



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA



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Front picture:

Past International President Barbara Day with Evelyn Goodsell at the International Convention in New Orleans.

Kate York with Birgit Svensson at a DKG Conference in 2009.

Evelyn Goodsell giving Anne Goldstein her Gamma Chapter President's pin in Tenterden this summer.



Dorcas Rogers, Alpha Vice President, left, and Penny Kinnear, Alpha Chapter President, far right, hand over the reins to Barbara Kern, centre, new Alpha Chapter President and Joan Carroll new Alpha Vice President. Zoom from Reydon and get together in Acton!

You will find reports on our interesting series of talks on Zoom, organised by our diligent planning committee. What would we have done without them during the last few stressful years? Especially as it has enabled not only our GB members to continue meeting, but also to be joined by members abroad. And we are realising, of course, that with the cost of travel accelerating, whether by car or public transport, it is cheaper!

We were also even more lucky to have two 'live' events during the summer. The first was held at Sheila Roberts' wonderful house and garden in Tenterden, in Kent. This gave us, as we subsequently learned, an opportunity to share time with our beloved Kate York, who died soon afterwards. Evie Goodsell, our State President, gave a very moving tribute to Kate at her funeral in Westerham, which is included here. The second was a river trip from Westminster Pier to Greenwich, with lunch at a local restaurant. This coincided with a rail strike day, which gave several of us a more difficult journey than we had anticipated! Reports on those events are also included herein.

This is my final edition, and I wish to pay tribute once more to Diana Bell. I could not have produced them without her skilled support.

State President's Report



Still not fully back to normal but nearly there. Sadly, the reasons for this are the lack of venues for meetings. Schools are still reluctant about letting us use their facilities in which to meet. Nevertheless, I have every confidence that our two new Chapter Presidents will, eventually, solve this problem and we can hold 'face to face' meetings once again. Hopefully, once we are back to meetings like this, we can invite prospective members along

to join us. In spite of our problems we have been very fortunate that our planning committee have arranged some good, interesting and enjoyable meetings via Zoom with the added bonus of being joined by our European sisters

I was sad that we had to cancel our Annual Conference, which we had planned to hold in London. Joan Carroll and Penny Kinnear had worked very hard to find a reasonable hotel, in a very easy 'to get to place' and at a reasonable price, but we had to cancel due to lack of support. I do hope that, should we arrange another Conference next year, you will give it your support. We are usually very fortunate in getting good Speakers on our chosen 'theme' It is also a good opportunity to get to know our other members.

However, both Chapters have taken advantage of the beautiful weather and have each arranged outside meetings. Gamma had a very enjoyable meeting at Sheila Roberts' house in Tenterden. The weather was glorious and we were able to have our lunch out of doors. Alpha picked another lovely day for their trip down the Thames to Greenwich. Once there, we were able to see the museum and, after lunch, visit the extremely busy market before returning to Westminster in an Uber boat.

At the beginning of August I went to New Orleans for the International Convention. Due to the high cost of fares, hotel, food etc. I was the only one from GB. As I have attended many of these Conventions, I was not alone and soon met several friends from other years. We only had two Speakers but both were enjoyable and interesting. The first, Courtney Clark, described herself as the 'luckiest unlucky person in the world'. After a series of major struggles beginning in her mid-20s, she has built two successful businesses and is the author of two books. She works with people who want to adapt faster and achieve more. The

title of one of her books is -'The successful struggle: Powerful Techniques to achieve Accelerated Resilience'. She has spoken to world wide leaders of large Companies. If she wasn't writing and speaking about resilience - she would have liked to have been a 'tap-dancer'!

The other Speaker was Ingvi Omarsson from Iceland. An acclaimed Icelandic educator who was voted 'Teacher of the Year' and received the Icelandic Education Award in 2018 for his outstanding contribution to education in Iceland. He is a Stanford Graduate who currently works at Iceland's Ministry of Education as a Senior Advisor. I spoke to him afterwards and said how much I would like to hear him speak in GB, and he said he would be willing to come! A very enjoyable trip was arranged to the home of the Mardi Gras effigies. We were amazed at the size of these and admired the skill of the work in the designing and making of them. We then sat at tables under lighted trees to have supper and listen to a traditional jazz band. It was not long before the music encouraged us to get up and dance - quite magical.

One big cloud hung over the Convention. On our second day, the news of the Passing of dear Kate York. We were all devastated. Such a lovely, highly respected member, well-known to so many. She will be greatly missed. (Our tributes to Kate follow, and also appears on the website)

The usual plea went out for applicants for International Committees. I do urge you to think seriously about applying. It really opens your eyes to the working of the Society and you are well looked after. Now we must concentrate on increasing our Membership - the Society has so much to offer.

Enjoy the rest of the Summer!

Evelyn Goodsell (State President)

Our Farewell to Kate York

A group of us attended Kate York's funeral in Westerham parish church. Here is the tribute our State President, Evelyn Goodsell, wrote and read at the funeral.

Although Kate was already a member of Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) before I joined, it was not until her school, Derwent Lodge, moved up to Somerhill in Tonbridge that I really got to know her. We were offered a classroom for our meetings and it was obvious from looking around at the quality of the work, and the

way the work was displayed, that the school was well run and the children were receiving a good education. Kate, at that time, had not taken on any positions in the Society, so when a new Vice President for Gamma was needed, I had no hesitation in nominating her. From here she went on to be President and, eventually Regional Director of Europe. How well she fulfilled that role! She was so conscientious, she ensured that she visited every member country in the Region, sometimes more than once, often just to take part in their special event.



During Kate's time as State President it was Great Britain's turn to organise the Regional Conference. A venue was chosen and with dear Kate at the helm, we were put into committees, according to our strengths, and under Kate's watchful eye, got on with it. Every so often we would meet together for Kate to monitor progress and be aware of all arrangements. The result was a very successful Conference and even now, after so many years, when I go to other Conferences, members from other countries say how much they enjoyed it. Dear Kate was a perfectionist in a modest, kindly way, she was loved and respected by all who met her – and there were many.



In her last couple of years Kate suffered ill health, but that did not deter her from attending meetings, keeping up with all our activities and continuing to be involved, as recently as the middle of June, when we held a lunch in Sheila's lovely garden in Tenterden. Kate was obviously not finding life easy, but nevertheless was determined to be there. When the news of her death came through, at our recent International Convention in New Orleans, members were absolutely devastated with sadness. I was the only Brit there, and was inundated with requests for Tony York's address so they could express their sympathy. These are

just a few of the tributes received:

Nita Scott (Executive Director): 'She was a lovely, caring, amazing woman.'

Carol Dawson (GB member in Mallorca): 'She was a strong woman with an inner calm.'

Heidi Chadwick (Leadership Management Chair): 'Kate was such a gracious, fun person. After being with her in Austin at the Golden Gift Leadership class, I

really got to know her and find out her talents. She and her husband had lunch with me in England shortly after that experience. She had a great sense of humour, loved her family, just a jewel of a person.'

Janny Kisterman from the Netherlands: 'In 2008 Kate and I were together in the Golden Gift class. Being the only ones from abroad we travelled to the USA together and I stayed a few days before and afterwards in her house. We enjoyed some very nice days in Westerham. She also came to the Netherlands as Regional Director to welcome a new chapter, and we appreciated this very much. Weekly, until now, we spoke to each other with our Golden Gift Club, and



Kate & Tony at Kingston 2018

she also spoke to us when we had our Zoom meetings. Tony supported her during these occasions and we also appreciated that very much of course! She was a remarkable lady and we won't forget her.'

Marika Heimbach (Germany): 'On behalf of the European Forum of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, I extend my deepest sympathy to you who mourn the loss of our beloved Kate. Kate was a dedicated member of our Society, well respected by everyone with whom she worked. She was already to take responsibility which she performed to perfection, always being her own self, outspoken, following the rules and always expecting us to do the same. During the last years of her illness Kate was dearly missed on the European and International level. There was deep sadness at the Convention when we received Tony's message that she had passed away.'

I will leave you with this last tribute which sums up dear Kate completely. It was sent by Barbara Day, a past International President of the Society: 'We in the United States are mourning the death of our dear friend Kate York. Kate was a true leader in our Great Britain organization. She led with wisdom and passion along with kindness and respect for all. The Europe Region looked to her for guidance and strength, helping everyone develop leadership skills and commitment to our Society. We treasure and applaud her programmatic and hosting skills both in the European Conference held in Great Britain as well as International Conventions. In the United States she was deeply respected for her leadership, beloved as our sister and highly valued for her loyalty. We loved and cherished her. Her husband, Tony, was always at her side with support and help. Members valued his support and his special talents, especially his hand

made beautiful wood carving stand and gavel for this International Past President. We will treasure many memories of Kate as we mourn her death and celebrate her life. May dear Kate rest in God's love and peace eternally. Dear Kate, RIP. We will never forget you.'

Evelyn Goodsell (*Great Britain State President*)

A Lovely Summer's Day



At Sheila's in Tenterden with Kate.

On a summer's day in June, we were fortunate to spend time together with our hosts, Sheila and Harry Roberts, at their lovely home. Sheila provided main courses and drinks, and we contributed various deserts and salads. It was a splendid spread! We started with coffee and biscuits, exchanging news and catching up, because it was the first time several members had met since

before the lockdowns, although of course we have been fortunate to have a series of talks on Zoom, which have some advantages, but which some people feel lacks something of why we become members of DKG.

Apart from the wonderful food and companionship, we were also treated by Harry to a showing of an excellent lecture by Dennis Tourish, Professor of Leadership and Organisational Studies at Royal Holloway, University of London. His topic was Dysfunctional Leadership in Corporations. Much of what he said applies equally to educational establishments, of course, many of us having worked in schools which were becoming, or already were, dysfunctional. So a subject of great interest to all of us, as we all know what difference the management style of our leader can make to our work. He cited some famous examples of leadership which became toxic, ending in prosecution and imprisonment, (eg Enron) or even suspicious death, the notorious example being Robert Maxwell. He was a media tycoon and fraudster, who missed a scheduled meeting at the Bank of England involving his default on a loan of £50,000,000. Instead he took off with some of his family on his yacht, The Lady Ghislaine (named after his eldest daughter, who achieved fame of the wrong kind some 30 years later) moored on the Canary Islands. He fell to his death off the yacht.

Professor Tourish pointed out that there are 76,000 books on Leadership listed by Amazon, yet only 253 on Fellowship, which is also very important in determining the success of an organisation. His own book on the subject is entitled 'The Dark Side of Traditional Leadership', citing examples of men brought in to transform organisations, and failing. Sometimes they are expected to be miracle workers, or worse still actually believe that they are, and have all the answers. Some organisations succeed because of transformational, or charismatic leadership, but another style would lead to a new boss coming in and declaiming that he didn't want anybody to be happy here. A common culture would develop, no dissent, only one right way. Or an announcement that staff would be divided into the good, the improving, and those under threat, the lowest 10%, who would be fired. No wonder it would be impossible to have successful team work in such a culture – and in any case the boss knows everything! Nobody was going to criticise the boss, as the way to success, and survival, is to tell him what he wants to hear. The talk can be seen on [youtube.com/watch?v=1905r-_2V0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1905r-_2V0s).

We then went back outside to savour more refreshments, and more fellowship. A great time was had by all.

Diane Billam (*Gamma Chapter*)

Tenterden discussion.



Experiences as an Evacuee

I have had many chats and reminiscences about being a World War 2 evacuee with friends over the years. For some it was a wonderful life enhancing experience in another part of the country that they loved and returned to again and again after the war was over. For others it was an unhappy, lonely, sometimes frightening time in a place they refused to go to ever again.

My friend Rita was sent from her home in Lambeth Walk, London to Cornwall. For her it was an idyllic experience in a community where she was welcomed and made friends for life. As an adult she took her husband and children for holidays there. Now she is the only member of her family living in London, her children and grandchildren all settled in Cornwall where she visits them regularly.

In contrast my friend Keith was so traumatised by his evacuation placement he would never go there again. If it was on his route to a holiday destination he would drive through the area but never stop. Keith was evacuated with his school in Stratford, East London. The procedure then was that children would take their cases to school each day when a train was anticipated but it might be 2 or 3 days before one was available. He remembered lining up in the playground to walk in crocodile to Stratford station. Parents were not told and not allowed to enter the playground to say goodbye but of course many found out and gathered outside to catch a glimpse of them. The route to the station took the children through Stratford market. To their delight the stallholders gave them fruit, biscuits, buns and other little gifts to take with them. Sadly that farewell was not matched by the welcome at the end of their journey. They were billeted in a coal mining community in Wales where they found they were resented by the local children as strange and many were not well treated by their host families.

There were several runaway attempts, one boy hid in an empty coal truck he hoped would take him home but it was going to the pit to be filled. Fortunately he was discovered and rescued before that happened. Another lad disappeared and did make it back home to the East End. Several days later a large, furious docker's wife appeared in the village and severely beat up the couple who had ill-treated her son. To get away from the miserable time they were having the London evacuees would often meet on one of the nearby slag heaps. Those that could, would steal a potato from their homes to bake on little slag coal fires they would make to share. They were always hungry. One day while there they discovered a huge lorry tyre.. They realised that if they rolled it down the heap it would go straight onto the road at the end of which was the Co-op store in the High Street. To their amazed delight the tyre bowled down gathering speed and crashed through the shop's plate glass with a thunderous explosion. The evacuees disappeared sharply from the scene but the mysterious incident was the talk of the local area for ages. Some years later Keith began his National Service in the R.A.F. On his first night in barracks all the recruits were introducing themselves and where they came from. One recruit gave his home as the Welsh village where Keith had been evacuated. "Do you remember the day the Co-op window was smashed?" Keith asked. "Yes" replied the recruit. "Well we did that, the East End evacuees." It gave him a great deal of satisfaction to tell that story.

My husband Terry was evacuated three times during the war, coming home to London during lulls in the bombing. First he was sent age 7 to Gomshall in Surrey. After a few weeks his host family decided they didn't want an evacuee so

they packed his belongings and told him to go to another house at the other end of the village. As he carried his suitcase along the road he saw his former hosts drive past him in their car. Later in the war he was evacuated with his school to Brookmans Park, Hertfordshire where at night he could see the glare in the sky of the fires in London where his parents were working in the London Fire Service during the Blitz. His third evacuation was to Kettering to a lovely couple who treated him like a son. When Terry and I married they were guests at our wedding.

My parents declined to send me with the groups being evacuated with the school from my home in Romford because bad reports had come back from earlier evacuees sent to their assigned destination, a coal mining area in Yorkshire. Eventually when V1s started arriving however my parents contacted a great aunt who lived in a village 12 miles from Leeds who agreed to take me. I was the only evacuee in the village and for the remainder of the war responded to the nickname "Vaccy". I think I was considered odd because when taken to see the village site of interest, a deep grassy hole in a field, I was mystified. "It's bomb hole – it killed a cow!" they explained. Life in Romford at that time meant seeing dogfights between Spitfires and Messerschmitts, nights spent in the air raid shelter, and adding to my shrapnel collection in the mornings. A hole in a field did not impress. I couldn't understand why my great aunt hid in the cellar during a storm, thunder claps weren't bombs. They couldn't understand why I couldn't steer a sled down a hill in the bitter snowy winter. When my mother came to take me home after VE day I carried with me a large bunch of bluebells, ragged robin and buttercups I'd picked in the nearby wood to give to my Dad who loved flowers. After a long journey home on packed trains I proudly presented him with this wilting sticky mess. Next day I couldn't understand why Mum was crying when Dad took me into the living room. He sat me down in front of a photograph of my brother and told me I had to be very brave, my brother would not be coming home any more. My first thoughts were that I wouldn't be able to help him polish the buttons on his R.A.F. tunic again and that I mustn't ever cry and upset Mum. It left a long term anxiety about returning after time away from home, that something bad would have happened while I was away. I have found this to be quite a common fear for evacuees because so many returned to loss, of home, a friend, sibling or parent. Life would not be the same again.

Joan Carroll (Alpha Chapter)

Girls and Science—Investing in our Science Capital



Christina Astin is an educational consultant for science who, after graduating from Cambridge, began her career as a physics teacher for some years before moving to become the science adviser for Kent and an educational consultant for secondary schools. She is now a freelance consultant working with schools in both state and independent sectors and linking schools to develop and improve their science teaching and provision. She has also developed a role in corporate business promoting the value for them in supporting scientific education for their own future development and staffing needs.

Christina explained that science education in Great Britain is currently good at enrichment projects but overall is struggling to offer good science teaching at all levels in our schools. It is difficult to recruit science subject teachers, particularly for physics, and on average they remain in teaching for only five years. Cognitive science study is coming into education but schools are finding it difficult to introduce. The result is that not enough school leavers, especially girls, go on to follow further education or careers in STEM based subjects.

A study carried out by Aspire showed that children think science is interesting but few aim to become scientists. Christina's argument is that what we need to do in education is invest in our science capital. She defined this as "What you know", "How you think", "What you do", and "Who you know", in relation to science. We need to go beyond the curriculum, engage parents, encourage science festivals were among her suggestions.

Factors adversely affecting developing this science capital are:

- Access to scientific subjects or interests are easier for wealthier families than for poorer. Opportunities to visit museums, places and events of scientific interest, having family members or friends who have science based careers to offer role models are more likely.
- The way sciences are taught, higher quality teaching is needed.
- The perception of sciences as subjects only for very clever people. The domination of men in science based careers, particularly in higher level posts.

These factors particularly influence girls when it comes to studying science subjects or following a science based career and are compounded by the stereotyping of girls from a very early age. Christina showed a graph of science subjects studied at advanced level. Fewer than 10% of girls took computer science, 20% physics and 40% maths. Fortunately chemistry at 55% and biology at 60% are increasingly popular. So why is this? Christina showed evidence that toys and clothes are differentiated according to sex from babyhood as one factor. A survey of girls aged ten revealed they believed that their looks were of most importance and that to study science one had to be very "smart". This they believed was more important than being interested, thinking creatively or working hard at science. At primary school age research showed that 66% of girls enjoyed science but by university level only 18% of girls study sciences.

Christina set us questions and tasks to demonstrate how female stereotyping is firmly in our culture and affecting girls adversely today. The answers to her true or false questions were interesting. The gender pay gap between men and women in science based careers remains, research this year showed that salaries for women are 9% less than those of men in comparable roles. The view of men who take charge in a situation is seen as admirable, having leadership qualities, the response to women taking charge is that they are bossy, feisty. And shockingly, it was not until 1948 that women could take a degree at Cambridge. So psychologically are boys and girls brains different? Christina showed us a rotating shapes puzzle. Experiments with it had shown that girls were not as good at solving this as boys but suggested that this may relate to stereotypical toys. Kiddy nail varnish kits for girls as opposed to Lego for boys? Differences are often slight between genders and the bias is so unconscious that we often don't see it.

Christina pointed out that women in CORESTEM employment between 2009 - 2019 still formed only 25% of the whole. Cancer dosage treatment has traditionally been based on men. Vehicle seat belts were designed on male dummies and voice recognition technology is designed to respond to the male voice rather than a female one. Our future is technological so gender diversity is needed as well as racial diversity if stronger working teams are to be built to create better designs. If girls are to consider a scientific future more role models are needed. Christina has set up the Young Scientists Journal Project, an online publication written and produced by students aged ten to twenty. It involves contributors from 45 countries, run by the students including many girls and is led by an 18 year old with only one older person involved. Other

initiatives, promoting science books and posters to encourage girls into science are also being used.

In the international online discussion which followed Christina's presentation members contributed their views and experiences of girls and science education and careers in their countries. The agreement was that girls do best in sciences when their cultural upbringing is educationally aspirational and this affects girls choices positively. Examples contributed from around Europe as a whole were of female students from Iranian, Indian and Chinese families and Christina confirmed that the country recorded where most girls take science is Malaysia.

I think Great Britain's contribution to the series of online presentations from Europe was an excellent one and I would like to thank Sandra for introducing us to Christina Astin. Her talk on Women in Science was inspirational and gave a message of deep concern, and yet hope.

Diane Billam (Gamma Chapter)

Hosting Refugees

In May we had a most interesting meeting, with two speakers telling us about their experience of hosting refugees. The first, Karen Gardner, told us about hosting Daria, a young Ukrainian woman medical student from Mariupol. Karen and her husband Eugene had become more and more concerned at the news of what was happening, and since they had the space, decided they would find out how to take part. They tried various means, including through a local councillor, to find out how to be a host for Ukrainians, or Syrians, who have an ongoing problem. A Polish woman in the community knew of 4 families, who were quickly allocated. There was also a Ukrainian man who was introduced to the Gardners through the local Polish woman. He was staying in a convent with no access to IT, but as he was 66 years old and appeared able, speaking no English and some Polish, the Gardners thought he should stay in Poland and the process of `Homes for Ukraine` was retracted.

When Karen tried to find out more about hosting, there did not seem to be anything official. She found a Facebook page, where at a voluntary community level, matching a refugee with a suitable host was normalised. She discovered the Ukraine Support UK Facebook page and found a post by a 20 year old Ukrainian medical student. She messaged the young woman. There was also Ukrainians Take Shelter, where people could be pre-approved, and it appeared

to be more appropriate for the refugees for choosing which host is suitable. After spending 3 or 4 weeks in online Facebook and Messenger discussions, Daria chose to live with Karen and her husband.



Daria and Karen

Sunflower Sisters is another commendable organization which raises funds to help women get out of dangerous situations by collecting them from wherever they are, and driving them to the UK. They need visas, and Daria's came through within a week. Railway Stations are dangerous places, so they drove her straight to Karen's home with one overnight stop. They use WhatsApp to stay in touch with people they rescue. Ukrainian guests are forming quite a community themselves, and the hosts post news. There have unfortunately been some bad experiences and stories as well. Daria has been given a bike to help her get around, and a local IT expert, Karen's husband, had upgraded a laptop for a young lad.

One question asked whether people were given help to cope with the trauma which they had inevitably undergone on their journey. Official help does not seem to be very evident, but the community often steps in. One example was a recently bereaved woman who very much wanted to be able to grieve in ways appropriate to her culture. I asked whether it was possible to be put in touch with their chosen place of worship, but of course it depends on where people have ended up. There is The Holy Family in Exile, the Ukrainian Cathedral in Duke Street, London, which is clearly not easily accessible to many.



Anne had given us a recipe for Ukrainian Honey Cake, and two excellent examples were forthcoming. Joan showed us the slice of her cake which she would eat at an appropriate moment, which had gone down well with her family. Penny had also made one which looked very impressive on the screen, (pictured) but she had been unable to cut so far as it was still warm!

We then moved on to our second speaker, Mary Budd, who had become a Refugees at Home host, and is also a member of the Greenwich Inclusion Project, which is giving ongoing support to Syrian refugees. Her experience is a little different from Karen's,

in that she has been a host for 4 years, and hosts on a long term basis. The official system is that an asylum seeker must apply through the Home Office. If accepted they are paid £39 a week for food, clothing, transport and everything else, but are not allowed to work or claim any benefits. They are also given very basic accommodation by the Home Office and have no choice about where it is. Once refugee status is granted, often after many years of living like this, they have 28 days to get out. They are then basically on their own to find work, somewhere to live, open a bank account or claim benefits. It is nowhere near long enough and many people end up as street homeless. Mary cited some very sad examples: her first guest had been refused political asylum because he only had a faxed copy of his arrest warrant. He had fled the country without waiting for the original (and the police) to arrive. He had been badly injured by the authorities in his home country and when refused asylum he had nowhere to go and no way of supporting himself. After two years in Mary's spare room he successfully got refugee status with the help of various charities and moved on to his new life. Her second guest was an African lady, who was homeless, 6 months pregnant, and sleeping on a park bench in East London in February, when passers-by saw her crying and put her in contact. Her little girl is now one year old and the mother is becoming the formidable woman she is meant to be.



Mary with her guest and her dog.

For anyone interested in hosting, it is best to do it through an official hosting organization, especially as it has proved so difficult to do things through other official channels and help is always welcome. You must always remember these people are in trauma, they have lost everything, including loved ones, so they need help in trying to cope, which is difficult to get as nothing seems to be provided, even for those who had suffered extreme hardship in their own country. In Mary's four years of experience of hosting, she has established a few guiding principles: you must always show you trust them – give them a key, don't lock everything up. You must also respect their privacy – they have had little enough of that in their arduous journey to get here. Give them the opportunity to help as appropriate: making a meal perhaps, or tidying up and cleaning in the kitchen. They need to be able to feel like a human being again.

Both speakers emphasised the importance of going through some sort of organisation: it helps to get a good match, especially if the organisation has vetted you and move guests on if it proves to be a mismatch. Mary, for instance, lives on her own and is used to having her place to herself. She said her first guest was very resourceful, having lived on the streets for five years, and particularly in lockdowns seemed to know how to get hold of things!

Both our speakers were sure they had done the right thing in taking people into their homes when they needed it. We had all been comforted to hear how our people had made refugees welcome in various ways, even if some of the official hurdles proved rather high.

Anne thanked Karen and Mary for their contributions, which had made this such an interesting meeting. She went on to remind members of more events to come.

Diane Billam (*Gamma Chapter*)

Holidays and Cruises

We had another enjoyable meeting in June. We had been asked to send photos of holidays to Dorcas, so that she could collate them into a Powerpoint presentation, and several of us had done so. Most of them included friends and/or family members, as we had during lockdowns become even more conscious of how precious they are to us. Some were of childhood, some more recent.



The first group of photos had been sent in by Penny. Her first photo was taken some time ago, of her mother, herself, and her six siblings, born within 9 years, she being the eldest. They were on the seashore, on the edge of the water, just getting their feet wet. It really conveyed the love in the family. They had a holiday in a cottage lent by friends, and set off in the family car, including the cat in a basket by her mother's feet,

listening to Chris de Burgh.

Several of the other photos were taken more recently in Australia, where they got to meet cousins with whom they had corresponded for years. Penny and her sister felt so good to finally meet them, and enjoy adventures together. Another

photo was with her brother Bill, taken in a bus graveyard in Brentford. Penny's photos epitomised the importance of family. There were also photos of holiday destinations such as Egypt, and the Taj Mahal.



Diana's photos covered an interesting range, starting with one of her birthplace, Newcastle upon Tyne. She retains



some friends with whom she went to school there. Every year since 1989 she has spent time at least once a year in Stoupa, in Greece, and included a favourite view from the taverna. I loved the one taken in Alaska, with

Unity and Lavinia. They were on a tour before the DKG International Convention in Spokane, which reminded some of us of other enjoyable excursions taken in connection with DKG conferences, which gives us the opportunity to visit so many interesting places.



Sandra started with a photo of her as a child, in Trouville on her first holiday abroad. Her father had driven them in the family Ford 8: Dad, Mum, Sandra, her brother, and Auntie. She remembers that at that time crossing by sea on the ferry from Dover your car was winched aboard by a crane – none of this cissy roll-on-roll-off stuff! They went to Paris first, including Versailles, then Trouville, where she remembers the sandy beach. Her journey was rather different in 2022, when she crossed the channel by Eurostar.



Joan's first photo also concerned Eurostar, when she and her daughter visited the Floriade in Amsterdam in May this year. Just over 4 hours for the journey from St Pancras as I recall! Another time she had taken a Shearings holiday, was picked up from home by taxi and taken to Croydon, then taken by coach to the Hub, which is between Ashford and Folkestone, for the coach exchange, where they were told to go and have a coffee, and watch on the screen for the number of their next coach. They did not have to handle their luggage from pickup to arrival at the hotel. Another lovely holiday was with her daughter Moira

(Moir is pictured front right with other daughter Alison) in 2021, whom she had not seen since the first lockdown, spending 4 days in a friend's caravan in Winchelsea.

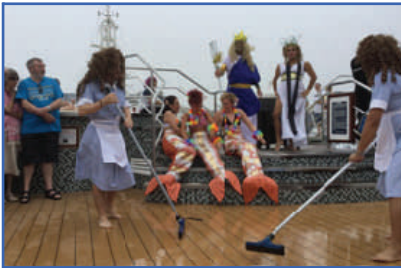
I was on my way to two weeks in Venice when the request for photos arrived. I knew that others would send in photos



with friends and family, so I stuck to Venice. Also I really didn't know what to pick. A few years ago my daughter and I were planning a trip to St Petersburg, and at that time to get a Russian visa you had to provide details of every foreign trip you had taken in the last 10 years! When I did my list (luckily I keep all my diaries!) I had listed 50! Where to start ...



Dorcas also had photos of Stoupa, which she loved because of the good company, good food and good wine. She had one photo of Barbara and her brother Stephen taken recently. Another was of her husband Ray, on his 70th birthday, son Kevin, and the daughter of their best friends. 2019 was highlighted by a cruise trip on a Saga holiday up the Amazon. They had admired the spirit of adventure from

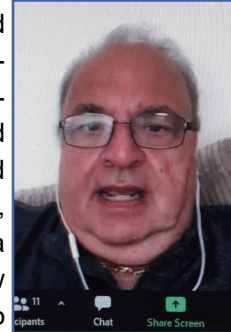


one 86 year old participant, and hoped to be the same some day. Some amazing photos, including crossing the equator in the pouring rain! Dorcas made the important point that friends can become as dear as family over time, and not everyone has family anyway.

One friend who she has known since 1972 when they were nursing together at St Barts Hospital, is now terminally ill, so they meet as often as they can. Unity was not able to be with us, but she had sent a picture of a road, which Dorcas explained was on a favourite route to the Gower peninsula. A friend lives in a local village, where Unity's son has built a house.

Anne then introduced Andy Rudge, who is an entertainer on cruise ships. He

explained that he had been the class clown at school, had learned to play a number of instruments, playing with a comedy band for 3 years, then branching out on his own. He began overseas work for Thomsons holidays in hotels, and since 1997 has worked on cruises. He is now fully booked every year. He had also been on a cruise on the Amazon, like Dorcas, on the Braemar. At night the ship becomes a floating 'fly and bug' magnet and every morning the crew scurry about to sweep them away before passengers want to be on deck.



He has visited Australia 3 times, and included the inevitable photo of himself in front of the Sydney Opera House! He loves Cape Town, and one photo was taken from the top of Table Mountain.

In March 2020 he was booked for a Caribbean trip to the Dominican Republic. Once there his wife texted him to say that the ship had already sailed. Potential passengers and himself were booked into a 5 star hotel, as some on the ship had symptoms of what by then was recognised as Covid. Cases gradually built up, until there were 40 suspected cases and no port would let them dock. In the end the only place that would let them in was Cuba. They needed essential medication and supplies. They eventually flew into a ghost-town Heathrow. They were free to travel home, but he had to self-isolate for 2 weeks in his home in South Wales. Anne thanked him on our behalf. Dorcas paid tribute to the crew of cruise ships, including the lovely entertainment.

Diane Billam (*Gamma Chapter*)

Films and Film Making

We first mourned the passing of our dear friend, Kate York. For many of us she was the epitome of all that is good about being a member of DKG – constant support and friendship, always ready with good answers to problems, and vital knowledge of what to do! She had been a mainstay in our preparations and execution of the European Conference held here in 2007, even down to sourcing the essential conference bags, complete with a Tudor rose, from India. For many years Gamma Chapter held our meetings in the school where she was Headteacher. Some of us were lucky to spend time with her recently over lunch and a pleasant afternoon spent in Sheila's garden. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

Anne introduced Jeanne Pope, who is a documentary film maker and teacher, who has made a very varied teaching journey. She did not enjoy school, and was pleased at the age of 15 to go with her French mother to Paris. She loved the Paris way of life. She did not attend school, but began to write short stories and make films, being particularly interested in other people's lives, especially immigrants. She was herself adopted, her biological father being from Lebanon. For many people, it is difficult to answer the question: 'Where are you from?'. Later she began to travel round the world, going to India, then Turkey. She worked alone, but contacted local people, in a local Kurdish village, for example, teaching them English. The father of her daughter is Iranian. She always wanted to help people. She then went to Montreal with her daughter, and took a qualification for Teaching English as a Foreign Language. She was also able to go to Concordia University, where her life experiences rather than qualifications got her accepted, and she was taught by some of Canada's greats. She enjoyed her time there, picking up different themes, lives, and cultures for her filming. A Chinese friend there suggested she might like to teach film in China, which she did in 2015. She found a different way of teaching and studying there. Everything is strongly structured, and she had to learn how to teach Chinese students in a Chinese setting. Her classes and work were closely supervised, but after 6 months she realised she must have passed muster as supervision became much less strict. She also felt she was no longer being reported on by students. She certainly learned what hard work was, and acquired discipline as expressing disagreement was not allowed. She had to follow the syllabus, but inevitably her classes were different, and students enjoyed them, in both Chinese and English.



Jeanne is still making films. In particular she has a very detailed film of the surgery on her own brain tumour, which she is now editing. She has a home in a village in France, and is looking at how the first Covid wave affected people, and changed their lives. It was clear how passionate Jeanne is about film, particularly documentaries. It was fascinating to hear her story. Sheila thanked her on our behalf for sharing her fascinating life story. We look forward to seeing examples of her work later.

Diane Billam (Gamma Chapter)

A Day in Greenwich

Having spent approximately 30/40 minutes, after we had arrived in Greenwich, browsing the exhibits in the Maritime Museum or a quick visit to Greenwich Market, we made our way to The Old Brewery Pub where we had a table booked for lunch. Our original choice had been The Plume of Feathers (a favourite haunt) but they had already taken a booking for a large birthday party at the time which we had wanted. However, The Old Brewery adjoins the museum which meant we didn't have a long walk on such a hot day.

Our table was only partially in the shade and with a temperature of 37 degrees we weren't too happy about this. The pub restaurant was extremely busy but our kind waiter did a quick swap with an adjacent table, in the shade, as the people concerned were late arriving. Great! Everyone ordered their chosen food and drinks and we settled back for a well earned lunch. Suddenly, the fire alarm went off. And it was very noisy. Nothing happened at first, but then the chefs all marched out followed by other staff. "I bet it's my prawns they've burnt" was Alison's comment.

Eventually the doors were closed, which at least contained the noise and we could hear each other. For a while we were rather worried that, considering all the setbacks we had endured just to ensure that our outing would take place, this would be the final straw and we wouldn't even get our lunch! However, after about half an hour, normal service was resumed and we were fed and watered. It turned out that the kitchen had overheated on such a hot day. Alison's prawns were not to blame after all!

Penny Kinnear (Alpha Chapter)

I received an invitation from Alpha Chapter for their summer outing - a trip down the River Thames, lunch in Greenwich, and a look round the museums, market etc. Lovely! My favourite river, so of course I accept. First problem - no trains on Saturday to get me there. Never mind - Penny invites me to go up to London on Friday and stay with her. Second problem - I do not know where she lives or the best way to get there. I travel up on Friday afternoon and she is at Charing Cross to meet me. I have a small suitcase, a walking stick and short legs which find it difficult to get over the gaps, and I am scared of escalators. Penny insists on carrying my suitcase and leads the way. Third problem - we have to go down a steep, fast escalator to get to the first underground train. I just froze, and then I feel a strong arm grab me and tell me to jump, which I do with the

strong man holding me and instructing me to jump at the bottom. So many of the stations have wide gaps between the train and the platform, I quite enjoyed being helped by all sorts of strong hands! Fortunately, Penny knows where lifts are located for the rest of the journey.

Evie Goodsell (Gamma Chapter)

Commentary on the Thames Clipper

I enjoyed listening to the lively commentary on the Thames Clipper trip from Westminster to Greenwich immensely. I learned so many interesting historical details. Did you know that Waterloo Bridge is known as the Ladies Bridge? It was opened in 1945 having been constructed during the war years by female workers owing to the lack of



male labour. The speaker was also witty as well as informative. As we came up to the Tate Gallery his comment was "On your right is the Tate Modern Gallery. Entrance is free and it is full of modern art. (pause) That's probably why entry is free." Later he was describing a clock as having one of the largest faces and heaviest hands in the world. "The minute hand is so heavy it takes sixty minutes to make a complete circuit of the clock face." I heard several interested, surprised "Oohs" from some passengers before they realised what he had said and started to chuckle. What was unusual was that the commentary was given with an old fashioned East End Cockney pronunciation so, for example, "world" was pronounced "weld" and "something" as "summin". An accent very rarely heard nowadays and I found listening to very nostalgic.

Joan Carroll (Alpha Chapter)

With the rail strike it seemed easiest to go by bus. Joan, Alison and granddaughter Lara joined me for a ride on the 159 - well known to friends as the notorious bus where there is usually some sort of 'incident' or 'happening' when I am on board! This time it was wonderful - 4 seats together, peaceful and quick. We arrived at the boat mooring to find others were already waiting for us. It was a very hot day and was busy, many people had decided to take a boat trip. We caught the 11.00am as expected. A very amusing commentary about the many sights seen from the river followed. As we were heading for Tower Bridge it opened for a sailing boat, but by the time we went under the bridge it had closed.

Greenwich was interesting as usual. The Maritime Museum followed by lunch in The Brewery pub garden next to it. The delicious ice cream in the market made it a special treat. The return Uber Cutter, after a wait in the sun, was a bit like an aeroplane ride, but with many stops (people commute to work on it) then it was back on the 159!

Diana Bell (Alpha Chapter)

On the 159 Bus

We were lied to. Bamboozled. Promised seething arguments, fast food orgies and spectacular snippets of lives revealed in loud conversation. The reality did not live up in any way to its extravagant promise. The leitmotif of our time, I fear.

No clunking Routemaster, rumbling and jostling from stop to stop, the 159 is a new bus. Designed to look like the old, open end buses but virtually silent, it swept us sedately from Streatham High Street to Westminster Pier, along virtually traffic free streets like a Bentley. The other passengers, sweating in the soupy air of the hottest day of the hottest heat wave ever, were a silent lot.

It gave us time to ponder on the changes in those streets. Streatham, scene of my really quite innocent youthful debauchery at the Cat's Whiskers, which later became Caesar's and is now flats, boogie wonderland no more. Down the hill into Brixton, past the hulks of foreclosed pubs and empty shops being converted into flats. Beyond Brixton, whole new estates seem to have sprung up since I last travelled this way, probably before lockdown. We wondered who could afford them. They seemed, like the streets, eerily empty.

On the way back, we went upstairs. Here at last the new design 159 failed to live up to its rattly Routemaster predecessors. The front windows are solid. No sliding window at the top to let a sultry, petrol-fumed breeze waft through the bus. Thick with evening sun and pollen, caressing tired frowns, bringing with it the aroma of curry, kebabs and chips to tantalise homegoing hunger. One of the best memories of summer in London. They really do need a design rethink.

Alison Ajayi (Alpha Chapter)



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