



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

GREAT BRITAIN NEWS



State Conference Edition



With news about new European chapters

Summer 2011

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A windmill in snowy Estonia, taken during their State Conference.



I am pleased to present this summer edition of GB News. In it you can read about our own GB State Conference and also hear about the enjoyable visits to other state conferences and European events.

It was good to see the success of The Netherlands, Estonia and Iceland, who all installed new chapters.

It is with some sadness that I put together my last edition of GB News. Working on it has been a steady learning curve and, for me, required a great deal of patience. I am very grateful to all the wonderful members who sent in their articles and photographs. I would like to say a very special thank you to Gail Gladwin for her editing skills and good advice.

Diane Billam, who will be the Past State President in July, will take over the editorship of GB News. I know that she will need plenty of material, so why not start Diane's editorial biennium by sending her articles and pictures.

The next edition is due in September, so best to send material in by the end of August.

Front page photographs:

Sheila Roberts, GB State President Elect, receiving her State President's Pin from Diane Billam.

Margarita Handschmidt, Estonian State President Elect, in her National Costume at her State Conference. Diane Billam and Kate York are next to her.

Diane Billam

STATE ORGANISATION PRESIDENT: 2009-2011

As I approach the end of my term as State President, it is worth repeating how much I have appreciated the support and help I have received from so many of our members. Two years ago I had just accepted the role, and wondered what it would be like! I have found so many highlights, which I would like to share with you.



The European Regional Conference in Oslo gave me the experience of carrying our state flag into and out of the Hall, and of undergoing the special training event for incoming State Presidents. This gave me an opportunity to meet and spend time with my opposite numbers from the other European member states of DKG, and to appreciate what a talented group they are. As always, the Conference itself was most enjoyable, with a range of great tours. So much to remember: the evening excursion out from Oslo into the sunset, the train, bus and boat tour which gave me the opportunity to see a range of scenery unlike anything I had seen before. The highlight was perhaps the wonderful waterfall.

Then came the planning of our GB Conference in Canterbury, 2010. Running this from Friday midday to Sunday midday gave us time to organise training for incoming Chapter officers, have a quiz, some excellent speakers, and to sing! Trips on Sunday morning ended an event most people seem to have enjoyed. Then some of us went to the International Convention in Spokane, where again I was proud to carry our flag, and to be introduced, as your representative, to all the members present at the Presidents' Banquet. The next event was the European Forum, held in Freudenstadt, where I met a slightly different group of European State representatives, as some of the countries appoint their President and others appoint some other member. Here we discussed a range of European issues, and planned for the Forum events at the forthcoming European Conference in Baden Baden this year.

Then it was time to plan for the 2011 GB Conference, held at the Soroptimist Club, London, in April, a one-day event with dinner afterwards at a local Italian restaurant. We were pleased to welcome visitors from the Netherlands and Germany and our international representative from the USA in the person of Corlea Plowman, Executive Director. Again our speakers did not disappoint, and we had a 'Forum' meeting to discuss the theme of the conference: Promoting Learning. This seemed to work quite well.

So now I approach the end of my two-year term of office. It is disappointing that despite strenuous efforts by a number of people, we were unable to start a new Chapter in Cambridge, as we had hoped. However, I am pleased that each of our Chapters has a new member, and that our planning on membership is beginning to take shape.

We have our European Conference in Baden-Baden to look forward to, which a number of us from all three chapters will be attending. I look forward to seeing some of you there, and to handing GB State on to Sheila Roberts, our president elect, who I know will do an excellent job, and has a number of ideas for taking us forward. I know that she will receive as much support from members as I have. Thank you again, everyone.

Diane Billam Gamma Chapter

VISIT TO ESTONIA

I was again lucky enough to represent you at the Estonia State Conference, held in Tallinn, on 4th—6th March. Kate York also attended, as European Regional Director, and stayed with Anu Joon, their State President. I stayed with Margarita Handschmidt, who will be State President from 1st July 2011.

It was a most interesting meeting, with new members, and Kate had attended the first meeting of a new Chapter on the Friday. They are such a lively and inspiring group: it has been a pleasure to attend two years running, and to be offered a warm welcome to stay in members' homes.



L-R. Anu Joon, State President, Diane, Margarita and Kate York



Diane Billam meeting new Estonian members

When I was shown to my bedroom at Margarita's house, the first thing I saw was a Liverpool Football Club scarf, and it transpired that her younger son had attended Liverpool University, and now works in London.

On the Sunday, Margarita and I met Anu and Kate, and went to the Estonian Open



View from Margarita's window

Air Museum near Tallinn, Eesti Vabaohumuseum in Estonian. It was a beautiful sunny day, but cold, and a great day for photos! We walked through the snow,

looking at a number of installations of houses, farms, churches etc, which had been moved there from various parts of the country. As it was Shrovetide, there were a number of special events, with people in costume. We enjoyed some interesting food and drink, and heard music on a number of instruments. Then we went on to the new Art Gallery, and saw a range of Estonian art.



Transport for a snowy day

It is hard to realise that Estonia has been an independent state for only two decades, and the people are fiercely proud of the progress they have made. Please do take the opportunity, which we are all offered, of attending one or more of the other European State conferences next year; you will not be disappointed.

Diane Billam *Gamma Chapter
GB State President*



Kate being shown some Shrove Tuesday customs



Kate and Diane in the Art Museum KUMU. They are standing next to chairs made out of old car tyres



Diane and Kate stand next to a poster showing Estonians wearing their National costumes

FURTHER TRAVELS OF A REGIONAL DIRECTOR

January–April 2011

Early in the New Year it was time to return to Germany for the second full meeting of the Steering Committee for the Regional conference. I travelled via Frankfurt Airport and then took the European ICE train to meet Brigitte Wichmann in Kippenheim. After several days of planning, we drove again to Fulda, noting the flooding in many places due to melting snow. The pressure at this meeting was to meet the deadline for the March-April edition of *DKG NEWS* and to make sure that everyone knew what needed to be done so that all the information for members would be ready in time. The most complicated aspect seemed to be getting the online registration and booking forms correct. I trialled the registration process repeatedly, hoping that I would only be charged once and not ten or more times!

On 20th January I flew to Schiphol Airport in The Netherlands, then took a train north so that I could be present for the installation of a new chapter – Zeta.

Riet Smits (State President) and I conducted a bi-lingual installation to set the new chapter off to a cheerful start. Before the ceremony, we all met for a meal together, and then adjourned for the formalities. On

Zeta Chapter



the following morning, there was time to visit the Art Museum in Groningen before the journey home. I was impressed by the 'swipe card' system which enabled visitors to select pictures and have photographs emailed home to be downloaded – great technology!

As Di Billam has reported earlier, the next visit (early in March) was to Estonia, where snow was piled up alongside all the roads, and the rivers were frozen.



Anu Joon with new chapter members at Parnu

I went a day early so that I could travel from Tallinn to Parnu with

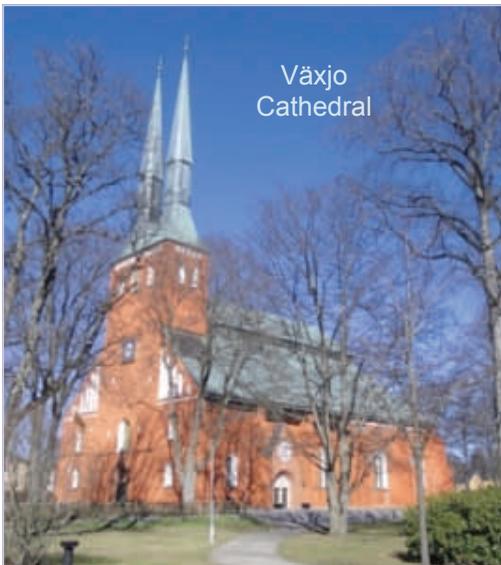


Anu Joon (State President) and meet the members of the second Estonian chapter. On the evening we arrived, we met for supper at the local yacht club, overlooking a frozen sea! The following morning included visits to a

school and the local university college, both of which were impressive. The school was immaculate, having recently been refurbished. The university, a branch of Tartu Ülikool, was housed in a combination of re-modelled ropework buildings and state-of-the-art modern architecture. At both venues we were taken round by DKG members who were proud to show us where they work. Later in the day we returned to Tallinn to prepare for the state meeting. Over-night snow resulted in a treacherous car journey to collect food from the caterer, but we successfully navigated a narrow, snowbound lane, and then drove into the city for the meeting, held at the school where Meeri Sild teaches – members may remember her from Oslo. I was impressed by the number of members planning to come to Baden-Baden in the summer. Margarita Hanschmidt was announced as the new State President and two new members were initiated.

On the day of the GB state conference, I was in Sweden as the International Representative to their meeting. The journey to Växjö on the previous day had been eventful. At Eslov station, all passengers had to leave the train to wait for coaches to by-pass the blocked section. Luckily, I found a taxi/minibus to make the road journey to Hasselholm, or I might still be waiting on the platform with about 500 other people for the coaches to arrive. Arriving 2 hours late, with 15 minutes to spare before the Friday 'mingle party', I met 55 or so members who were already in Växjö.

On Saturday, the local mayor was welcomed to start the proceedings, addressing the 80 members present and proud of the fact that Växjö prides itself as the 'greenest city in Europe'. After speeches and presentations in the morning, the afternoon offered a choice of workshops – I chose the Swedish glass museum and the cathedral, both of which were fascinating.



Kate and Catherine Bringselius-Nilsson, State President, with the Mayor of Växjö





Pieces on view at the Glass Museum

On Sunday morning, the meeting transferred to the Linnaeus University for the business agenda. Lunch in the local castle (TeleborgsSlott), closed the proceedings. In the afternoon, I had the opportunity to meet the new State President, Ingrid Stjernquist, and other members of the host chapter. Fortunately, the homeward journey lacked the excitement of the outbound one.



Linnaeus University library is in a converted building

At the time of writing, I am preparing to go to the Indiana state meeting as International Representative, travelling out on Thursday 28th and returning on Monday 2nd May. Never a dull moment!

Kate York Gamma Chapter, Regional Director

HOW WE STARTED OUR NEW CHAPTER: ZETA

From 18 January 2011 we have a new chapter in The Netherlands: Zeta is the name!



Kate York installing Janny into Zeta Chapter

We all know how difficult it is nowadays to start a new chapter. You will recognize the problems we had to get this new chapter started. Actually we have been preparing for this chapter for more than two years. Our idea was to start another chapter in the northern part of the country: Drenthe and Friesland. Since our biggest chapter Epsilon has more than 25 members, it seemed to be time for another chapter in the region next to Groningen.

We organised special meetings in both these provinces and invited new women who might be interested in our society and organized good speakers. We also did so-called speed-dating just to inform the guests in a short time about our organization.

We had some interested women after several of these special meetings, but it still seemed to be a problem to persuade them to really take part in our organization. It



Riet Smits, State President, at the installation

took us until the end of last year that we could say: Now we just do it, we had eight women, only three new ones, the others coming from existing chapters but we said: it's now or never, let's do it and go for it. So we started. Four members of Epsilon Chapter took a place on the board (including myself). It was a great honour for us that our Regional Director Kate joined our first meeting. She came with her husband Tony. Also members of other chapters came to encourage us and so it became a very special first meeting with a lot of enthusiastic women.

In April we will install our ninth member and I am sure we will grow. Perhaps it won't go fast, maybe more steadily, but we will go on!

Janny Kisteman *Zeta Chapter, The Netherlands*

ICELAND INSTALLS A NEW CHAPTER: MU

We are proud to announce that Iceland State now has twelve chapters!

Mu chapter, with 28 new members, was installed in Þelamerkurskóli in the North of Iceland (near Akureyri), on Tuesday April 26th 2011.

At the installation ceremony twenty-three members were initiated and five will be initiated at their next meeting. The members come from the capital of the North, Akureyri, and surrounding area. The first president of Mu Chapter is Jenný Gunnbjörnsdóttir.

The installation was a beautiful traditional ceremony 'by the book', with candles and roses, singing and joy. Afterwards we got the opportunity to mix with our new members over some refreshments. Eleven guests



from Beta Chapter were present. True to our professional goals we then had an educational lecture. Rósa Kristín Júlíusdóttir, a member of Beta Chapter and a former State President, talked about Art and the teaching of Art.

We welcome the new Mu chapter members in our society and wish them all the best. We are very proud of the progress of Iceland State and of our two new chapters, Lambda and Mu. Just over 50 young and beautiful women at all age levels have joined us this last winter. It is a long and difficult procedure to start a new chapter, but we will tell you all about it at the Conference in Baden-Baden, in a workshop and at the Membership workshop on the Wednesday before the Conference. Looking forward to see you in August.

Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir, *State President of Iceland* and **Eygló Björnsdóttir**, *European Webmaster*

GREAT BRITAIN STATE CONFERENCE

Promoting Learning

Our conference was held at the Soroptomists Club, Bayswater Road. The house, built in the 1870s, overlooks Kensington Gardens.

We began with coffee, and at 10.15am Diane Billam, our State President, welcomed us and introduced the day's activities.

Promoting Learning in Mathematics: Trisha Rogers

After the initial introductions Trisha immediately immersed us all in the theme of the conference, Promoting Learning, with her presentation: Promoting Learning in Mathematics. For us it all began with a game of Sudoku.

As an audience from many disciplines some of us had unhappy memories of our mathematics learning. We had learnt our tables and a few formulas for simple application, but had never had the fun of playing Sudoku in a maths lesson! So was it maths? The analysis of the processes involved in the game showed us that it certainly was. Trisha then led us from fun to a more serious note by focusing our attention on the importance of mathematics and why we need to teach it - from its necessity for coping with daily life, getting jobs, an essential tool in other subjects, passing exams and developing logical thinking, to simply because it's beautiful.



Trisha prepares with Diane

After this brief introduction Trisha quickly focused on the question, how do we promote learning in mathematics? To answer this she drew our attention to Richard Skemp's definition of types of understanding and their importance in learning:

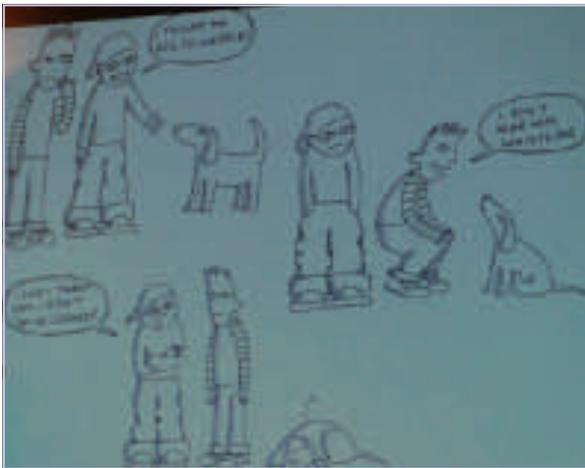
- Instrumental understandings, or rules without understanding
- Relational understanding, or knowing what to do and why.

Trisha, like Skemp, feels that the second definition is the key to learning in mathematics. She used her recent visit to the schools of rural Pakistan to emphasize the importance of understanding what is being done in a mathematics lesson. As an invited advisor what she saw in the schools were groups of well-behaved children copying down tables and learning by rote. Her question was, what were they getting out of it? Even though the schools have few resources, she was able to point out that pebbles and leaves could be used to make groups of twos or threes etc. With this in place she saw the children understanding what they were doing. She still supports learning by rote once the concept is understood - It makes life easier.

From Primary school we looked at examples of how to teach understanding mathematical processes to older children with the factoring of: $n-1$, Bingo, even I could see that $4 \text{ squared} - 1 = 5 \times 3$ when Trisha moved the little square away from the corner of the 4×4 square and then with the magic of technology re-jigged the shape to make a rectangle $5 \text{ squares} \times 3$. It's fun and meaningful. Then on to graphs and finally looking at statements, were they true: always, sometimes or never? She kept us involved the whole time developing our relational understanding and entertaining us at the same time.

Trisha's love of mathematics is always evident, it shines through her eyes and smile - she makes maths a meaningful and exciting experience, the very best way to promote the learning of any subject. Her infectious enthusiasm made me want to go back to school and have another go. I also got the message that through example children must be made to feel that mathematics is relevant to them. When maths is fun, they want to learn; when they see a need, they want to learn. When they understand what's happening in the processes and why it's happening they learn, and remember, and have a foundation to build on.

A final reminder to us to pay attention to what we were doing in the classroom was delivered in a humorous fashion: a cartoon: "I taught my dog to whistle!"



Boy: I taught my dog to whistle

Friend: I don't hear him whistling

Boy: I said I taught him, I didn't say he learned it.

Let's all learn from this. When we teach our children we do so in such a way that promotes the learning of mathematics so they cannot become the butt of a similar cartoon.

Trisha's impressive CV reveals a fascinating career, including the role of chief executive for Pestalozzi Villages, and chief executive of the Jubilee Debt Foundation to name just a couple of her posts. And yet through her career she has never lost sight of promoting her first love...mathematics. She is currently the NCETM Regional Co-ordinator (National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics) at the Institute of Education, University of London.



Barbara Kern thanks Trisha

The National Centre for excellence in the teaching of mathematics aims to support and encourage mathematics-specific continuing professional development, for all teachers of mathematics across all phases. Trisha is an excellent ambassador for their aim.

Trisha can be contacted by email at:

trisha.rogers@ncetm.org.uk

Lavinia Soul *Alpha Chapter*

Positive Learning Experience for Jiggly Children: Dr Sally Hulin

Dr Sally Hulin had our full, fidget-free attention during her lecture. Every teacher in the room had had the experience of teaching children labelled ADHD, ADD or on the autistic spectrum; 'jiggly' immediately reminded us of that group of children and adolescents who just cannot focus and need help. Her role is to engage with those children, their families and other agencies, to improve the educational outlook for the children. She practises in the 'Active Child Clinic' in Barnet and would seem to work wonders.



Dr Sally Hulin, pictured in the light of the projector

Through observation Sally diagnoses her clients as 'unable to put the brakes on'. 'They're impulsive and hyperactive. The prefrontal cortex manages the 'brakes' (executive function) and scans show that ADHD children demonstrate a dysfunction. Thus they are three or sometimes four times more likely to be argumentative, get touchy, blame others, lie, steal etc than the majority of children.

Ritalin appropriately prescribed manages the executive function. As the prefrontal cortex develops and changes during adolescence, the positive effects of Ritalin are maintained.

Diagnosis follows referral, from schools, or GPs. The child is observed at school, with family and alone under various controlled conditions, by a psychiatrist and paediatrician. Parents and teachers are interviewed. Diagnosis and treatment follows. The families and children are given additional opportunities through The Barnet Active Child Clinic to join the parenting self-help group ADISS, participate in a range of holiday activities and benefit from other agencies such as the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, CAHMS.



Sandra Blacker *Gamma Chapter*

Panel of Experts Field Questions

Our two excellent speakers from the morning session were joined by our international guest, Corlea Plowman, Executive Director, from Headquarters. They answered questions on a wide variety of subjects based on the Conference theme 'Promoting Learning'. Diana Bell chaired the group and encouraged a free flow of discussion between the panellists and members.

The first question "How can siblings each diagnosed with Asperger's exhibit such major differences in personality" was answered by Dr Sally Hulin. *No two children or young adults in a family develop exactly the same - similarly those diagnosed with Asperger's can be quite different in character.* Many of the following questions dwelt on changes in Society, within families and subsequently in the classroom. "Is there an increase in cases of ADHD? Is this phenomenon the result of changes in teaching styles or improved diagnosis?" Again, Sally contributed the major points: *Jiggly children find group teaching exceptionally difficult. Their problems are more obvious. A short attention span is a liability for them.*

A general discussion followed on how Society has changed. Many children become isolated on a computer in their bedrooms. Members had noted children as young as seven had access to Facebook. There were comments about instant communication, mobile phones brought into schools and concerns about lack of discipline and adults accepting responsibility. Often parents opt for 'no risk' outdoor activities with limited opportunities for children to explore for themselves. In discussion, members agreed that if adults were designing a child's activity to become an addiction or obsession, then a one-to-one with a computer would be an absolute answer. Trisha brought us all up short with a wise comment: Obsession can be a problem, but just consider the greatness of Leonardo!

The questions then turned to the contrast in schools in the UK, Netherlands (Trijny), USA (Corlea), and Lahore (recently visited by Trisha). Corlea asked

Panellists L to R: Corlea Plowman, Trisha Rogers, Dr Sally Hulin. Diana Bell is standing.



“How is specialised teaching working out”? Inspired by this, the discussion revolved around the practice separating youngsters with special needs, streaming into grammar and high schools, different abilities or religious sects, as in Northern Ireland, rather than Community Schools for all. It was agreed that politicians worldwide have their own agenda, especially at election time. Opinions were exchanged about the random cuts in spending which, regrettably, have led to the closure of libraries in some areas.

A lively discussion ended with the panel and members sharing views, ably chaired by our immediate past-president and concluding with an overall, positive celebration and appreciation of the teaching profession

Mary Wardrop *Gamma Chapter*

A Message from Corlea Plowman: DKG Executive Director



We were pleased to welcome Corlea to our Conference. She began her message by passing on good wishes from our International President, Jensi Souders and the Headquarters Staff in Austin.

She outlined the various changes that had taken place concerning International Committees. Some had been merged and, where necessary, new ones created. This had been done in order to streamline services and cut unnecessary costs.

Corlea reminded members that, because of the successful outcome of the mammoth task that had taken place at the recent International Convention in Spokane, the Constitution would remain unchanged for the next four years, much to the relief of all present.

Membership was a challenge for us all. It was the duty of every one of us to inform those involved in any field of education of the advantages and opportunities through being a member of the Society.

Corlea said we should be proud of the Charity work carried out by the Society, the main one being the ‘Schools for Africa’ project. Chapters were encouraged to be aware of any local educational charity in which they could become involved, as this would, at the same time, have the added advantage of making the Society known to a wider audience.



Corlea and Evelyn

Corlea concluded by inviting members to Baden-Baden in August 2011 and to New York in 2012.

Evelyn Goodsell *Gamma Chapter*

Our New Executive Top Team



State
President's
Pin



The State Organisation Annual General Meeting took place in the afternoon.

Our State President, Diane Billam, informed the members that Loetitia Stone, Beta Chapter, had overseen the official process. Diane then welcomed the new State President Elect, Sheila Roberts, presenting her with her State President's pin. Diane also announced that Dorcas Rogers is to be the new Vice-President, (she is pictured in the centre above), and Robbie Scahill is to be the new Executive Secretary. Congratulations to our new executive team.

Editor

Great Britain Achievement Award

This year's recipient of The GB Achievement Award, given biennially to honour a member for something special, is Gloria Redston.

As a recipient of the award, Gloria fulfills all the criteria:

- A member of DKG for many more than the 5 years stated;
- she has certainly raised the profile of the society in Britain, introducing a fair number of current members to the society;
- raised the profile of Britain in Europe and internationally;
- provides a very special service for Great Britain State.

We all know Gloria for her skills as GB State's Webmaster, and our site is something we are all proud of, being so clear and user-friendly. Any queries about the society Gloria has the answers. However, there is much more to Gloria than that!

She was brought up in Bristol, married very young straight from school, and with David and later their three daughters lived in USA, Canada and Australia. During those stays she immersed herself in the local cultures and also worked in schools as an unqualified assistant.



Gloria admires her new award pin

Returning to UK, Gloria pursued her dream of becoming a qualified teacher and attended Stockwell College in Bromley, where she met Kate York and forged a life-long friendship. She then went on to teach both in UK schools, and again in the USA. She has shown great determination in the pursuit of education, not just for herself but for many others.



Leaving the States and returning finally to the UK, Gloria discovered DKG in Britain and immediately joined. She is a founder member of Gamma Chapter.

After her successful biennium as State President, Gloria represented Europe on the International Constitution and Scholarship committees and was a Golden Gift recipient, doing the Leadership course in Austin, Texas. Through these, she has certainly enhanced the profile of Great Britain and Europe. She has also been State Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee.

Gloria has constantly exhibited care and concern for others and now is coping with the limits of Ataxia, in her inimitable calm, determined manner. She is a very brave lady and a worthy recipient of this year's Great Britain Achievement Award.

Sheila Roberts *Gamma Chapter*

Enjoying our State Conference



Carol and Gloria



Loetitia, Barbara and Carolyn



L-R. Evelyn, Sheila, Sandra and Brigitte Wichmann, State President of Germany



Liz M



Diane, Evelyn and Sheila



Dorothy



Trijny Schmid du Moulin from The Netherlands, a past Regional Director



L-R. Gloria, Dolores, Ronnie and Mary



Lavinia thanking Dr Sally Hulin for her presentation



An overview of proceedings

ASPECTS OF THE FRENCH EDUCATION SYSTEM: Assessments and Diplomas in Primary and Secondary Education

This article is connected to the one I wrote in the Spring 2011 issue of Great Britain News.

Before entering the topic of diplomas in the French education system, I must mention that in France any diploma that is awarded has to be endorsed by the Department of Education. No private set-up is authorised to distribute its own certificates and diplomas.

Until their last year at 'collège' (which would correspond to year 10 in England) students are assessed through tests devised by their individual teachers – to measure that what has been taught (or given as homework) has been acquired. Their yearly grades are taken from the results of these informal tests. These grades are given to the students and their parents and are used by the school to determine the progress of each student. They are not used as a basis to judge a school.



There are some national tests ('évaluations') taken in CE1 (second year of compulsory schooling) and CM2 (last year of primary school). The results for these are given to the local education authority. They are never published and are never used to rank schools. The parents are given the results of their own child and how these compare with the national average.

All the children leaving primary school will automatically go to their local 'collège' where they are taught in mixed-ability classes. At the end of the four-year cycle, just before leaving the 'collège', they take their first set of exams towards a diploma called 'Le Brevet des Collèges'. These exams consist of formal assessments in French, maths and humanities as well as an oral assessment on 'history of the arts'. The result of these four assessments will make up 50% of the final mark. The other 50% is made up by the grades given to the students by their teachers in their last two years at 'collège' on ALL subjects, that is French, maths and humanities (thus counting twice), two modern languages (normally English + another one), sciences, physical education, arts, music, technology and participation to school life. The result will lead to a straightforward pass or fail. Nationally, about 80% of students pass.

After four years in the 'collège' the students enter a three-year cycle at the lycée, leading to a 'baccalauréat'.

There are two types of 'lycée', the 'lycée général et technologique' leading to 10 types of baccalauréat (soon 11) and the 'lycée professionnel' leading to a 'baccalauréat professionnel'. The 'lycée professionnel' also leads to other diplomas. It is a non-academic lycée, attended by students who want to acquire practical skills leading to employment, although a 'baccalauréat professionnel' can also lead to higher education. Entry to the 'lycée' is automatic (even for the ones

who have failed the 'Brevet des Collèges'). However, there are consultations taking place prior to the student making his/her choice – to make sure that he/she will not make the wrong choice of section. The 'collège' can also prevent a student from accessing the 'lycée général et technologique' if it is felt that he/she should go to a 'lycée professionnel'.

If a student decides to enter a 'lycée général et technologique' that is not the locally allocated one, they need to be admitted. They have to present a file of evidence, as admission to a non-allocated lycée needs to be justified. There are many reasons why students may choose another lycée – one being that not all subjects are offered by every lycée, for example Russian or certain sports. It is the collège that will have to support their choice.

Entry to a 'lycée professionnel' is subjected to other criteria, as the choice of sections is wider and each lycée offers different specialities. The 'lycée professionnel' is not subjected to the rule of local allocation.

The baccalauréat is a passport to university and higher education.

Maud Thompson *Gamma Chapter*

CHAPTER REPORTS

ALPHA CHAPTER

We had a pleasant social occasion at my house in December, followed in January with a guided tour of The City, led by Tim Budgen.

City Walk with Tim Budgen

Ten stalwart members and friends from Alpha and Gamma Chapters met Tim Budgen and his wife Loraine, at the rebuilt Liverpool Street station. Undeterred by the pouring rain on a cold day, we followed Tim between enormous glass and red brick tower blocks which were built over the railway lines. One was supported by huge, black semicircular girders and another by gigantic, shiny, stainless steel girders arranged in triangular formation. Although we were dwarfed, we felt safe, not claustrophobic, and even vaguely warm. The ground was paved with plenty of shiny, red granite among the smaller darker areas of grey granites



Meeting at Liverpool Street Station

and slates. Tim showed us carefully designed recreational spaces which would, had the weather been better, have enticed us to stay.

We crossed Bishops Gate, left the City and entered Tower Hamlets. We were all interested in the ruins of the Hospital of St Mary Spital where in a recent dig, over 8,000 burials were revealed. As we passed Georgian houses, many of which had been occupied by Huguenot silk weavers, we appreciated how members of historic building trusts, planners and architects had saved, converted and blended old patterns of dwellings with new ones. A few houses were preserved as museums.



It was good to have shelter as we walked through Spitalfields market. When the longstanding fruit and vegetable market had been moved, the site was developed through a Trust in which Tim was chairman for its present use as a Covent Garden style market. This market, normally thronging with people, was quiet, it being a Saturday. We trudged past the oldest known synagogue in London, saw a mosque still displaying a sundial bearing the word 'Umbra sumus', and arrived at Christ Church. We noted other historic landmarks such as Truman's brewery in Brick Lane and the Toynbee Hall with which many social reformers are associated. With the rain still pouring down, we made a diversion to City farm to see the animals and also where Bangladeshi women can meet and grow herbs for their cooking.



Having enjoyed seeing so much, we concluded the morning chatting during a curry meal in Brick Lane. It felt good being with friends, getting warm, eating, resting, exchanging news and making plans for the future.

Unity Harvey Alpha Chapter

At our January meeting we heard from Linda Osborn about an interesting international inclusion project developed by the Woodcraft Folk, an international organisation that Linda had been a member of since childhood.

Their 'All Together' project identifies groups of young people who have been excluded from mainstream social, cultural and educational activities. Support is given by using role models from the target groups to act as key members and/or leaders. Activities other than weekly group meetings are offered, and no activity is too costly. Linda gave examples, such as the 'Play Out Project', a mobile project with paid staff offering play activities to children, and the planned 'CoCamp',

an international camp open to all the groups involved, that is to be held in the UK.

We thoroughly enjoyed Linda's talk and our brief tour around Dulwich Hamlet Junior School.

Our March meeting at Unity Harvey's house in Barnes was followed by a walk to the Thames to watch the Oxford and Cambridge boat race. We had a good view of the race, and, as Oxford passed us, they took the lead. We returned to Unity's and warmed up with tea and snacks while watching Oxford win on television.



Linda Osborn

Our good wishes go with Elizabeth Chambers who has now left us to live in southern California. She sends her best wishes and promises to keep in touch.

Peggy McCall, who many will recall returned to the USA some

years ago, is to be the State President of Georgia. We send her our congratulations. Georgia was the state that sponsored the founding of Great Britain State.



Oxford pulling ahead

Forthcoming meetings and events:

- Monday 27th June. Afghanistan, Crossroads of the Ancient World. British Museum. 12.00 for a sandwich, start visit at 1.00pm. Payment required.
- Saturday 2nd July. Meeting, Claire Purcell will be teaching us how to play the steel pans! 2.00pm Dulwich Hamlet Junior School, Dulwich Village. Lunch before locally.
- Wednesday 13th July. Dirt: The Filthy Reality of Everyday Life. 11.00am Wellcome Collection. 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE
- Saturday 23rd July. Olympic Site Visit Walk. 11.00am at Bromley-by-Bow tube, Two hours, walking shoes.
- 3rd – 6th August 2011. Regional Conference in Baden-Baden.
- Monday 15th August. Visit Dennis Severs' House, lunch in Brick Lane followed by the Women's Library, and the Whitechapel Art Gallery.
- Wednesday 5th October. World Teachers Day. Possibly a visit to an OASIS Academy.
- Saturday 8th October. Meeting, Hilary Goy will speak on 'Who were the Girton Pioneers?' Venue TBA, hopefully LSBU.
- Saturday 12th November. TBA.
- Saturday 10th December. Christmas function, probably at my house.
- 2012 Meeting dates: 21st January, 25th February Visit to St Bart's Hospital Medical Museum. 24th March, 21st April, 19th May, 30th June.

Diana Bell *Alpha Chapter*

BETA CHAPTER

This report remains the same as for the AGM as there are no changes to record.

As a functioning group we are successful at enjoying each other's company and there is no shortage of mental stimulus either. Joanne is studying towards a diploma in economics, Beryl is learning calligraphy. Pat is mentor to a 14 year old girl, which will no doubt be quite a challenge. Jess is actively pursuing her research interests in the field of sound. Sue Torr of course could fill a book with all her activities. She made us all very proud this year by receiving a certificate in Social Entrepreneurship. Zoe is actively involved in Plymouth Storytelling Project; and she also participates in a group led by Sarah called 'Singing for the Brain'.

'Singing for the Brain' is an apparently rewarding and successful way of stimulating people in the early stages of Dementia. This is a topic of interest to many of us, and Sarah herself is a brilliant teacher / leader / demonstrator of the theory and techniques involved. She was to have offered a workshop on the subject at the forthcoming Regional Conference, but unfortunately family concerns mean she has had to withdraw. However, I strongly recommend Sarah as a speaker / demonstrator at future DKG events – her communication skills and the material itself deserve a wide audience.

Such an opportunity may possibly occur as part of our plans for Beta chapter's 30th birthday, which falls this September. We shall be calling on our sister chapters to join us in our celebrations.

Forthcoming meetings and events 2011:

9th April. State Conference. Loetitia represents the chapter.

16th July. Summer outing to Oreston, courtesy of Pat.

3rd-6th August. Jess and Gail represent the chapter at the Regional Conference. Jess has offered a workshop on 'Sound: is Hearing a Neglected Sense?'

24th September. We celebrate Beta's 30th Birthday.

10th December. Christmas Party.

Gail Gladwin *Beta Chapter*

GAMMA CHAPTER

I look back with pleasure at the last few meetings when I feel Gamma Chapter have been very fortunate to have had exceptional speakers who spoke with great passion about their work and their place in education today. Jill Grainger introduced us to her world of 'Counselling the Young'. She explained what happens when she is invited into a school to work with vulnerable children. Her main concern being that the service will be cut in the present economic climate, and then who will work with these damaged children?

Rachel Knapp shared her vision for her role as Chaplain at our local faith secondary school – Bennett Memorial. The role is a new one and is constantly

evolving and changing as she strives to meet the pastoral and spiritual needs of all the pupils. As you can imagine it is a very demanding and exacting role with no two days being the same. It will be interesting to see how the concept of a school chaplain in state schools develops in the next few years.

Jill Rowe, from the charity Oasis, explained the ethos behind their work in education. At the moment they have thirteen Academies throughout the country and she shared some stories with us. Oasis believe that you cannot educate a child in isolation from all the other factors which influence their life, so each child is part of a hub and they endeavour to work with the 'whole child' not just nurturing their academic capabilities. Her talk was entitled 'Transforming Lives, Transforming Communities' and she told us about their desire for whole communities to be changed through the work with the children in school. After an inspirational talk she invited us to visit one of their Academies in London. I am hoping to arrange this for the autumn term – watch this space!

We also welcomed Joanna Finlay who told us about her work with 'Adults with Learning Difficulties'. It surprised us all how she came to this career and the title of her talk, 'Thrown in at the Deep End', seemed particularly appropriate once we'd heard her background.

Kate's fascinating talk about her round-the-world cruise left us all longing to follow in her footsteps. Thank you Kate for inspiring us all. We also had a Forum to discuss ideas for growing our chapter. We sent a questionnaire to schools in our area and Mary collated these and produced a report which will help shape our programme next year. Hopefully if we provide speakers on topics which were highlighted as of great interest we will encourage young teachers to come and join us.

We were very excited to welcome Liz Malik to Gamma Chapter at our last meeting. Let's hope the first of many to be initiated in the coming year.

The Sate Conference was a brilliant opportunity to meet and be challenged by some excellent speakers. The summer looms ahead although I'm beginning to think we've already had it with this amazing weather – snow in August? We are joining with Alpha in May and hoping to visit the coast in June. Hopefully I'll manage to fit in my paddle in the sea.



Carole initiates Liz Malik

Looking forward to seeing you all in Baden-Baden,

Carole Stirling *Gamma Chapter*

Forthcoming meetings and events can be viewed on the GB Website, details page 24.

Ed.

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Mission Statement

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