

A tribute to Gloria Redston

Words from Gloria's DKG Friends

Sandra Bull – DKG, Austin, Texas:

Eddie and I always enjoyed, respected and appreciated her take on political issues. And my, what head-shaking we could share over our own quagmire. She is one of the best and most authentic people I have ever known. And now I can say one of the bravest. For all the sadness I am feeling now, the overwhelming emotion is the gratitude I have that she is my friend.

Marian Bowles – DKG Gamma Chapter

She has changed my life forever! After sitting opposite her for breakfast at the Kingston conference, I now often eat marmalade with my bacon and have recommended that taste combination to many other friends.

I still have some of the chocolate bar left that she kindly gave me for taking her to Sheila's for our summer outing at the end of August: Lindt Excellent dark chocolate, with a touch of sea salt. It is making me smile thinking about how much those words describe her.... of the highest quality, deep, smooth, rich, deliciously intense, with a unique and unexpected twist! I now feel even more privileged to have spent that journey time with her.

I hope that during the time she has left, she will be able to understand fully the huge impact she has had on so many people that she has known throughout her life.

Sheila Roberts – DKG Gamma Chapter

I always think of Gloria as the sanest member of DKG I know! She is calm, knowledgeable, caring and always so very supportive.

DKG in Germany. Gloria with Kathy Hodgson



Gloria registers at the start of the Cambridge conference, with Di Billam



Maud Thompson – DKG Gamma Chapter

Gloria always appeared to overcome everything - and she did so with positivity and calmness. It seems that even in her final days her attitude has not changed. She is so brave. I remember Gloria from over 40 years ago when we shared lifts to Bromley where we were studying towards a B.Ed. I was impressed by her intelligence and her knowledge of the world - indeed she had not just travelled extensively, but she had lived in a variety of settings and had made the most of her experiences. I



was so privileged to have such an interesting travelling companion, and as she has such an engaging personality, I was blessed. What was impressing me the most about her was the fact that, at the same time as being extremely talented, she was so much down to earth. She is one of these people who could be at ease everywhere. She did not judge people, she just empathised with them. She always made one feel comfortable. I hope the children she taught realise how lucky they have been to have had such a gifted, understanding and dedicated teacher. I feel confident they all do, as I feel confident that she never left any of them behind.

Dorcas Rogers – DKG Alpha Chapter

Gloria will be always remembered as being a gentle and welcoming member at all DKG events. I particularly remember her words of wisdom and guidance when she ran a training session for newly elected chapter presi-

Grey cells in action at the Revitalisation meeting, London 2018



ents. I can't ever remember Gloria having a bad word to say about anyone. She is the epitome of what being a member of DKG is about.

Liz Day – DKG Alpha Chapter

I remember Gloria's Energy and enthusiasm for life. She was very welcoming to me when I first joined DKG and made me feel included. I remember her fortitude in her

wheel chair at the Tallinn conference, I think. She has been determined to live life to the full and overcome her health difficulties.

Sandra Blacker – DKG Gamma Chapter

I remember when she handed over the State presidency to me in Iceland. One of my talents was to have an impressive collection of dangly earrings - I've tried to maintain this 'skill' over the years!

Carole Stirling – DKG Gamma Chapter and Brenchley & Matfield School

I was lucky enough to work alongside Gloria for many years and to share many experiences with her. Over the years we developed a very special friendship, so I have lots of happy memories of her. However, there is one that always makes me laugh!

Kathy and I were attending our first DKG regional conference in Malmo, Sweden. We had a day when we were free because we didn't have to go to any training workshops – Gloria did! We decided to catch a bus and set off on an adventure. We were returning to the hotel when the heavens opened. We tried to dodge from shop doorway to shop doorway, even so we were soaked through by the time we got back to the hotel room.

Gloria and I were sharing a room and Kathy was staying at a different hotel, about ten minutes away. We were going out for dinner and time was passing; it was also still pouring with rain. Gloria and I decided that, to save Kathy going back to her hotel, we would lend her some of our clothes. If you consider how small and petite Kathy is compared to Gloria and me, you will already be smiling, I'm sure. Kathy ended up wearing one of my night-dresses, which was like a full length dress on her and a very smart blazer belonging to Gloria. We laughed all the way to the restaurant wondering if anyone would notice that Kathy was out for dinner wearing my nightdress.



Jane Boyd – Brenchley & Matfield School

After Gloria had retired, when she was working in school as a supply teacher, she would come in and we would have our early morning chats. They were pretty in depth too – theology, education, a whole range of topics – and were always enjoyable.

Richard Rene – Headteacher Brenchley & Matfield School mid 80s – early 90s

Gloria was always a very positive and happy work friend and colleague, as well as being a gifted, well liked, respected and very caring teacher. I shall cherish fond memories of her championing Kent Maths and her early adoption of IT to enhance her pupils' learning, as well as always challenging them to achieve and be the very best they could be. Gloria certainly contributed greatly to Brenchley & Matfield's success during her time at the school.

Kathy Hodgson – DKG Gamma Chapter and Brenchley & Matfield School

There's the serious Gloria and the irreverent alter ego. On my first European trip with DKG, to Malmo in Sweden, Gloria was expected to carry the flag for Great Britain at the opening ceremony. Carole and I were under strict instruction not to look at her, as it was quite a serious occasion. Needless to say, we were fully occupied in trying to catch her eye – and we did. Hopefully, only we noticed the twitching of the lips and her concentrated attempt not to succumb to the giggles.

2013 lunch at the Carpenter's arms with DKG members including Gloria and Kathy.



In Norway 2009



Some people are lucky enough to have people in their lives who truly inspire them – and I have Gloria. Through her encouragement – and occasional pushes – I found the whole course of my life changing. Tonbridge School for my son, Alex; teaching for so many years at Brenchley & Matfield School; and following unexpected roads to Europe and the US as a member of DKG.

Thank you for being a wonderful chum (Glo's word).

Thank you to Gloria the trailblazing Webmaster. Gloria showed me what to do, found ways of correcting my mistakes and gave me loads of support and advice. I will miss her. Diana Bell, Webmaster.