrooke's Hospital for free; great! Then a previous DKG conference speaker, Dr Terri Apter, based at Newnham College, agreed to speak about her book *The Sister Knot* (generously for no fee).

So far, so good. Now to find teachers who would come. Kate swung into action, systematically collecting names and addresses of all local schools, private, state, primary, secondary, tertiary. Robbie produced an attractive flyer. The executive committee spent an afternoon preparing envelopes to post to possible attendees and we waited for responses. We also contacted press and people we knew who had any connection



Sandra, right, with Janny Kisteman (The Netherlands) at the GB State Conference

with the area, however tenuous! Together with members from Alpha and Gamma, we had a good first meeting (excellent refreshments too). Mary and Kate kept a list of guests' names and e-mail addresses.

Using our nucleus, Diana organised second and third meetings this time using our own members Liz Day (Teacher Training) and Trisha Rogers (Teaching Mathematics) as speakers. Our final launch meet-

ing was held on 13th March with Libby Coleman author of *Yes we can read* as our speaker. Again, we had a lively, interesting meeting.

So Cambridge, you have a group of interested women who have attended meetings and know about DKG. We have one Alpha member who lives in the Cambridge area, Elisabeth Chambers, who is willing to support future activities with this group. Cambridge Chapter, ready, steady GO!!!!

Sandra Blacker *Gamma Chapter*

WHO WILL YOU TEACH TO READ?

A retired comprehensive school head teacher, my mission is for everyone who can read to give a non or poor reader the gift of reading.



On Saturday 13th March 2010 I was invited by Diana Bell of the DKG Cambridge Expansion Group to give a talk about illiteracy with the offer of a solution in **Yes we can read**, published by Gatehouse. It is a one-to-one reading scheme for learners aged from 8-80, which I have produced with my husband, Nick Ainley.

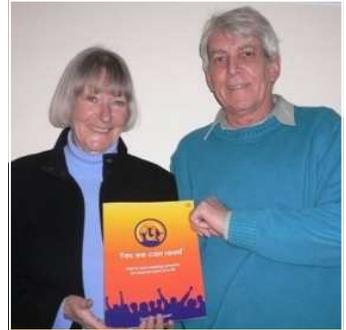
Yes we can read is a fun phonics programme to develop reading for meaning. Anyone who can read fluently can teach a non-reader to read in 6 months or less. No training or other qualifications are required. One-to-one is the key!

We hope that it will be used by readers to teach their friends, neighbours, relatives and work-mates. Learning assistants, volunteers and peer

mentors are using it in schools. It can be used by prisoners to teach other inmates; soldiers to teach their comrades; long-stay patients in hospitals; retired people - the list is endless.

It is my contention that one-to-one is the only way most people learn to read - in the main long before they reach school. The scandal of 20% functional illiteracy amongst the UK population can only be addressed if those of us who can read show at least one other person how to read. **Yes we can read** is a tool, which will enable us to achieve this.

The audience of twelve DKG members could not have been more encouraging and helpful, offering plenty of good advice for spreading the word, making suggestions for possible celebrity endorsements, such as Wayne Rooney, and promising to distribute information and flyers.



Libby & Nick Ainley

We were privileged to have the DKG Great Britain State President, Diane Billam, at the talk. She too offered much good advice, including approaching The University of the Third Age, which will no doubt provide a fund of willing and able people who will either become reading coaches or will also make suggestions about how to spread the word about **Yes we can read**.

I am so grateful to the members of Delta Kappa Gamma.

Elizabeth Chambers, a young American mother and teacher from Alpha Chapter, gave a moving and inspiring talk about the reasons why she joined DKG, the advantages and networking opportunities DKG offers, and why the movement needs to attract younger members to remain as active and vibrant in the future. If I wasn't a bus-pass holder I would have asked to be allowed to apply for membership on the spot. However, in return for the help and support I have received, I will spread the good news about DKG amongst the younger women educationalists of stature and influence that I know, and those I meet on my travels with **Yes we can read**.

Please visit our **Yes we can read** website.

<http://www.yeswecanread.co.uk>

Libby Coleman Ainley

*Libby has kindly donated a copy of **Yes we can read** to DKG. It is with Gamma Chapter at the moment. Please ask to view / use it. Gatehouse also publishes books by Sue Torr MBE, Beta Chapter.*

Editor

GB State Conference Saturday evening: LET'S SING!

Singing to ourselves often makes us feel better – singing with others can magnify the experience; and it was this feeling that we experienced after the Banquet. We were our own entertainment - no keyboard, no backing track, just us.



We were led by Ursula Steiger, who had worked as a probation officer, then in the Home Office; but she 'always had music going alongside'. From an early age she learned the recorder and then the flute, she sang in many choirs and now runs the U3A chorus in Canterbury. She must run it very well as she enabled us to do ourselves proud. She had prepared a song-book of 14 songs, all of which we sang. If we didn't know the song or didn't read music, she gave us the confidence to learn it quickly. This is not an easy task and we were grateful to Ursula for giving her time and bringing her talents to bear on us willing pupils.

Some pieces such as *Kookaburra* and *Land of the Silver Birch* evoked memories of past Girl Guide camp-fire sing-songs; we were divided into four groups - the strongest singing coming from those that contained the most ex-guiders. *Singing in the Rain* and *When I'm Sixty-Four* evoked nostalgia from a slightly later decade. The lovely, serene Maori *Pokare Kare* had us singing in two parts.

All the songs were sung with enjoyment (apart from the DKG song where there was a noticeable drop in enthusiasm). Fortunately, however, it was our last song *Dona Nobis Pacem* – sung in a three part round, which drew the evening to a peaceful and harmonious close.

Jess Curtis Beta Chapter

Ursula Steiger and her 'backing group' for *Sloop John B*



THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARLY (with apologies to Oscar Wilde!)

Many of you will have received, by email, a copy of the document 'Where the money goes', which attempts to represent pictorially an explanation of the £45 dues you pay each year (or £20 for Reserve members).

From these dues, you will see that your chapter keeps £7 per member for its funds. Due to the poor exchange rates between the pound and the dollar, GB State currently retains slightly less than £6 per full member.

It is of vital importance that annual dues are paid on time. It now costs £25 to transfer money to the US. As State Treasurer I have to send the dues from all Chapters by a specific date. Any money received after this deadline has to be sent separately, incurring further charges of £25 each time. It doesn't take Albert Einstein's mathematical skills to calculate how big a dent this extra, unnecessary expense makes in our funds, not to mention the increased workload imposed on your Chapter treasurers.



Please bear this in mind when you are asked for your subscriptions in September this year.

Kathrin Hodgson *Gamma Chapter*

Kathy, our State Treasurer, with Trijny Schmitz du Moulin, during the Conference

Conference display: MEMBERS' ART AND CRAFT WORK

Paintings, photos, calligraphy, embroidery, poetry, egg tree and much more



ROYAL SOCIETY SUMMER EXHIBITION

The Royal Society Summer Exhibition (see spring 2010 Edition of GB News) was so enjoyable last year that we hoped many DKG members would go this year.

Joanna Corden, *Alpha Chapter*, archivist for The Royal Society, has e-mailed me to say that the exhibition this year will be part of the 'Festival of Science' at the South Bank in June and early July. The Society, in partnership with the Southbank Centre, will present 'a huge and splendid celebration of the joy and vitality of science, its importance to society and culture and its role in shaping who we are and who we will become'.

The festival will include an 'enhanced version of the Society's annual Summer Science Exhibition. Interactive exhibits will spread across the ground floor of the Southbank Centre and visitors will have the chance to talk to scientists and engineers at the forefront of the UK's research activities'.

In addition to the exhibition, there will be: 'talks, debates, performances and activities for young people and families; installations demonstrating collaborations and interactions between science and art; large-scale displays on the pavements and walkways surrounding the Royal Festival Hall; Scientific conferences; and a ceremony to mark the Society's 350th anniversary.' So it should really be fun.

Joanna also said that for those of us wishing to view Carlton House Terrace, the prestigious home of The Royal Society, there will be a separate exhibition there later in the year on the history of The Society.

Editor

SOME NEW FACES FOR 2010-2012

Chapter	Chapter President	Chapter Vice-President/s	Chapter Treasurer
Alpha	Diana Bell	Liz Day & Dorcas Rogers	Lavinia Soul
Beta	Gail Gladwin	Joanne Stone	Loetitia Stone
Gamma	Carole Stirling	Chapter Members	Jenny Longton

Alpha Chapter

At the start of 2010, Carolyn Olton and Liz Day gave a joint presentation. Carolyn explained the South West London Partnership's Graduate Teacher Programme. This is designed for refugee teachers, teachers who trained overseas, graduates and registered teachers who already have a foundation degree. It is practical, and includes distance learning. Liz outlined the work of London South Bank University which runs a Master's Degree programme regulated by the General Teaching Council. Again, this is a school-based practical course, for serving teachers.



Mary, Barbara, Claire, Dorcas and Diana

A lively and lengthy discussion followed as members looked at curriculum development in the light of the Rose Review and the implications for initial teacher training. There needs to be an emphasis in schools on improved standards and attainment, improvements also in attendance and behaviour, greater civic participation, a healthier lifestyle and more involvement in

education and training for employment. Where have we heard all this before?

In February, Liz followed up on this by showing the film "We are the people we've been waiting for" which follows the school lives of five teenagers in Swindon. It proved very thought-provoking. Claire Purcell, the Deputy Head



Liz, Claire, Barbara and Joan

of Dulwich Hamlet Junior School, was initiated that day, and she very generously offered the school as a future meeting venue. She showed us the new Griffin Hall and technology department, imaginatively converted from a Victorian building.

In March we continued the 'Health' theme with an interesting talk from Kate Moloney, a second year student, in Health and Social Care Nursing at London South Bank University. She is also paid as a Student Ambassador, attending recruitment/careers events at schools and colleges and taking part in schools 'taster' days at the university.

Kate also identified a need for, and is producing a module on, Peer Mentoring, where second year students would mentor first years, those making the transition from school to university, and also the mature students who have family commitments to cope with as well as their work. This first year is especially difficult during clinical placements. Hopefully this will be adopted by the University.

Afterwards Qaisra Khan talked about her experience of the Everest trek and showed us some stunning pictures. She made it to the Old Base Camp - 5000m - (the new one is higher up) - congratulations!

Barbara writes of her biennium:

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Ellen Rosier last summer after breaking her hip in a fall. She, together with Judith Sutton, had been a Charter Member of Alpha Chapter from Great Britain's inauguration on November 19th 1977. Ellen was a staunch and active member even into her 90s, (we felt she would go on and on), and became a reserve member when they moved to the Isle of Wight four years ago.

Many thanks to all, at the end of my biennium, especially to Pat Walker, my vice president, and to Dorcas, for her meeting ideas.

Forthcoming meetings:

15 May 2010, 11.00am. Visit to the Sand's Film Museum at Rotherhithe, followed by a meeting after lunch, in the local church hall.

19 June 2010, 11.00am. Children's Concert at St Bartholomew's Church, Sydenham. Part of the Sydenham International Music Festival. Then lunch at Barbara's house.

A programme of Summer visits will be arranged, including to the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition.

Barbara Kern Alpha Chapter President

Dates for next year's Alpha meetings:

11 September 2010, 2.00pm. Dr Sally Hulin, Consultant Child Psychiatrist, 'Jiggly Children' (Mental health issues). St Mary's.

16 October 2010, 2.00pm. Martin Biron, on 'Second Life' interactive

learning. How to teach a class using computers / IT. St Mary's.
20 November 2010, 2.00pm. Sue Patey, Great Ormond Street Deputy
Chief Pharmacist. 'Prescriptions for children and the role of the children's
pharmacist'. DHJS.

11 December 2010, 12.00. Social occasion. Venue to be arranged.
Further meetings have been arranged for 22 January 2011, 26 February
2011, 26 March 2011, 7 May 2011 and 18 June 2011.

Meetings are usually at Dulwich Hamlet Junior School, Dulwich Village,
London SE21 or St Mary's University College, Twickenham, TW1 4SX.

Beta Chapter

Reflecting on our Chapter as a whole and considering how we are placed
for the coming year, we are perhaps in a similar position to that of the
country's economy, possibly through the worst but still in a delicate state.
One of our members has resigned – Ruth Jordan – for reasons that lie
outside the Society and the Chapter; disappointing to report, particularly
at a time when we are all trying so hard to maintain and indeed increase
our membership. It is extra heartening therefore to be able to pass on the
good news that Muriel Hawton is making an excellent recovery and gives
a glowing account of the care she receives from the Cardiac Rehabilita-
tion unit in Plymouth.

Our winter meeting had to be postponed from January to February; it
proved to be one of our very best meetings. We were lucky to have an
inspiring speaker in Sarah Chapman, on the teaching of music. Her talk
was illuminating not only on the processes by which she teaches music,
but by which she herself has learnt how to teach. She gave some won-
derful practical illustrations, even getting us all to improvise a short rhyth-
mic composition.

It is impressive how much our members are involved with. Zoe is consid-
ering completing a degree course with the Open University and is picking
up again on the Reminiscence work she has developed so successfully in
the past. Loetitia has been involved at HQ over the *Golden Gift* award.
Beryl as usual is our Ambassador in the States and recently with an ex-
Beta member in Portugal. Pat Constable has won £50 in a photography
competition. Jess is taking various training courses and workshops devel-
oping the work she started with her MA dissertation. Sue Torr is knuckling
down to a course for entrepreneurs being run at Dartington; and has
added more pupils to her reading and writing group. I forget what I'm do-
ing, but it sure is keeping me busy!

Forthcoming meetings:

3 July 2010, Summer outing to Lanhydrock.

2 October 2010, 11.00 for 11.30. TBC Speaker TBA.

11 December 2010 Christmas party TBC.

All meetings held at 17 Hartley Avenue unless otherwise stated.

Gail Gladwin Beta Chapter Caretaker President

Gamma Chapter

We started the New Year with a very interesting and enlightening talk from Rebecca Large who is a specialist Communication teacher at a school for students with complex physical and medical conditions. She works with children who cannot speak, so need alternative methods of communication. She was obviously passionate about her field of expertise and it was fascinating to hear her talk about it.

The venue for February's meeting had to be changed because it was half term and the school was closed. We met at Robbie's and Dorothy gave a captivating illustrated talk about the people of China and Tibet. This was followed by a lively meeting bringing everyone up to date with the Cambridge Expansion drive which has been very well supported by a good number of Gamma members. Carole Stirling was voted in as our next president. Unfortunately, there is no vice president but several members have offered to support Carole in her role.

There was a good turn-out for the meeting in March to hear John Withall from the Millennium Seed Bank giving us an insight into how seeds are collected from all over the world and stored at Wakehurst Place.

Several members have said that people have shown an interest in joining Delta Kappa Gamma but as yet none has made the commitment.

Forthcoming meetings and events:

8 May 2010 Alexander Stiller will be speaking about The Language of Poetry. "What Poets Say and How They Say It".

7 June 2010 Glyndebourne. Picnic and the pre-dress rehearsal of Verdi's Macbeth.

10 July 2010, 3.00pm. Cream Tea and plant and book swap at Robbie's house.

Robbie Scahill Gamma Chapter President



Many of the Conference photos were taken by Robbie

Abigail Alcock

13 June 1921 – 14 January 2010

Gail, née Hughes, was very proud of her Welsh origins. She taught at Oak Farm Primary School in Hillingdon, was seconded and spent a year teaching and exploring in New Zealand. On her return, she became a primary school head teacher and later became a senior lecturer at Sidney Webb College. In the early 1980's Gail married Percy Alcock.



Gail died on the 14th January. Unity Harvey and I attended her funeral at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip, with about one hundred other guests and family members. Her connection with DKG was mentioned twice in the service.

Gail was a DKG member 1994-2009 and Alpha Chapter President 1998–2000. She is remembered as a good conversationalist and a lively, interesting person.

Editor



Gail was such a fun loving person. I remember how she livened up our Lectures which she took at Sydney Webb College. Always encouraging and down-to-earth. I had lost touch with her after leaving College and it was during a Conference, I think it was in Amsterdam, we were talking about our teaching experiences, that I realised who she was as I first knew her by her maiden name of Hughes and that had been a long time ago. From that moment our friendship grew.

When we were Chapter Presidents during the same biennium, we were forever ringing each other for moral support. We had such fun together at Conferences. How could I forget the time, when in Toronto, we walked back from the Banquet, through the Convention Centre and mainline station in our bare feet!

We were also connected through the Townswomen's Guild. This was another 'long telephone conversation' event when we compared Speakers and Outings.

The world will be a poorer place without people like Gail, I am so privileged to have known her.

Evelyn Goodsell *Gamma Chapter*



STATE PRESIDENT 2009-2011

Diane Billam
8, Holman Mews
24a Old Dover Road
Canterbury
Kent CT13JE
dbillam@hotmail.com

ALPHA CHAPTER PRESIDENT 2008-2010

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

**BETA CHAPTER PRESIDENT 2008-2010
(Caretaker President)**

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

GAMMA CHAPTER PRESIDENT 2008-2010

Robbie Scahill
36 Ridgeway Crescent
Tonbridge
Kent TN10 4NR
Robinascahill@hotmail.co.uk

EDITORIAL TEAM

Diana Bell, Gail Gladwin

DISTRIBUTION

Kathy Hodgson

PRINTER

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

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