



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

# GB News in Brief

Number 1

Summer 2023

This is the first edition of GB News in brief. It was decided by the Executive Committee that because of postage and printing costs being unsustainable and more members having access to the website, that our older, fuller version of GB News was no longer necessary.

This new version will have shorter articles and some news about members. It will be on the website and also sent by email to all GB members. A hard copy may be printed out on A4 paper if required and one of these will kindly be sent by Kathy Hodgson to those who do not have access to the website.

I hope it will evolve into something of interest to all our members, but it will rely on you to send in short articles, pictures and news items. Thankfully Evie Goodsell, our new State Editor, and Sandra Blacker will be 'on the case'.

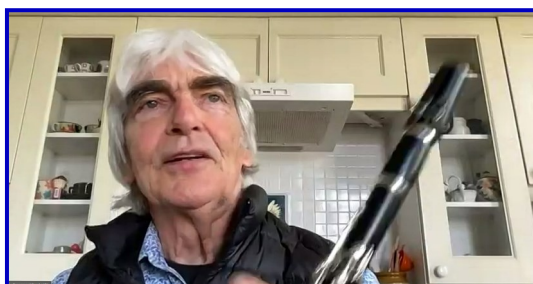
*Diana Bell, State President 2023-2025*

## Benefits and bonuses from DKG membership

### Music Therapy

Some years ago when my granddaughter Eirinn attended the Brit School in Croydon as a music student she was sent on work experience (Remember when secondary schools offered that?) to the music therapy charity Nordoff Robbins. Eirinn was so impressed by the experience there that I contacted them and asked if someone could come to speak to Alpha chapter about their work. This was how we met Lindsay McHale.

Her talk was excellent and Eirinn's mother Janet and I have kept in touch with her. Since achieving the 2.1 music degree she understood to be necessary to apply for the MA to become a music therapist Eirinn has taken time out of education to find work in a residential home for people with special needs to see if she can cope with the practical demands involved. She is finding it rewarding so she now wants to improve her instrumental skills to achieve her aims.



Grenville pictured during his Zoom talk.

In April we had a wonderful speaker at our monthly meeting, Grenville Hancox M.B.E., who gave a talk on his life and work in music education. After his talk he responded to questions and his advice to my question about Eirinn's plans was very pertinent. His view was these days a University MA would be a heavy financial investment and that she might

be able to realise her ambition by exploring alternative routes. Janet was not able to attend the meeting but could access the recording.

She contacted Lindsay who told her that Nordoff Robbins have their own Diploma in music therapy which is recognised in the profession and there was a centre in Epsom Eirinn could visit to find out more. This Eirinn has done and was impressed so we shall see. Meanwhile she likes to start her early morning shifts with a song for the residents as she goes in, Often it is "Good morning, Good morning to you" from one of her favourite musicals "Singing in the Rain".

### Reminiscence Therapy

In March this year both chapters had a presentation by Barbara Kern on a course run by the Sydenham Gardens Centre where she is a volunteer. Reminiscence Therapy is a course they offer to support people with dementia. It runs for six weeks and is open to people with dementia referred to the Centre plus a family member or carer who supports them.



Claire Purcell with Lindsay, pictured right, in 2017.

It was a very impressive presentation and I was reminded of it some weeks later when I was visiting my Downs Syndrome daughter at her care home in Somerset. While talking to a member of staff we discussed the recent tests with Somerset mental health team to check for possible signs of dementia my daughter had undergone. These are carried out on a regular basis for all Downs Syndrome residents. The staff member told me that she was currently taking a management course as part of her career development with Orchard Vale Trust and she was planning to make a special study on dealing with dementia as it affected people with learning difficulties.

I told her about the meeting I had attended on Reminiscence Therapy. This was an approach she had not heard of and was delighted that I was able to pass on information that could help in her research for her project. I hope to hear more when I next visit.

In the last three years we have been cut off from our normal regular interaction with one another and may feel we are reducing in influence and contact with the wider field of education and those working in it. I believe, however, that DKG still has worthwhile benefits and bonuses of contact, friendship and support to offer us and for us to offer to others. I am sure I am not the only one who can give evidence of experiences of being helped or being able to give help by being part of DKG. I hope this positive aspect of DKG may continue in future.

*Joan Carroll, Alpha Chapter.*



Barbara, left, being thanked after her talk by Joan

### Robbie Scahill

Robina 'Robbie' Scahill, Gamma Chapter, sadly passed away on Friday 30th June. Although her death was sudden, it was peaceful and at home in bed. She had for some time been living with a damaged aorta, a ticking 'time bomb', but had been advised to continue to live as normally as possible. This did include driving, a necessity for her due to her increasingly reduced mobility. Being Robbie she did not 'make a fuss' but just got on with life.

It was Robbie who introduced Carol Dawson to DKG after Carol's husband Peter had his stroke. Robbie thought it would help Carol cope, which it did as she enjoyed meeting a group of "very competent, interesting lady educators". A highlight during their years of joint widowhood was their journey across Canada visiting Adrienne from DKG in Calgary.



Robbie's last visit to Mallorca to see Carol was in January. Carol stayed with her recently and they both attended a DKG meeting at Sheila Roberts' house. Robbie went down to Glyndebourne only two days before she died to see one of her two sons, Alistair, a musician, perform.

Robbie had taught at St Margaret Clitherow in Tonbridge for quite a few years before Sheila became head. She had come from Berkhamsted, Herts, before that. She was the Key Stage 2 Coordinator during Sheila's headship and was a very conscientious teacher, "strict but fair and helped Year 6 pupils achieve their best possible results". The same applied to her role as an Ofsted inspector, Sheila said Robbie was "far better than me at that!".

***Edited by Diana Bell with thanks to Carol Dawson and Sheila Roberts for their input. For more information and memories of Robbie please go to our website. [www.dkggb.org.uk](http://www.dkggb.org.uk)***

### News from Judith Sutton, Alpha Chapter

Judith Sutton, a long standing member of Alpha Chapter, wrote to Diana:-

'I like to still hear what you are all up to. I must try a Zoom when you next have one. I forget to put them in my diary! I must try harder. Life is beginning to get a little harder for me. I get tired very quickly. I do have help most days at least for a little while. I find walking difficult and only go out when someone takes me. My neighbour opposite is quite good.

Thanks for the photo, one day I must get all my albums out and have a good browse through them.

As I have no family now, a good friend Janet, who lives nearby, keeps an eye on me. My favourite pastime is thinking about the past and what I have done, especially holidays and trips etc. I also enjoy being out in the garden this lovely weather we have been having, although having to water my plants is quite a problem.'

It was so good to hear from Judy. If you haven't been to a meeting for a while why not email me or write, so members can hear your news. ***Diana Bell, Alpha Chapter.***

## Visit to the Great Exhibition Road Festival

Six of us met at South Kensington Station at 11.00am. By then Lavinia Soul had already been to a local restaurant for breakfast! We then went for coffee and a chat, leaving around 11.45am for the start of the festival at 12.00. There was plenty to see and do, especially for children, although this time it was mainly for us to see what went on. At the top of the road is the Royal Geographical Society where Barbara Kern and Unity Harvey tried a 'lung health bicycle'. We walked slowly back, stopping at the university where they had many exhibitions about the Body. All very interesting. Penny Kinnear later joined us for a delicious lunch.

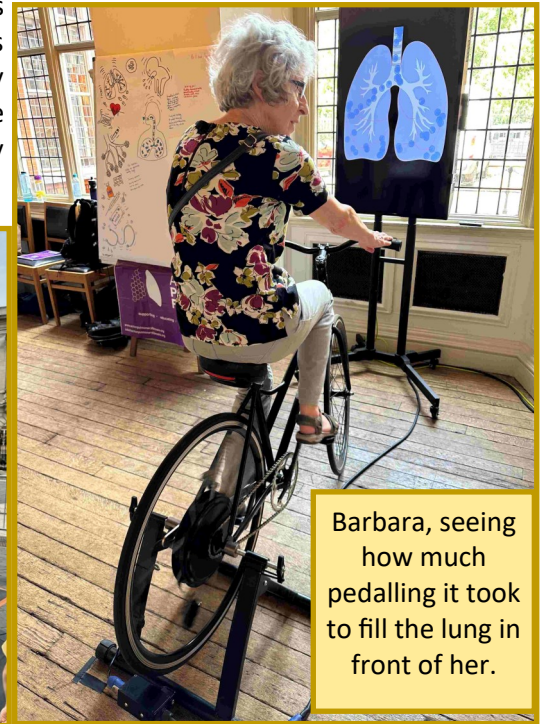
**Diana Bell, Alpha Chapter.**



Learning to Meditate



Street art



Barbara, seeing how much pedalling it took to fill the lung in front of her.

## Our visit to Tudeley Church

A group of nine of us visited this interesting church, principally to hear about the Chagall windows, which are probably the main reason this church gets so many visitors. He was originally asked by the Goldsmith family, who lived locally, to design and install a commemorative window for their daughter, who had drowned in a tragic boating accident. Chagall had not started to work on stained glass until his 70s, but his skill is evident when looking round the church. He also designed a further 11 windows, which tell the story of the goodness of creation: of the fall, of the redemption of Christ, and the promise that God gives us of restoration and re-creation.

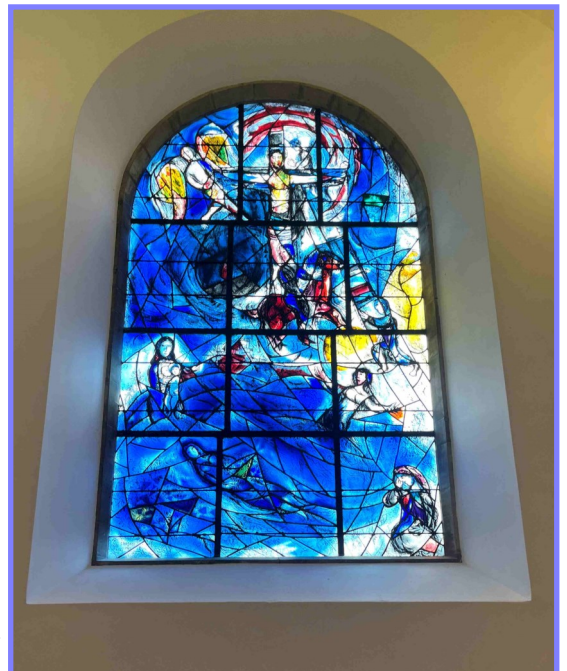
This is particularly true of the east window, designed in memory of Sarah d'Avigdor Goldsmid who was drowned with a friend when only 23 years old. The symbolism of Death and Resurrection is clear. In the lower half Sarah lies dead in the sea with grieving figures looking on. To the left of Sarah is her mother holding her two daughters, the surviving girl in bright colours, Sarah a pale shadow. The build-



The guide, Evie and Kathy.

ings of her home Somerhill appear to the right, and further to the right Sarah is borne to the shore. Above the red horse (symbol of joy for Chagall) carries her to the ladder that leads up to a benevolent and loving Christ figure on the cross, surrounded by angels.

I was also interested in the original Victorian windows, which are displayed at the western end of the church. They represent the four evangelists to whom the church, All Saints, is dedicated. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are there, together with their emblems.



We then moved on to a really good lunch in the Poacher and Partridge, a local pub, which has very high standards indeed. We were able to chat and catch up, one of the many advantages of being able to meet as a group again.



**Diane Billam, Gamma Chapter.**

Barbara Kern and Sandra Blacker enjoying looking at the Chagall windows.



### Thanks to our wonderful State President, Evelyn Goodsell

After our visit to Tudeley Church, we assembled at the Poacher and Partridge for lunch. More importantly we also wanted to show our appreciation to our State President, Evie Goodsell, for her service to us and the association in the past four years.

It was such a difficult time, with Covid rearing its head to threaten everything we had been used to, yet Evie achieved everything that was necessary with her usual charm and efficiency, including representing us in Europe, and attending the International Convention in the USA.

Kathy Hodgson, our new Vice-President, made the presentation of a card, brooch, and beautiful orchid, shown in the photographs. Evie insisted she had done nothing exceptional, but we know differently. She had also had to contend with a serious accident which caused her considerable pain and damage. What an exceptional woman – and how lucky we are to have her.

It was great to have the opportunity to catch up, to chat with friends, and to talk about the programme of visits to a number of interesting places which has been planned for us. Joan Carroll has sent out details – there is so much to look forward to.

We also enjoyed our lunch, with so many choices to make from the extensive menu. Kathy in particular enjoyed her little snack!

Evie, right, with her beautiful orchid presented by Kathy.



The brooch presented to Evie.



**Diane Billam, Gamma Chapter.**

Di and Barbara at the lunch.

