



KIDDERMINSTER HIGH SCHOOL

O.G.A. NEWSLETTER 2004

FUTURE EVENTS

Fri. 17/9/2004 7.30p.m Annual General Meeting

Fri. 11/3/2005 7.30p.m Illustrated talk about
Madresfield Court near Malvern

Sat.21/5/2005 2.30p.m Visit to Madresfield Court
near Malvern

SAT.10/9/2005 11.00.a.m ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING followed by lunch at THE HUNDRED
HOUSE HOTEL, GREAT WITLEY

*Unless otherwise stated, meetings are at King Charles I
High School (formerly KHS) Car park entrance via Comberton
Road. If attending a meeting, please notify Beryl Bedford two
weeks beforehand. **Address:** 80 Holmcroft Rd. Kidderminster
DY10 3AG Tel.01562 752997*

FROM THE EDITOR

I am handing over the Editorial page to **GLORIA WHIGHT** (nee Deubert) 1943-50. Her message comes in the form of a letter, in which she begins by thanking Valerie Powick, Mary Wehner (nee Crane), Anne Cocum and Meriel Williams (nee Greaves) for arranging their Reunion on 24th April 2003.

Gloria then continues:

I would also like to thank everyone there who sponsored me for the 'Playtex Moonwalk' Uniting against Breast Cancer. This is the only power walking marathon where entrants traverse Central London starting from Battersea Park, walking along the Embankment, through the City and Westminster into Central London. There were 15000 walkers. It was hard work – but a wonderful experience. As a result I raised £1250.50 for the Charity.

Why did I do it? On reflection the influence of my days at KHS were perhaps at the root and they are still bearing fruit! At Prize -giving 1946 Mr. Wilson Harris MP urged us to look to the future - 'What were we going to make of the years between 1946 and 2000?' At the time and in intervening years I often regretted that by that date I would be nearing 70 years – too old to enjoy Life- how wrong could I be!

I was determined to celebrate my threescore years and ten - and what better way than a demonstration of my personal good fortune in having a happy family life and good health. So, having heard of the Moonwalk, I resolved to take part. The majority of the walkers were brilliant young women, and I was proud to be able to join them at 70 .

Think about it : 'We stop doing things
Because we grow old.
Or do we grow old
Because we stop doing things?'

ED: Congratulations, Gloria, and thank you for the inspiring thoughts.

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

Eva Burford (nee Brockway) celebrated her 100th birthday on 14-1-2004. Eva must have been amongst the first pupils of KHS. Her daughter Robin is

also an Old Girl of KHS.

KHS MAGAZINES FOR 1934-5 AND 1958-9

IF ANYONE HAS A COPY OF EITHER OF THESE WHICH SHE IS WILLING TO DONATE, PLEASE CONTACT BERYL BEDFORD. (Address on front cover.)

They are required to complete a second bound edition of magazines which include an OGA section

NEWS OF OLD GIRLS

First, sadly, a number of deaths.

Muriel Albert (nee Knott)	d. 25/9/2003
Lilian Dudley (nee Warby)	d.Feb 2004 aged 95
Sonngard Fischer	d. 2002
Gwen Gregory (nee Norris)	d. 3/3/2004
Doreen Heath (nee Hammond)	d.21/4/2003
Phyllis Hinton (nee Dutfield)	d.10/7/2003
Elisabeth Percy (nee Adams)	d. May 2003
Gladys Reynolds	d.22/2/2004
Wendy Robinson (nee Ballinger)	d.July 2003
Pat Webster ** see report below	d.13/7/2003
Mary Woodward (formerly Dalley)	d.17/12/2003

****Extract from Kidderminster Shuttle 22-04-2004**

An exhibition including the work of keen embroiderer **Pat Webster**, who died in July 2003 takes place at St. Michael's Church, Stourport on 24-04-2004. She was a founder member of the Teme Valley Embroiderers' Guild which was set up in 1979. Much of Pat's work is a permanent feature at St. Michael's. She made robes for Hereford Cathedral and had a commission from the Bishop of Malawi. She worked as a National Trust steward at Hartlebury Castle.

Pat trained to teach at St. Mary's College Cheltenham and began teaching at Stourport in 1944.

BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT

A number of members were privileged to rub shoulders with Royalty over the past year, in places as diverse as Buckingham Palace, Witley Court and Ludlow Castle.

In July, **Mary Painter** (nee Coney) 1929-40, with her husband John attended a garden Party at Buckingham Palace, to be presented to the Queen as a result of John being wounded in 1944 in Italy. Being a member of St. Dunstan's he was included. It was a lovely day, not too hot. They met Prince Philip informally as he wandered about after the official presentations.

Alice Bennett (nee Cookson) 1967-74, whose Early Years Centre continues to expand, also attended a Garden Party at the Palace with her two sons who have achieved Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards. Not to be outshone by her sons, Alice later took a leap from an aeroplane at 12000ft. to skydive down, raising funds for Special Needs children in Worcestershire!! (*Not, I think, while at Buckingham Palace*) Alice also travelled to Lisbon with her two daughters, to represent Great Britain in the World Gymnaestrada. Her Early Years Centre now accommodates 170 children daily, plus 400 gymnasts.

Val Powick 1943-51 was pictured in the local press conducting Prince Charles round the church at Witley Court in November. He had earlier 'fired' the newly restored Andromeda fountain - and prior to that his helicopter caused a stir as it hovered low and at length over our village en route from Ludlow Racecourse (*maybe admiring your Editor's garden!*). In July 2003, because of my connection with Ludlow Festival, I was fortunate to be included in the welcoming party at Ludlow Castle when the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh spent some time at the Festival. We had a glorious day. Later, while taking tea in the marquee, I was introduced to the Duke. (*All our chairs had been taken away as a security measure - he must have thought our dining habits quaint in Shropshire!*)

Jane Randall (formerly Raimes, nee Pugh) 1959-66 was honoured with an MBE in the New Year's Honours List 2004, for services as Chief Executive of the Dorset Community Trust. This was a momentous year for Jane, as she also celebrated her marriage to Kevin Randall, followed by her daughter gaining a place at Magdalen College Oxford.

Miranda Moore also had reason to celebrate in May 2003 when she was made a QC. – one of only nine women to 'take silk' and be appointed Queen's Counsel in the Lord Chancellor's list this year, alongside 128 men! Miranda is of the 'bridge' generation, taking 'O'levels at KHS, then 'A'levels at King Charles 1 High School.

Jackie Godfrey (nee Akers) 1970-77, in her capacity as Superintendent Physiotherapist, is featured in an article in 'Health Wyre' magazine. She is shown explaining to staff on a Training Day at Kidderminster Hospital, how to prevent falls among the elderly.

Margaret White (nee Jones) 1942-47, and her husband Dennis, (also ex-KHS, studying Higher School Cert Maths) celebrated their Golden Wedding in style in September 2003. They sailed on the Oriana from Santiago – part of Valpariso via Collao, Coquimbo and Arica in Chile, where they visited the Atacama Desert. Next came Lima and the passage through the Panama Canal to the islands of Bonaire, Grenada and Barbados. **Intrepid Adventurers** – what an inspiration.

My own adventures took me to New Zealand again in January 2004 – yet again for the last time??- We were made very welcome by former KHS girls **Jenny James** (nee Oakes) and husband Mike, at Oomaru; **Linda Cox** (nee Mann) and husband David – an ex Sebright boy, at Oxford near Christchurch, together with Linda's mother, **Irene Hoedemakers**, formerly Mann (nee Shutt) also an Old Girl 1925 – 35. Linda's sister **Elaine** was also a former pupil 1959-62. and paid Linda a surprise visit in 2003 to celebrate Linda's 'landmark' birthday. Linda still keeps a folder of memorabilia with school reports, photographs etc. and teacher lists for her various years – she could enter Master Mind on the subject!. Finally back in Auckland I met up with **Betty Foulkes** (nee Lloyd). Betty and I started school together at St. George's Infants – so we had plenty to gossip about. The two husbands did not stand a chance! At each location we all toasted KHS with Gratias Hodie Agimus and made a few attempts at the school song. What good friends to have, even when so far away.

Kathleen Hyde(nee Gregory)1942-46 reports that her eldest son Michael now works for the new Loch Lomond and Trossachs National park as Enforcement Officer. His wife gave birth to their second child at five minutes past midnight on New Year's Day 2003.She was the first baby of the year and had her picture in two Scottish newspapers. Another member hitting the headlines in a feature entitled **A Striking Competition** was **Freda Salter(1945-50)**. In her capacity as Bell Ringer she was a member of the winning team from St. Mary's Church, Kidderminster, taking part in the competition organized by the Northern Branch of the Worcestershire Association of Bellringers at Amblecote, Stourbridge in March 2004. Freda is a regular ringer at St.Mary's, where, on February 29th 2004, a new peal of bells was dedicated by the Bishop of Worcester.

(Ah! Memories of Commemoration Day and the mass crocodile walk from school to St. Mary's, wearing full uniform with pudding basin hats, white shirts and house ties, plus the dreaded black stockings; Miss Oldfield dressed in cap and gown reading a lesson – always the same one from 1 Corinthians 13)

Anne Nailer (nee Roberts)1954-61 has retired from full- time teaching, but will continue part time at St. Martin's Prep School, Mill Hill.

Elizabeth Ahmadi (nee Payne)1963-71, is in charge of business administration-and also does some lecturing in Religious Studies – at Taunton College. She is now studying for MBA.

Kearn Nicklin 1961-68 has recently met up with **Celia Muir**(nee Wynne) and regularly sees **Jane Woodford** (nee Young). Kearn will be retiring in 2 years time.

Rosemary Boucher (nee Fletcher) 1964-71 is still teaching at Heathfield School as Head of the Junior School.

Jenny Filby 1964-71, works as a Serious Complaints Investigator for Epping Forest District Council. She gets plenty of exercise from taking her dog to agility classes and spending hours in her garden which she opens to the Public under the National Gardens Scheme.

Christine Goggin (nee Brook) 1969-74, thinks it is fair to say she has come full circle. She rejoined KHS, now King Charles 1 High School, in October 2001 as clerical support to the teaching staff. She adds, 'Who would have thought that would happen!' She will return to Atlanta, USA, to live later this summer.

Pat Higham 1955-62 On leaving KHS, Pat trained as a P.E. teacher, taught in Northampton for 34 years, including Senior Teacher at Duston Upper School for 20 years until early retirement in 1999. P.E took its toll, resulting in two new hips and a new lease of life! She is still in touch with, **Penny Stokes, Ann Busfield** and **Paula Bourne**. **Judith Knowles** (nee Bourne) 1936 – 42, has retired and spends a large part of her time in charity work for the local hospital and doctor's surgery. Sadly her best friend **Sonngard Fischer** who came to KHS in 1938, died in 2002. **Lilian Smith**, her other KHS friend lives in Canada.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

I have been amusing myself dipping into old School magazines. **Eighty years ago in 1924**, when the school was much smaller and relatively new, there was no money in the Educational Kitty to install such a frivolity as a telephone at the school – can you believe it? So everyone got together and organized a **Grand Bazaar**. This raised the magnificent sum of **£203**, quite a sum for 1924 and far exceeding expectations, so a **telephone** was installed (school number 361.) There was enough money left to purchase a genuine wind-up **gramophone**, of the type known as '**His Master's Voice Horn Grand**', thus putting the school in the forefront of modern technology!

At Prize Giving, **Miss Raymond**, very mindful of the fact that there were few good career opportunities for girls in Kidderminster, spurred on her Girls with the message, 'You are inferior to your brothers in initiative, and the source of this inferiority is mental laziness. You allow yourselves passively to be educated and make but little effort to educate yourselves.'*(I bet that went down a treat!)*

There was a much more positive atmosphere thirty years later in **1954**, the year after I left.. A different world was emerging in the wake of the Second World War. This was a few years after the 1944 Education Act, so numbers had swelled bringing in girls with a wide variety of talents and enthusiasms. **Miss Oldfield** was about to retire and she had much to be proud of after 21 years as Head. One of the final highlights of her career would have been the school's participation in the BBC Radio production of **Top of The Form** in Autumn 1953. Excitement mounted as the team - comprising **Susan Hill, Carol Starkie, Sandra**

Holloway and **Barbara Parkington** went through three breath-taking rounds to reach the final, eventually losing out to The Girls' Grammar School, Keighley. A brilliant effort, and one of which I was very proud as I sat huddled over a radio in my dreary college rooms

O.G.A. COMMITTEE 2003-2004

<i>Chairman</i>	Beryl Bedford (former teacher).
<i>Secretary</i>	Beryl Bedford helped by Alison Hargreaves and Rosemarie Moore (née Brockway).
<i>Assistant Sec.</i>	Mary Wehner (née Crane).
<i>Treasurer</i>	Shirley Whiteside (née Hall).
<i>Members</i>	Peggy Guest (née Summers), May Phillips (née Tuck), Brenda Fathers (nee Owen) Margaret Rose (nee Bird)
<i>Flower Fund</i>	Rosemarie Moore (née Brockway) and Elisabeth Robinson (née Wrigglesworth).
<i>Catering</i>	Elisabeth Robinson.
<i>Ex Officio</i>	Marjorie Rivers (née Elcock) Group 4. Patricia Nash (née Harris) Group 5.
<i>Co-opted</i>	Alison Hargreaves Christina Hickman (nee Drew)

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OGA FLOWER FUND

Rosemarie Moore (Tel. 01562 67546) and **Elisabeth Robinson (01562 750891)** continue their invaluable work of administering this scheme, and we are very grateful for all the time and effort they expend on our behalf. They have been extremely busy over the past year, with

an increased number of visits to Old Girls with gifts of flowers and cards, plus, at Christmas, gifts of flowers or tokens.

The fund is generously supported by Old Girls. If you hear of anyone who is ill or bereaved, and would appreciate a visit, please contact Rosemarie or Liz, or any committee member.