



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS  
**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA**

## **GREAT BRITAIN NEWS**



**GREAT BRITAIN CONFERENCE AYLESFORD PRIORY**

**SUMMER 2014**

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Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition. As you will see, it has been a busy time for our members, both within the chapters and especially at our Annual State Conference at Aylesford Priory at the end of March.

Contributions will be needed for the Autumn edition. This is usually full of reports on the Regional Conference (odd years) or the International Convention (even years). This year, there are fewer GB members going to Indianapolis than usually attend the International. We shall therefore be even more dependent on members sending in reports of their activities, and in particular, for Chapter Presidents to ensure that every chapter activity is reported on for GB News.

All contributions by mid-August please, preferably in Word. Photos especially welcome, as attachments to emails for ease of transfer. [dbillam@hotmail.com](mailto:dbillam@hotmail.com)



Cover photograph of Rochester Cathedral taken from the Castle by Roland Wichmann, our German Guest

On Saturday evening after dinner in the Prior's Hall, some of us took up Dorcas Rogers' offer of tuition in the art of Zumba!

## Diana Bell

### STATE ORGANISATION PRESIDENT: 2013-2015



We enjoyed an excellent State Conference weekend at The Friars, Aylesford Priory. It is such a pleasant peaceful venue (except when Dorcas Rogers' Zumba - or laughter class, got going!) and the weather was very kind. The conference was a real team effort with lots of help and support from members. We had some splendid displays of work, a book sale, and a raffle that did well for the Emergency Fund. I really enjoyed giving a tour around Rochester, (Marika's photo of the group is

below right). Having lived there for many years I had forgotten what a interesting and historic town it is!

At the conference, members and guests heard from a number of eminent speakers all discussing the theme, **Develop Your Voice: Inspire Others**. This conference will be written up more fully elsewhere, but I did want to mention in my report what a pleasure it was to have as our guest Dr Lace Brogden, North West Regional Director, (photo by Bettina Kulsdom).



We also very much enjoyed Dr Lesley Hendy's talk on the use of the voice with Jo Palmer-Tweed giving us the teacher training perspective. I still find it amazing that members of a profession who use their voice so much are rarely taught to keep it safe. It was also surprising and disappointing to learn that Kevin Sewell, who spoke movingly about his experience of training to be a teacher, was not always well supported or mentored properly. I do wonder why this happens when proper training is vital to the next generation's school experience.



After some fascinating stories – and there's a real art to doing this well - we got down to the business meeting. It was good to thank the chapter officers for their hard work this year. Reading their reports, individual e-mails and attending meetings shows that we have enjoyed some very interesting and lively events, with varied programmes - and with plenty more to look forward to.

On May 11th, DKG celebrates its 85th birthday. Dr. Annie Webb Blanton, with eleven other women, founded DKG at the Faculty Women's Club at The University of Texas in Austin. The society has grown and is now active in many countries. Increasing GB membership is always at the front of our minds. We need to ask friends to join us, invite potential members to meetings. There are so many benefits and tremendous opportunities for personal growth, developing interests, travel and making friendships, and not just at chapter level. At our international Convention in Indianapolis this July I shall hear excellent speakers, find out more about the International Executive, see a new city, meet new people and, hopefully, greet old friends.

There are changes of personnel this year. As well as our new chapter officers, I am looking forward to continued excellent regional leadership as Marika Heimbach, our European Regional Director, hands over to Marianne Skardéus from Sweden. Later in the year I will join members of the European Forum Committee for our first meeting of the biennium.

**Diana Bell**



## GREAT BRITAIN STATE CONFERENCE 2014

It seemed a long time coming but suddenly it was here – our State Conference. I'm sure everyone had been looking forward to the date as much as I had. The weekend would provide the opportunity to relax and enjoy oneself while catching up with good friends.

The conference was held at the same venue as two years ago, the Friars. As soon as you arrive this beautiful place begins to weave its magic. You can feel the history of the place wrapping itself around you and the peace of the place entering your soul and taking away the stresses and strains of your life. It provides the chance to escape, even if it is just for a weekend. All the rooms are cosy and adequate, although the lack of hot water this year was disappointing, to put it mildly! However the refurbished dining room and improved menu were a definite plus. The excellent conference facilities provided a more than suitable venue for the stimulating and informative speakers and the fun we all shared.

All too soon it was time to pack up and say goodbye to friends, the Friars and make our way home. Oh well, there's always next year to look forward to.

***Carole Stirling*** (*Gamma Chapter*)



*These two pictures, by Bettina Kulsdom and Diane Billam, illustrate the tranquil surroundings for our Annual Conference, 2014*

## ‘FINDING MY TEACHING VOICE’

In March 2012, the majority of our DKG members met Kevin Sewell for the first time at Aylesford Priory. He had received effective support at New College Worcester, a special boarding school for those with visual impairment, and his enthusiasm had been infectious. He loved sport, music and drama and after he had achieved an Upper Second Honours degree at University, all seemed to bode well for his future career. In 2012, Kevin had shared an interest in training as a teacher with his DKG audience.

Two years later, Kevin returned again to Aylesford and opened our Conference on Friday night to tell us how much he had valued our previous interest and our encouragement to pursue his plans for the future. Unfortunately, while studying at his first Teacher Training College he encountered disappointment in the lack of enthusiasm by the lecturers, inadequate mentoring and staff showing minimum support for the students. Kevin’s honest delivery in illustrating his frustration at the College in which there was a brief five minute interview, a ten minute chat and his memory stick breaking down after a careful preparation for his Power Point presentation. This had not boosted his morale. He had been prepared for a challenging year but the subsequent delay in receiving his grant did not enhance his confidence in the organisation.

However, his life was to improve after he had changed to a different College. It was the complete opposite. There was high expectation from the staff, the organisation offered better support, and he had a fantastic experience, in which he was told he had organising potential and an encouragement to “Stick with it”. He witnessed students who wanted to learn and where the motivation exhibited by the teaching staff proved to be amazing in comparison with his previous experience. Kevin commented on the encouragement he received when he asked questions and the wonderful reception from the Head of Music. He recounted all the positive aspects of this new attitude.

As I thanked him for his bravery in continuing with his objectives in spite of all the difficulties, Kevin revealed he had discovered the following enlightenment and quoted: “practical teaching in the classroom is more important and a most useful preparation for a future career.” Fortunately, in a different environment Kevin seems to have..... **“Found His Teaching Voice”**

**Mary Wardrop** (*Gamma Chapter*)



*Bettina`s photograph shows Kevin in discussion with members after his talk had given us a flying start to our conference*

## **CONTRIBUTIONS BY DR LACE MARIE BROGDEN**

It was a privilege for the conference to be joined by Dr Lace Marie Brogden. She gave us two sessions, one with news of the society and the second a thought-provoking presentation on the different aspects of finding our voice as women and educators.

### **News of the Society**

There are now 18 countries on 3 continents with chapters of Delta Kappa Gamma. The society is involved in particular projects such as Schools for Africa and early career educators. Lace also touched on the specific problems there have been in Great Britain for two decades and the shared challenge caused by teacher attrition throughout the school communities of the DKG as many teachers do not remain in the profession with attendant consequences for pupils' learning and also the finances of the education system; this needs to be tackled by chapters in local context.

Lace emphasised the role of local chapters in the mission of the society, embodying the concept of members as 'leading women educators imparting education worldwide'. Local chapters form a patchwork which builds a worldwide community and these need to take the initiative to bring Delta Kappa Gamma forward and develop and celebrate its members. Technology can play a part in this with DKG having a presence on Facebook and Twitter.

Lace reminded us that the International Convention is being held at Indianapolis this summer and that it is a year when amendments to the constitution are being considered. She urged members to think about these, particularly the one which would alter the voting system to 'one person one vote' and to give opinions to

chapter delegates who are going to Indianapolis. Lace ended her comprehensive update with her thanks to the conference organisers and members.

## **Voice**

The theme of the talk was the use of Voice for the individual and ideals. Lace told us that she had taken a long time to compose her talk as there are many conceptual nuances depending on which verb governs the 'voice', for example - to raise the voice, to find a voice, to lend a voice, to quieten the voice, to protect the voice, to use the voice, to lose the voice. She then continued to consider various aspects of this.

'Finding the voice' involves discovery and experimentation. New teachers need to find their voices as much as the children they teach do.

'Losing the voice' presages loss in various ways, actual sound as well as figurative inability to be effective and to have one's opinion 'heard'. At another level this is not entirely negative because it also leads to a need for re-evaluation. The concepts of claiming and reclaiming voice follow from this and having to reposition self and ideas; the example was given of how we are labelled through our relationships and position – one person can be someone's mother, someone's wife, head of a particular school etc.

The voice needs to be tended physically by drinking to lubricate the vocal chords and also in an abstract sense to maintain its strength. A teacher has to have a strong voice in both senses. The voice is a strategic part of a teacher's professional skills to inspire, inform and engender a voice in pupils.

Lace ended by considering tones of voice and the part played by voice in showing emotions such as patience, anxiety and, of course, the speaker needs to know when to be silent! The final thought we were given was an exhortation to find the moment 'to let your voice sing.'

An excellent, thought-provoking session, Thank you, Lace!

**Hilary Goy** (*Alpha Chapter*)



*Kate York thanks Lace Marie after her excellent presentation (photograph by Bettina)*

**ARTS AND CRAFTS AT THE CONFERENCE**



*Ros Price`s beautiful cake decorations and paintings*



*Dorcas Rogers` jewellery makes wonderful presents!*



*Bettina Kulsdom`s work illustrates a great variety of skills*

## DEVELOP YOUR VOICE: INSPIRE OTHERS

Our keynote speaker for the conference at Aylesford Priory from Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2014, was Dr. Lesley Hendy from Homerton College, Cambridge. Her contribution to the subject of the conference was the importance of voice training for new teachers. She was accompanied by Dr. Jo Palmer-Tweed and the title of her Power Point presentation is “Constructing a Pedagogy for Voice Training in ITT”.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=36af593a6f&view=att&th=145176c4f8c260e8&attid=0.1&disp=safe&w>

If you click on the link and follow instructions, you can open the full Power Point. I have just tried it!

But this is the content of the talk, the fun part of being there and hearing Lesley was the examples she gave of using your voice in situ. It took me back to so many memories of my own teaching and parenting. She showed us how so many new teachers use a high pitched voice which completely loses the attention of the pupils and wears out the teacher. But this is not built into ITT and the mentors in schools are not always aware of this. Lesley illustrated five voices for effective teaching with pitch and tone being the emphasis. She gave an amusing illustration of this when telling a pupil to take his bag off the desk. Unfortunately this cannot be shown in text which lacks tone and pitch!

Lesley and Jo left us early as they were actually en route for Africa where they would be looking into teacher training there, but their presentation was entertaining and instructive, leaving much food for thought.

***Bettina Kulsdom*** (*Gamma Chapter*)



*Kate York in discussion with Dr Lesley Hendy*

*Diana Bell talks with Dr Jo Palmer-Tweed*



## THE WEALD STORY-TELLERS

I have known of Pat Robson for many years, even attended some of her drama workshops for Kent teachers, which she has led over those years. She surpassed herself at our conference. What a gifted storyteller. No notes to refer to, just the ability to hold an audience as she wove her spell.

Her first story was from Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, via the 'Wife of Bath'. She introduced the character by saying what a wonderful figure she must have been, deserving of emulation, - after all she had survived and prospered after seeing off five husbands! The story told was of a young knight who forced himself on a maiden and was severely dealt with by King Arthur who deemed he should die, but Guinevere pleaded for him, so he was given a chance to prove himself over the coming year. At the end of the year he had to be able to answer the question, 'What is it that most women desire?' The answer turned out to be mastery over men which he arrived at after an encounter with an old crone who, in the manner of all fairy tales, turned out to be a beautiful young maiden. Unlikely? Well it is a story!

Johnny Marsh told the next story which was almost an Aesop's fable. He strutted as Chanteclere, twittered as the hens, and was sly as the fox. Like Pat, he held the audience entranced as he wove the story to its perfect and moral ending 'Don't believe in flatterers'.

Pat finished with another story this time set in a convent in Italy- an unlikely, but amusing scenario and ending, centred on an enterprising young gardener and some very lustful young novices and nuns. Again she told the story with such panache that we, the audience, followed her every word. What a wonderful talent it is to have your audience so involved, hanging on your every word. A talent valued by teachers and pupils alike.

**Sheila Roberts** (*Gamma Chapter*)

*The Weald Storytellers, Pat Robson and Johnny Marsh, in discussion with members (photograph by Editor)*



## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014 OF DKG GREAT BRITAIN

The AGM agenda was lengthy and very wide ranging in topics. The financial reports presented by Kathy and Gloria showed that while our financial situation is not a cause for concern it has a fine balance, which is only maintained by good budgeting and creative fund raising at chapter and state level. It was agreed that our situation regarding an increase in dues will be reviewed after International Convention when we know what has been decided at international level.

The reports from chapter presidents showed that all chapters worked hard during the last year to offer a stimulating and attractive programme of events. Beta reported continued membership problems but they are maintaining their efforts to develop and grow as a chapter. All chapters have new officers in post for the coming biennium and are now preparing their programmes. Our communications GB News, GB website and EuForia continue to flourish and are popular with members. Gloria is currently seeking for an assistant to work with her on the website and would like anyone interested in becoming involved with producing the state website to contact her. Our Schools for Africa money continues to grow and more was raised during the conference. This will be taken to the international convention.

Mary highlighted the changes in the constitution taking place this year and the effect of the introduction of electronic voting, which may create unforeseen problems. We shall hear more about these changes after the International Convention. We also hope to hear more at that time about the Society's reaction to our proposals for a new song for the Society.

Sandra reported that this year the Canterbury Award has been made to Bettina Kulsdom for her book on the history of Norman's Bay. This is a project she is currently working on and hopes to develop and complete in about a year. Finally Dorothy gave a moving tribute of thanks to all her Delta Kappa Gamma sisters for their support and friendship during her difficult times these past few months. A sentiment echoed by Gloria in an article to be published in the summer edition of EuForia, and a benefit of membership we perhaps take for granted and should prize more highly.

***Joan Carroll*** (Alpha Chapter)

## OUR VISIT TO ROCHESTER

On a bright, sunny Sunday morning, we set off from Aylesford Priory at precisely 9.45am. to follow our Leader, Diana, through the countryside to visit the historic City of Rochester, which is located at the lowest bridging point of the River Medway about thirty miles from London. The town's location is due to the bridge which carries the Roman Watling Street (now the A2) over the river. Having found convenient parking spots we gathered at Jasper's Gate. The original name of this gate was Chertsey's Gate and it separated the Cathedral from the town. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century a timber house was built upon it and Charles Dickens used it as the house of Jasper in his story of 'The Mystery of Edwin Drood.' Charles Dickens loved Rochester and used many of the buildings in the town as settings for his stories.

Our tour then began in earnest. Walking across a grassy mound known as Boley Hill, we viewed the 12<sup>th</sup> century castle with its fine stone keep. This was built by Bishop Gundulf on land given to the Archbishops of Canterbury, in perpetuity, by Henry 1. Although it is now a ruin, it is still possible to climb up to the top of it and gain good views of the river. From there we walked to the bridge. Since Roman times there have been many bridges built at Rochester, the latest one was renovated in 1970. It has been maintained by the Rochester Bridge Trust since the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The money comes from property rents.

Rochester High Street is full of history beginning with the ancient Guildhall which now houses a free museum. In the High Street we passed Baggins Book Shop, Lloyds Bank, once the house where King James 11(V1) abdicated, soon reaching the 'House of the Six Poor Travellers'. Here, due to the charity set up by Richard Watts, which still functions today, six poor travellers were allowed to stay overnight and sent on their way the next morning with 4d. (1.6p). This is now closed but Almshouses are still available, funded by the charity, on the outskirts of Rochester. Visible from the high street is the Swiss chalet where Charles Dickens wrote many of his books, relocated from Dickens' house at Gads Hill.

Turning away from the High Street we came to Restoration House, so named as King Charles 11 was entertained there by Sir Francis Clarke in 1660, on the eve of his restoration to the throne. The house is also reputed to be the original Satis House in Great Expectations. There is



actually a Satis House nearby, once the home of Richard Watts. Nearing the end of our walk we passed the Kings School, the second oldest school in the world, established 604 AD, and reached the Cathedral, the second oldest in the country. There has been Christian worship on this site since 604 AD but the present Cathedral dates back to the work of a French monk, Gundulf, in 1080.

Sadly time did not allow for us to enter the Cathedral but I am sure, having had our appetites whetted by so much history, many of us intend to return again to Rochester. Thank you, Diana, for a most interesting, and informative, tour.

*Evelyn Goodsell (Gamma Chapter)*

## A TRIBUTE TO CORLEA PLOWMAN



Known to members everywhere as ‘Corlea’, our Executive Director has served DKG at the international level for over 10 years. In January, 2004 she joined headquarters in Austin as Business Services Administrator; she became Executive Coordinator in June 2007 and the title of the post has been Executive Director since 2010. On behalf of the Administrative Board, Corlea is the day-to-day manager of headquarters. Her responsibilities include oversight of headquarter’s personnel and she has served on almost all international committees.

However, it is Corlea, the person, to whom I want to pay tribute as she retires. Her dedication to serving DKG is truly impressive – she will always ‘go the extra mile’ to complete a task, answer a query, make sure all arrangements for everything are in place and, if necessary, ‘rattle a cage or two’ on behalf of the Society. But, it is the person behind the thorough and efficient professional who will be greatly missed.

Corlea’s jokes are legendary. Always told with a deadpan expression, the ‘punch line’ can be relied on to have an unexpected twist – never risqué, it always keeps listeners guessing until the last moment!

She is great company and is always a pleasure to work with. Her passion for fairness, and for tasks to be completed, combine to drive her. She sticks at a task until she is satisfied that the outcome is the best she can achieve. Her computer inbox dwarfs the number of emails I have ever received per day, even

at the busiest times in my life, yet an enquiry to Corlea will be answered promptly and efficiently – and always with a ‘personal touch’.

Corlea has worked flat out for DKG whilst, at the same time, attending to her husband’s health problems and needs whether she’s in Austin or Oslo. By her own admission, she failed her first attempt at retirement. We all wish her success at her second attempt. She will be a hard act to follow!

**Kate York** (*Gamma chapter*)

## VISIT TO 2 TEMPLE PLACE



We visited 2 Temple Place in early May. This is a private house owned by the Bulldog Trust Charity. It is one of London’s hidden architectural gems. Built by William Waldorf Astor, no expense was spared when work began in 1891.

It is certainly opulent with beautiful wooden, mainly inlaid floors, carved doors and panelling, and many superb statues, paintings and carvings.

The exhibition: Exploring Human Discovery in all its forms, selected from more than 5,000,000 objects at eight University of Cambridge Museums was excellent. There were so many fascinating objects: Japanese prints, an Ichthyosaurus fossil - one of the first collected in Lyme Regis by Mary Anning, and a Snakes and Ladders game beautifully inlaid. This was from the Indian sub-continent and had been used over 800 years before we played the game. Each square had a meaning or word; Quick tempered, sky, the winning top left square was Satan!

Unity Harvey writes that ‘at first the items seemed completely miscellaneous but they were all cutting edge items of art, natural phenomena and scientific discovery when they were found or made. She loved ‘the beautiful spherical machine used under the ice in the Antarctic to help discover the origins of the universe.’ Unity also learned that ‘the dodo was not as big as I thought. The non-symmetrical shape of the blades used by the Oxford and Cambridge boat crew is not new. It was used by Polynesian islanders hundreds of years ago. The Greek statues never cease to amaze me.’

**Diana Bell** (*Alpha Chapter*).

Lunch in one of the opulent rooms



## VISIT TO THE GEFFRYE MUSEUM



Alpha chapter had an interesting visit to the Geffrye Museum, which is two minutes from Hoxton Overground Station.

Sir Robert Geffrye, a former Lord Mayor of London and twice Master of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers, died in 1703, he was 90. He left most of his fortune to the Ironmongers' Company to build almshouses in his name.

S<sup>r</sup> ROB GEFFRYES KN<sup>t</sup> ALDERMAN  
AND IRONMONGER  
FOUNDER OF THIS HOSPITAL

Pensioners, who had to be over 56, moved into the almshouses in 1714. Two further houses were built in 1716, giving a total of fourteen houses. These provided over 50 rooms. Each pensioner, or married couple, had one unfurnished room, plus a supply of coal. They also received an annuity of £6 plus a new gown every Lady Day.

The almshouses were run by the Ironmongers' Company through quarterly 'courts'. Two resident officers, a matron and a chaplain, saw to the pensioners' wellbeing.

Number 14 has been restored and shows how the pensioners lived in the 18th and 19th Century. The 1780 room was for a married couple. They managed with a fireplace for heating and cooking and kept their few possessions on the closet dresser. Water was found in a communal basement room. Pensioners were able to make their rooms homely with their own possessions. The later room of the 1880s, belonging to a governess who would have left service with few possessions, shows that the pensioners were for the most part better off.

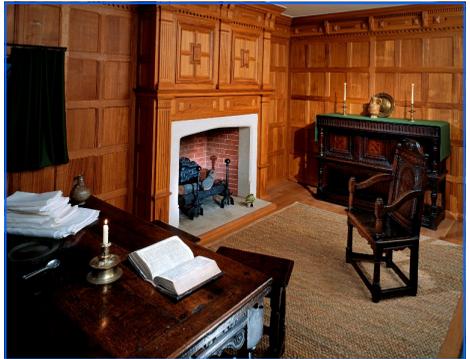


Interior of the 1780s almshouse room.  
Geffrye Museum of the Home / photographer Morley von Sternberg.

After almost 200 years conditions in the Hoxton area worsened and the Ironmongers relocated the almshouses. The site was bought by the London County Council to provide a public open space in this densely populated area. Members of the Arts and Crafts movement drew up a petition to stop the building being pulled down. It was converted into a museum which opened in 1914.

This museum displays rooms representing urban middle-class homes and shows changes in society, style and behaviour from the 1600s onwards. All the architectural details of the 11 rooms are based on surveys of existing buildings. Household inventories from before 1800, that describe the contents of people's homes, were used as sources of evidence.

The Hall is based on a 19th century sketch of a room in Aldersgate Street, since pulled down. It was a rare survival since the fire of 1666 destroyed most houses in the City.



A hall in 1630 and below left a parlour in 1745 at the Geffrye Museum of the Home / photographer Chris Ridley.



It was interesting to note that in the parlour people were expected to follow a code of politeness. They had to make themselves agreeable to others and 'politeness' covered everything from the way to take tea and stand correctly, to making conversation.

The museum curators used paintings, prints, drawings, photographs and film to provide evidence of how rooms should appear. Furniture, household objects, catalogues, let-

ters, advertisements and diaries have also been used to give information regarding room design, furnishings and insight into how people used these rooms.

What a fascinating place.

**Diana Bell** (Alpha Chapter)



A living room in 1965. The Geffrye Museum of the Home / photographer Chris Ridley. Thank you to the picture Library Administrator for use of the photos. [geffrye-museum.org.uk](http://geffrye-museum.org.uk)

## PLAYING THE GAMELAN—ALPHA CHAPTER'S MUSICAL MEETING

It was an excited group of Alpha chapter members that Claire Purcell led to the Dulwich Hamlet School music department for their January meeting where she introduced us to the art of playing the instruments of a Gamelan orchestra.

We learned a new way of playing an instrument by tapping the metal bars with a small hammer using a 4 note scale to produce a melody. Not as easy as it sounds. With Claire's patient tuition however, in less than an hour our group was able to perform a simple piece together. Our taster session ended with all participants feeling a sense of achievement and the plangent music of Indonesia echoing in our ears.



***Joan Carroll***



Claire, the Deputy Headteacher and a member of Alpha Chapter, is an outstanding teacher who made it interesting and informative. She showed us the older type of wooden Gamelan and explained that because the notes are not tuned to the western system they can be numbered - that certainly helped with my playing the notes in the correct order! All the parts of the Gamelan are built and tuned together and they are not usually interchangeable with another Gamelan. The Gamelan is considered sacred and so you never step over any part of it. We removed our shoes before playing.

***Diana Bell***

I was interested in playing the four-note xylophone just because it was part of a visually attractive set of instruments. I have a lovely sounding 8-note xylophone; bought many years ago when my eldest son was two years old. It does not lend itself to playing our music so has stayed in the cupboard. After Claire's lovely lesson on Indonesian music, I can now have fun with it with my grand children. We mentally numbered the notes and were given a rhythm to play 1234, 3423 and back to the beginning, relatively easy until we had to damp each note as we played the next one. I could not do it but have mastered it with a bit of practice at home. It is good to keep my old brain alert!

It was such fun and we even managed to make a pleasing sound between us.

***Unity Harvey***

Its always fun getting into the music department at Dulwich Hamlet Junior School. The first time I was there I learnt to play the Steel Pans - so satisfying, this time I was let loose on the gamelan. Ooooh!

Never having visited Indonesia, or studied anything but the conventional instruments of our orchestra, I had never heard of the Gamelan until it appeared on our DKG programme.

The music room was all set up. The colorful array of elaborately carved percussion style instruments, took my breath away. We took off our shoes and sat on the floor (all part of the ritual - the instruments being regarded as sacred are treated with great respect).

After a succinct introduction to the Gamelan and its heritage we were quickly allowed to experiment with the sound the instruments made. It is definitely my kind of music. There are no names for the notes and no written music. Everything is created as patterns of numbers and passed on through the oral tradition.

We practiced with our hammers banging in unison...123, 23, 34 etc, learning to dampen the resonance of the first note, with our free hand as we played the next note. We played the metallophones. Claire played the gongs. And, as if by magic, or I should say under Claire's excellent tutelage, we actually played a tune. We could have held our heads high in Bali or Java. Amazing.

Thank you Claire.

*Lavinia Soul*

## THE CALL OF THE WHITE



The January talk for Gamma Chapter was an inspiration. Jackie Ashton talked about the exploits of her daughter, Felicity, in organising and leading a group of women from the Commonwealth in a trek on skis to the South Pole, the first female team to do so.

Felicity attended Tonbridge Grammar School (having previously attended St Margaret Clitherow Primary School, Tonbridge, of which our former Chapter President, Sheila Roberts, was then Head, and being taught by Ronnie Wagstaff and Robbie Scahill). She went to UCL to study Physics and Astronomy, then Reading University for Meteorology. She was with the British Antarctic Survey from 1999 to 2002, summers being busy with a range of jobs, and winters down to 20 people, it being dark for 7 months of the year. They were allowed 1 email per month. Jackie told how she managed to smuggle a bottle of Bailey's – Felicity's favourite – by disguising it as a bottle of special milk!

In 2003 she organised an expedition for the British Schools Exploration. In a race to the North magnetic Pole, she led the first all-women team. She then took part in the first British team to cross Greenland, skiing back on her own. She took part in the Marathon des Sables, a desert event involving running a marathon a day for five days.

We then saw a film about the Commonwealth Expedition from the Antarctic coast to the South Pole, which is described in her book, `Call of the White`. It was fascinating to see how a motley crew of women from many different countries in the Commonwealth, some of whom had never seen snow or slept in a tent, were led by Felicity to successful completion of the epic task. Each pulled a sledge with the supplies they needed for the trip, with one restocking half way through from a store previously dropped by plane.

Since then Felicity has skied alone and unaided for 78 days, coast to coast across Antarctica, the first person to do so. She has to find the resources for every one of these expeditions, for instance, the Commonwealth trek cost £500,000. She earns her living by teaching, speaking engagements, and sales of her two books, `Call of the White` and `Alone in Antarctica`. Having previously purchased the former, I can certainly recommend it as `a good read`.

***Diane Billam (Gamma Chapter)***

## ALPHA CHAPTER REPORT

Alpha Chapter have enjoyed a variety of high standard presentations, visits and social occasions. Early in the year chapter members agreed to have fewer and shorter business meetings because most of the business can be dealt with by email, allowing more time for our speakers and for discussion.

A new dimension was added to our musical skills in January, when, before our business meeting, we were tutored by Claire Purcell in playing the Gamelan. This is a traditional set of Indonesian instruments built and tuned to stay together. Included are metallophones, xylophones, kendang drums, gongs and more...

Our final gathering before the State Conference was a visit to the Geffrye Museum. This interesting museum is dedicated to the history of the home, showing how homes and gardens reflect changes in society, behaviour, style and taste over the past 400 years. We also visited the restored almshouse rooms which reflect how poor pensioners lived in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century.

We had a great time at the State Conference in Aylesford: excellent speakers, fascinating storytellers, and brilliant displays of handicrafts, lively Zumba steps class and an interesting guided tour of Rochester - with wonderful weather thrown in!

In May we visited 2 Temple Place, a private house owned by the Bulldog Trust Charity. The exhibition we saw was about exploring human discovery in all its

forms, selected from more than 5,000,000 objects at eight University of Cambridge Museums. One of the best exhibitions we have seen.

### **Chapter Officers for 2014-2016:**

Our new Chapter President is Barbara Kern, Chapter Vice-President is Joan Carroll and our Chapter Treasurer is Unity Harvey.

### **Future Meetings.**

**17<sup>th</sup> May 2014.** 1.30 For 2.00pm - 4.30pm. Joint meeting with Gamma Chapter. The Institute of Education 20 Bedford Way WC1H 0AL.

**Snezhana Stoyanova: The Kumon Method of Learning.** Snezhana, an instructor at the Canada Water Study Centre, will talk about the Kumon method, its principles and what makes the method so successful.

**Anna Evans: Working with Schools and Staff in Haiti.** Anna will tell us about the country and include the background to her work, 'Restavac' and orphaned children, meeting poor standards of education and supporting and implementing strategies to help teachers.

**28<sup>th</sup> June 2014.** 2.00pm – 4.30pm London South Bank University, London Road, Elephant and Castle.

**Liz Day: 'Deciding on the Education Priorities for the next Parliament from May 2015.'** An insight into the process undertaken to secure a democratic mandate. A chance to make up your own mind and have your say.' *Please note change of speaker to the one advertised.* Followed by a short business meeting.

(There is an Executive Meeting in the morning).

**3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014, Thursday.** 11.00am. 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG.

**The Royal Society Summer Exhibition.** Enjoy seeing some of the most exciting cutting-edge science and technology in the UK. The exhibits Include: Ants & Antibiotics, Brain networks, Catch a comet, be a crash test investigator, Creative Cameras, Speed Science, Star Tracks, Smart Wing Design, Technology for dogs, Tooth Replacement, Treating Cancer, Tropical Storms, Ultrasonic Waves, X-Appeal and much more.

August visit TBA.

**Lavinia Soul** (Chapter Vice President) and **Diana Bell** (Past Chapter President)

## BETA CHAPTER REPORT

This year has been a mixed one for Beta. The Chapter is currently down to 8 members – ill health, bereavement and coping with ageing relatives is taking its toll at present. However – this is balanced by individual achievements. Zoe's Library Reading Project and Sue Blackburn's Psychotherapy studies are progressing, Sue Torr has been supported by the Chapter in achieving a link with Plymouth University for her Shout It Out (SIO) Community Project.

At Beta's last meeting (a Christmas meal at the Plymouth Arts Centre) it was unanimously agreed that Jess would take on the Chapter Chair role – Gail having carried it nobly for so many years. One positive reason for this change is that the Chapter's support, via Jess, who chairs the SIO Committee, has secured, through the link with the University, a *community partnership for the creation of an inclusivity development resource* (IDR) grant which will enable SIO to access funding and expand and deepen her Project work, which involves students from the University Education Studies dept. working with Sue and her learners – a potential source for future DKG membership.

The funding received through DKG Education Foundation is currently ring-fenced to pay for assessments for dyslexia – to be the subject of an article for a future GB News.

One highlight of our year was the August '13 European Regional Conference in Amsterdam. A particularly impressive session introduced a new concept in teaching/learning (do your homework in class and the lesson on YouTube at home) which is having widespread effects in the USA and is likely to be taken up in GB.

Amsterdam offered many jewels, one of which was the re-opened Rijksmuseum. Another was the opportunity to renew friendship and a return of hospitality – one of the many plus points that can come from conferences in Europe.

The Chapter is following the progress of the proposal for an alternative DKG song and awaits the outcome of its presentation before the International Admin Board with interest.

**Jess Curtis** (*Beta Chapter President*)

## GAMMA CHAPTER REPORT

Owing to a half-term closure at Beechwood School, the talk to be given by Veronica Jones was postponed. However, a very productive business meeting was held at my house (perhaps the croissants were a temptation). The Gamma Chapter officers for the 2014-2016 biennium were decided. We are very pleased that Liz Malik will be our Chapter President, assisted by Carole Stirling as Vice President. Kate York will be Treasurer. Minutes will be taken alternately by Evelyn Goodsell and Mary Wardrop. I shall liaise with Beechwood School. We hope to tempt guests to our meetings, perhaps gathering a new member or two along the way.

As always, Gamma Chapter was well represented at the State Conference held this year at The Friars, Aylesford Priory. Three of our members were represented at the art and craft display which celebrated the wide range of talents of all DKG members. The presentations were stimulating and thought-provoking: using our voice and listening to storytelling voices. I still divide my year into school terms, so in the coming summer term we shall be holding four meetings:

**17 May:** joint meeting with Alpha Chapter at the London Institute of Education.

**7 June:** Harry Roberts to talk about **fracking** – venue Beechwood School (TBC).

**12 July:** Visit to the **Himalayan Garden at Riverhill**, Sevenoaks

**19 August:** visit to **Downe House**, home of Charles Darwin

My thanks to all Gamma members who have been such a support during my biennium, making meetings fun and sociable. I am looking forward to hearing `Tales from Indianapolis` when our members return from the International Convention.

***Sandra Blacker*** (*Gamma Chapter President*)

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**Mission Statement**

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