



**KIDDERMINSTER
HIGH SCHOOL**

**O.G.A.
NEWSLETTER
1999**

Miss D. J. Renwick M.A. Cantab.
Headmistress 1955-77

It is with great sadness that we report that Miss Renwick died on 7th April 1999 aged 84. We send our sympathy to her sister and family.

As president Miss Renwick's ties with the O.G.A. remained strong when she moved to Cheltenham on retirement and we were delighted to see her when she came to meetings at least once a year. She had a wonderful memory for K.H.S. pupils of her own time and before and her interest in education remained strong.

Her family has expressed the wish that donations in Miss Renwick's memory be made via the K.H.S.O.G.A., for a purpose to be agreed with the Head teacher to benefit pupils at King Charles I High School with which K.H.S. was amalgamated in 1977. Please send cheques payable to K.H.S.O.G.A. to:- *Beryl Bedford, 80, Holmcroft Road, Kidderminster DY10 3AG. Tel. 01562 752997*

Retirement of Secretary

Rosemary Gibbs who has been Secretary since 1986 has expressed her intention to retire at the 1999 A.G.M. We should like to thank her most warmly for all the work she has done for the Association.

Until a new secretary is elected, please let Beryl Bedford know two weeks beforehand if you are able to attend meetings.

New Editor of Newsletter

We are delighted to welcome Sheila Kirk (née Ryder) 1946-53. Sheila taught Biology for many years, firstly at Halesowen Grammar School, then latterly in Wolverhampton where she was Head of Department in a large multi-ethnic Comprehensive School. In 1984 she moved to Ludlow with her husband and then re-qualified as

a trainer/examiner in Food Hygiene. She has two daughters and five grandchildren.

Please send news to her at:-

*West Fortune', Ashford Carbonell, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 4DB.
01584 831257.*

FROM THE EDITOR

I feel rather as I did on a certain day in September 1946 when I approached my first day at K.H.S. Apprehension tinged with some excitement. What lay ahead of me? What was expected of me? Who were all these jolly, jostling girls who all seemed to know each other and seemed to know exactly where they were going? I knew only a handful of them and I certainly did not know where I was going.

Of course I was rapidly absorbed into the fellowship and made many good friends over the years and it has been a joy to me to rekindle old friendships and make new ones from amongst the Old Girls. I have to say that at present I am not exactly sure where I am going as Editor. Please feel free to give me a good nudge if you think I need a change of direction.

Shortly before she died I received a letter from Miss Renwick, in which she was talking of the Millennium and looking forward to the future. She concluded with this comment - "The O.G.A. is a bond between pupils of varied ages, interests and habitats - but with one common inheritance - a good education provided by K.H.S. The O.G.A. reminds us of this common link and can give us all the opportunity to keep abreast of the educational developments at and after the Millennium". The truth of this is amply exemplified in the reports that follow.

FUTURE EVENTS

- Fri. 17/9/1999 - Annual General Meeting 7.30pm followed by light refreshments.
- Fri. 15/10/1999 - Illustrated travel talk by Susan McKay (O.G.) 7.30pm. Coffee and biscuits.
- Fri. 17/3/2000 - Illustrated talk on Worcestershire County Museum, Hartlebury. 7.30pm. Coffee and biscuits.

Fri. 19/5/2000 - Visit to Worcestershire County Museum,
Hartlebury 7.00pm.

Sat. 17/6/2000 - Buffet Lunch 12.30 for 1.00pm.

All meetings, unless otherwise stated, are at King
Charles I High School (Formerly K.H.S.). Parking via
Comberton Road entrance only.

NEWS OF OLD GIRLS

Sadly we have to report a number of deaths.

Mrs Nora Ditchfield (née Kearsley) d. Sept. 1998, who taught History at K.H.S. from 1936 to 1947, and was also warden of Cyniberht.

Miss Nancy Goodwin d. Feb.1999, who taught Biology from 1960-70 and who was also warden of Clent.

Amy Bayliss
d. June 1998.

Winifred Booth (née Warner)
d. July 1998.

Molly Boyt

Mary Broadfield (née Oliver)
d. July 1998.

Eileen Whitmore
d. 1996

Sylvia Cooke (née Berry)
d. July 1998.

Maureen Evans (née Webster)

Barbara Everett

Phyllis Gunn (née Robinson)

d. Jan. 1999 - mother of Fiona and sister-in-law to Elizabeth Robinson.

Gladys Turner (née Horton)

d. Nov. 1998.

Nancy Wagstaff (née Mole)

d. Jan. 1999.

Gladys Wilson

d. Dec.1997.

Diane Nichols (née Jevons)

d. Dec. 1998.

BIRTHS

To balance the sadness of losing old friends, we still have
the joy of new births among our membership!

To **Julie Edwards (née Cooper)** a daughter Rebecca Jane on 6.8.98.

To **Linda Jones (née Janowski)** a son Harrison David on 16.8.98.

Former staff - Miss Jean Tregaskes who taught History at K.H.S. in the 1950's is now retired and living in Devon with her sister Helen. She has always maintained her interest in K.H.S. and likes to hear our news.

Over the year I have received, from various sources, a wealth of information about Old Girls and their achievements. This has made fascinating reading. It is certainly true that we are to be found in a wide variety of habitats as Miss Renwick said, and occupying many niches.

Group I 1912 - 1917. - This report comes from **Margaret Christopher**, daughter of **Margery Christopher** who was a member of this group until her death.

Lily Perry - at 99 years of age, is Lily the oldest Old Girl? She now lives at Lickhill Manor Nursing Home, Stourport. Other members of this group, most of them well into their nineties, continue to meet for lunch every two months and to enjoy a good gossip about days at K.H.S. These include **Kath Bayliss, Edith Bell, Cissie Christopher, Nellie Hill, Joan Massey, Francis Smith.** In addition **Dorothy Capewell, Phyllis Hinton and Edith Norton** are no longer able to get to meetings but are interested in hearing news of the O.G.A.

Nellie Hill further reports that she now has a great granddaughter, Molly Penney, who lives in Hereford, and of course is gorgeous!

An assortment of ladies who left school in the early 1950's continue to meet bi-monthly to exchange gossip and catch up on news of old friends, ably rounded up by **Elizabeth Robinson.** In spite of encroaching years we are all pretty active and still organising society! We very much appreciate **Mrs Hudson's** presence on these occasions. In addition to being good company, and a continuing inspiration, she is always able to give us news of old friends and contemporaries - the following two for example:-

Valerie Skinner (née Balmer) 1946-53 and her husband have now retired and are moving from Stourbridge to 24, The Dell, Bishop Auckland DL14 7HJ.

Margaret Todd (née Burton) 1946-53 lives in the Bristol area. We are sorry to hear that she has been ill and hope that she is on the road to recovery.

Mrs Hudson also reports that **Barbara Midwood (née Parkington)** has lived in Queensland, Australia since 1962. **Diana Revitt (née Blackford)** who also lives in Australia was in England for last year's summer lunch. She passed the newsletter on to Barbara who will be in England this summer.

A report in the Kidderminster Shuttle for December 1998 headed "Beeb post for Old Girl" tells us that **Naomi Bishop** is now Assistant Editor of BBC TV's regional news programme 'Midlands Today'. No wonder it is such a good programme. Naomi's promotion comes only two months after returning from maternity leave after having boy and girl twins.

Glennis Walford 1951-59. Following her highly acclaimed production of *Much Ado About Nothing* in 1997, Glen directed *Hamlet* for Ludlow Festival in 1998, and returns for her third year in 1999 to direct *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This promises to be, like all Glen's productions, enthralling and most professionally executed. Catch it if you can - it may well be your last chance in Ludlow since Directors are appointed on a three year cycle. (And spare a thought for your Editor, grovelling about in the mud backstage organising the costumes).

Alice Bennett (née Cookson) 1967-74 has been busy winning the Worcestershire NFU Rural Business Woman of the Year award for 1998. Over the past five years Alice has worked hard to develop a nursery school on her farm in Madresfield. So successful is her venture that it has expanded into a thriving community facility with a pay-roll of 38 people, and is now a registered Independent School. Add to this Alice's commitments as a busy farmer's wife and mother of four growing children. Congratulations Alice - you take our breath away.

Rosemary Donnan (née Watkiss) 1962-69, with her family spent some time living in a mud hut in Kenya, helping to build schools in the area, in addition to teaching and preaching and teaching local women to make school uniforms.

Mary Painter (née Coney) 1929-40 was visited by a school contemporary of hers from New Zealand - Revd. Margaret Greenway. Both ladies are well, quote "despite

advancing years”, and they add the message, “salaams to anyone who might remember us”.

Meanwhile **Mary Southall** 1931-37 visited New Zealand and tried hard to contact Revd. Margaret Greenway (perhaps while Margaret was in England?). Mary has been an active member of Nonentities since 1942.

Kathleen Hyde (née Gregory) 1942-46 has now returned to Worcestershire and is living in Cookley, after a career in Income Tax. She has three married sons and three grandchildren - the latest a little Norwegian girl. Kathleen has no transport so cannot attend meetings easily (any offers?). I remember Kathleen in an altogether different guise. We were members of a children’s theatre group called The Busybodies. Kathleen charmed everyone in the title role as Pied Piper, while I was merely a very junior rat.

Jean Malbon (née Lamb) 1937-44 and her husband have retired but continue to lead very busy lives. Over the years they have travelled widely, been keen gardeners, photographers and Ballroom and Latin American dancers. If you want to try to catch up with them, they now live in Ledbury.

Barbara Longmore (née Penn) 1956-61 lives in Bewdley, but works at Worcester College of Technology running the Postgraduate Management Development Programme. Her work takes her abroad with groups of students, and while in Barcelona she met up with **Rosemary Rousa (née Jones)** who has lived and taught there for many years. Rosemary loves Barcelona - but put in a request for a few British delicacies such as sage and onion stuffing and gravy browning! Barbara also has contacts with **Sandra Crawford (née Blackford)**, **Deryn Chatwyn (née Price)** and has also met **Sandra Perrett (née Holloway)**.

Susan Rennison (née Dobson) 1950-55 and **Sherri Sturgess** are Stewardship Advisers for the C. of E., Susan in the Canterbury Diocese and Sherri at Truro. Out of the 61

Stewardship Advisors nation wide, eleven are women and two of these are Old Girls.

Jenny Filby 1964-72 trained in P.E. and later in Marketing and Nature Conservation, and now works across all leisure forms from sport and museums to nature reserves and wartime airfields for Epping Forest District Council. She would love to hear from any Old K.H.S. girls or staff who remember her.

Philippa Wadsworth (née Crosbie) 1968-75 lives in rural Norfolk, and is Head of Careers at the local High School.

Julia Smith 1968-75 is a senior underwriter for the Amervis Life Insurance Co. in Des Moines, Iowa, USA. Prior to this she qualified as SRN, training at the Royal London Hospital.

Pat Richards (née Davis) 1946-51 works for a local toy manufacturer, TP Activity Toys in Stourport. She hopes to work until January 2000, then retire. Pat's grandchildren have been enthusiastic testers of the various activity toys.

Continuing the travelling theme, and the venues where Old Girls might be encountered, **Pauline Bland (née Blaiklock)** 1946-51 reports that she took a walking holiday in Hawaii in November and shared a room with one **Maureen Power (née King)** from Havant in Hampshire. To their amazement these two ladies found they had both been pupils at K.H.S. Though their times did not overlap, their homes in Kidderminster were only a few hundred yards apart!

O.G.A. FLOWER FUND.

Thanks again to the generosity of Old Girls the Flower Fund has flourished and because of the wonderful Old Girls' grapevine many people have received visits and flowers or tokens and cards during the past year. Some of our older members have decided to take up residence in Nursing Homes since the last report and we wish them well and every happiness.

We are always pleased to hear from any old girl and receive letters from many who have had flowers or tokens during the year. All these letters are put out at the AGM for people to read and perhaps to get in touch with friends with whom they have not had contact for many years

Elizabeth Robinson (01562 751932) or **Rosemarie Moore (01562 67546)** can be contacted if anyone knows of an old girl who is ill and would appreciate flowers.

ITEM FROM THE SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 1919.

25th June O.G.A. Tennis Tournament.

How about it girls?

A Millenium Match following the Summer Buffet 2000?

Where is Olive Devitt (née Peacock alias 'PONK'?)