



KIDDERMINSTER HIGH SCHOOL

O.G.A. NEWSLETTER 2008

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 13/9/2008 11a.m. A.G.M followed by lunch at The Hundred House, Great Witley.

Fri. 20/3/2009 7.30p.m

Illustrated talk by Lindsey Granger about her Great Wall Walk in China and Cycle India Challenge, fund raising for Cancer Research U.K

Sat. 12/9/2009 11.00a.m. A.G.M.followed by lunch at The Hundred House, 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

*“What we call the beginning is often the end
And to make an end is to make a beginning.
The end is where we start from”*

Taken from T.S.Eliot’s ‘Four Quartets’ - Little Gidding

I am rather fond of quoting from T.S.Eliot, as readers may have noticed in the past. Certainly my daughter noticed because I was forever asking her to check a quotation for me. Hence, she presented me recently with a copy of “*T.S.Eliot Collected Poems 1909 – 1962*”

I thought this would be an apt quotation with which to start my tenth and final KHS OGA Newsletter. I took over as Editor from Margaret Phelan in time to produce the 1999 newsletter. It has been a very interesting, at times enthralling, experience. It never ceases to amaze me to discover the wide variety of careers and activities in which our Old Girls are involved worldwide, and makes me very proud of our heritage. However, I now feel it is time to hand over to a younger person, someone with a fresh approach and new ideas.

As the poet wrote “*to make an end is to make a beginning*” and I am delighted to report that **Alison Hargreaves** has volunteered to mastermind the new beginning. She will be an excellent editor, and will take the newsletter into the 21st Century, and indeed into realms of cyberspace. Never fear, the newsletter will still be available as ‘hard copy’ for those who prefer it.

Alison is also masterminding the launch of our own website.

KHS Website launch!

We will email you when we have our own live website at www.khsoldgirls.com - hopefully it should be in coming on line in the Autumn.

It has been set up to help former pupils keep in touch with each other via the Old Girls’ Association. Do have a look at it and add or check your details of name, years at the school and (if you have previously agreed to show this), your email address are correct

No password is needed to view and use the site.

Whereas many ex-pupils already use Friendsreunited for memories, which we wholeheartedly support, we hope to have a News and Events page, a Message Board, a gallery of pictures, a database of members, Newsletters and extracts from old school magazines.

We know the lifespan of the OGA is finite but the website can help us keep in touch, wherever we are for as long as we wish.

It is your website so please use it, spread the word and let us have any suggestions or comments about the site via the 'Contact Us' page.

Alison Hargreaves 'Web-Mistress'!

IN MEMORIAM.

Sadly, we say farewell to a number of friends.

Audrey Cooper d. 2007

Brenda Gallimore (nee Bash) d. 2007

Frances Margaret Jones d. 17/5/2007

Dorothy Lane d. 2007

Esme Low (nee Bedwell) d.5/2/2007

Hettie Osborne (nee Rathbone) d.9/12/2007

Margaret Phelan (nee Pugh) d. 28/9/2007 O.G.A. Press

Secretary 1960-70; editor of O.G.A. Jubilee magazine 1964; first editor of newsletter 1987-98; co-editor of KHS Memories of a School

Kay Redman (nee Percival) d. 2007

Marjorie Rivers (nee Elcock) d. 16/1/2008 aged 95

Leader of Group 4 and long serving committee member.

William Perry (KHS groundsman) d. February 2008

Agnes Sidebottom d. 2007

Tess Smith (nee Bishop) d. 18/3/2008

Elaine Taylor (nee Starr) d. 1/4/2008 aged 88

Margaret Underwood (nee Hotchkiss) d. January 2007

Joan Webster (nee Barber) d. July 2007

NEWS OF OLD GIRLS

Naomi Bishop (1971-77 and KCI 1977-8) has been appointed the first female director of the British Motor Heritage Museum at Gaydon, Warwickshire. She took part in the London to Brighton car run in November 2007 co-driving a 1902 Albion Dog Cart. It took 7 hours. Naomi's parents, **Sheila** (nee Nash) (1946-51) and Tony celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 22/9/2006

This was a year for notable Anniversaries.

Ann Mole (nee Hammond) (1932 – 42) and her husband Eric celebrated their diamond (sixtieth) Wedding Anniversary on 29/5/2008.

Josie Cooper (nee Merchant) (1942 -48) and her husband Ray celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 1/6/2007. Their daughters are **Isabel Whittle** (1970 – 77) and **Louise Edwards** (1974 – 81)

Pat Lambert (nee Chester) (1948 – 53) and her husband Tony celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 17/8/2007. They have 3 sons, 3 daughters and 6 grandchildren.

Sheila Kirk (nee Ryder) (1946 -53) with her husband Robert also celebrated a Golden Anniversary on 10/8/2007.

Sheila reports "Due to a family bereavement, we were unable to have a celebratory family gathering at the time, but later toured the country visiting family and friends, rather like a Royal Progress, and were feted everywhere we went. I thoroughly recommend this method of celebrating!"

*In February 2008, we visited friends and relations in New Zealand, and continued the celebrations 'down under', meeting up with **Jenny James** (nee Oakes) and her husband Mike, who gave us a warm welcome. Jenny is always interested to hear news of KHS and the Old Girls. Sadly, due to more family illness, we had to cut short our visit to South Island, so were unable to keep our date with **Linda Cox** (nee Mann), husband David (an Old Wulvernian) and her mother **Irene Hoedemakers** (nee Shutt, formerly Mann)"*

Mary Cross (nee Vincent) (1942 – 9) is still in contact with Mlle Genevieve Boucard, French Assistante 1948 -9, now Madame Guibert

and 80 years old. She stayed with Mary's family in Chaddesley Corbett where Mary's father was vicar. Mary was taking a copy of the newsletter on her next visit.

Barbara Hughes (nee Handley), **Christobel Panter**, **Diane Mc Bride**(nee Buckley) and **Anita Bateman** (nee Liddell) enjoyed lunch at Diane's home in Pershore in November 2007. The first three were in Kindergarten together and had not met since they left school in the mid 1950s. **Barbara** trained as an orthoptist at Birmingham Eye Hospital, married and had 2 sons when she returned to Stourport after a few years working in London. **Christobel** trained as a nurse at St. Thomas Hospital, London, then nursed in several UK towns before moving to Kenyatta Hospital, Nairobi where she was kept busy in the casualty department. On returning to England she became Matron of Torbay Hospital. When aged 50 she studied for a degree in Theology at Exeter University. Since retiring she has returned to the family home in Ledbury where she is very active in the church. **Diane** became a florist in Stourport, then she and her husband built up a successful market garden business, first in Bewdley where her family was born, followed by a brief spell in Scotland and later in Pershore. **Anita** trained as a Home Economics teacher in Yorkshire, along with her contemporary **Frances Bailey**, taught in various parts of the country before finally settling back in Worcestershire where she married and had a son. **Caroline Trow** (nee Brown), **Margaret Watts** (nee Randall) **Jane Morris** (nee Tatlow), **Meriel Pearmain** (nee Carter)(1964 – 71) and **Elizabeth Bloomer** (nee Hayton) (1964 – 69 had a reunion lunch in Kidderminster on 24/11/2007 and hope to meet again soon. **Phyllis Hudson** (nee Stoker) (Staff 1947 – 73) had the privilege of being invited to an evening reception at St. James's Palace on 24/4/2007 by H.R.H the Earl of Wessex, Patron of the 121 Club, a project of the Church Army, a charity to which she has subscribed for countless years. Allowed to take a guest she was accompanied by **Anne Nailer** (nee Roberts) (1954 – 61) with whom she stayed at Cockfosters. H.R.H was a delightful host and made sure he spoke to all his guests.

Mary Johnson (nee Bradley) (1948 – 55) reports that as a member of Wolverley and Cookley Historical Society she regularly meets **Barbara**

Freeman (nee Woodroffe) and **Mary Davies** (Wilcox) both(1950-53) She sings with **Mary Wehner** (nee Crane) (1937 -50), **Valerie Powick** (1943 – 51) and **Joan Watts**(nee Weaver) in Stourport Choral and Operatic Society. She sees Eileen **Tasker** (nee Porter) when carrying out her Talking Newspaper duties. As an ex ‘Ambler’ she meets **Elisabeth Robinson** (nee Wrigglesworth) (1939 – 53) at lunches, when she and her husband Arnold join those who have walked. The Amblers are led by John Pearsall whose wife **Margaret Bradley** was also a pupil at KHS. **Diana Gooseman** (nee Slater) (1948 – 54) and her husband Bob from New Zealand visited in May 2007. **Jean Ovens** (nee Jarvis) (1936 – 44) reports that her daughter **Carol Cole** (1964 – 71) has made a new life for herself in Spain where she has been living for six years. Her arthritis has been much improved by the sun. She works for a publishing firm and also teaches English as a second language. Jean visits Carol at least twice a year and Carol comes to England during August.

Diana Revitt (nee Blackford) (1952 – 59) was in England from Australia in the summer of 2007 and was happy to be able to attend the OGA lunch on 15/9/2007. In Australia she is in contact with **Barbara Midwood** (nee Parkington) (1952 – 59) who lives in Queensland.

Glen Walford (1952 -59) directed Shakespeare’s “The Comedy of Errors” at the Ludlow Festival in 2007 with an Arabian Nights style. It was the fifth time she has directed there. She has adapted “The Two Gentlemen of Verona” for the Tokyo Globe Theatre in Japan. In a letter to **Marky Davis** (Staff 1955 – 73) she explained how she produces plays in Japanese. She speaks some Japanese but has a constant interpreter. Her scripts are divided phrase by phrase, English followed by phonetic Japanese. She always knows what the actors are saying and as theatre is much more than words, she always knows if they are connecting truthfully and honestly with the audience. Following this it appears that in 2008 Glen will be Directing Macbeth in Barbados.

Maralyn Heathcock (1953 – 60) took part in the World Performing and Visual Arts Festival 2007 in Lahore with her one woman show “Cavalcade in Pakistan”

Beryl Smith (1935 – 42) reports that **Margaret Jones** (1931 – 41) died on 17/5/2007 aged 84. A thanksgiving service was held in Gloucester Cathedral. She had been active in the musical life there for many years. Others from her group who died in 2007 were **Dorothy Lane** and **Agnes Sidebottom**, both (1935 – 42) and **Audrey Cooper** (1935 – 40)

Philippa Wadsworth (nee Crosbie) (1968 – 75) is living in the beautiful Dart Valley between Dartmoor and the South Devon Coast. She is still enjoying her teaching “over the border” in Cornwall. She would love to hear from any Old Girls living nearby.

Note from the Editor

Dora Preston (nee Joslin) who was at KHS from about 1925 till 1933, a former Deputy Head at Stourport Secondary School, and an old and dear friend of our family, now aged 94, has moved to Surrey to be near her son. Her health is not at all good, but when my brother and I visit her, she can still give a spirited rendition of her Kidderminster memories, including events at KHS, and usually embellished by some tale of our childhood misdemeanours.

FROM THE LOCAL PAPERS

From Kidderminster Shuttle

Sian O'Neill (nee Farmer) (KHS 1973 – 77, KCI 1977 -78) was invited to a special conference on 12/1/2008 at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London to celebrate outstanding Child care . She was given “outstanding” rating in all fields by Ofsted Inspectors. The Chief Inspector of Schools invited her, along with other top child carers, to create a publication on good practice. She has been child minding for 12 years.

From Kidderminster Chronicle

Jocelyn Smith (nee Freeth) (1966 – 73) has just moved back to her home village of Arley. She trained as a physiotherapist and worked in

Birmingham, Oxford and Bristol. She and her husband Peter, who is the sub-postmaster, now run The Riverside Tea rooms.

O.G.A. COMMITTEE 2007 - 8

<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>	May Phillips (nee Tuck) 2006 - 8 Janette Woolley(nee Ricketts) 2006 - 8 Margaret White (nee Jones) 2007 - 9 Sheila Garlick 2007 - 9
<i>Ex Officio</i>	Patricia Nash (nee Harris) Group 5
<i>Flower Fund</i>	Rosemarie Moore (née Brockway) and Elisabeth Robinson (née Wrigglesworth).
<i>Catering</i>	Elisabeth Robinson.

Newsletter Editor

*We are indebted to Sheila Kirk for all her work during the last ten years and welcome **Alison Hargreaves**(1967 – 74) who becomes Editor in September 2008. Please contact her at*

***The Marshalls, Sneads Green, Droitwich, Worcs WR9 0PY
Or email at alsharg@aol.com***

OGA FLOWER FUND

We are very grateful to **Rosemarie Moore (Tel. 01562 67546)** and **Elisabeth Robinson (01562 750891)**, who continue their invaluable work in administering this scheme on our behalf, in spite of having many other calls on their time. They have been very busy over the past

year, assisted by other members, with an increased number of visits to Old Girls with gifts of flowers, cards, 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.