



## **KIDDERMINSTER HIGH SCHOOL**

### **O.G.A. NEWSLETTER 2001**

#### **FUTURE EVENTS**

- Fri. 14/9/2001 - 7.30pm. Annual General Meeting followed by light refreshments.
- Fri. 15/3/2002 - 7.30pm. Soirée: evening of readings and music by members, to include Areley Kings handbell ringers. Coffee and biscuits.
- Sat. 22/6/2002 - Summer Lunch. Venue and time to be arranged.

## FROM THE EDITOR

*“We turn not older with years, but newer every day.”*

My daughter included this quotation from Emily Dickinson in a recent birthday card. It gave me much food for thought. I am not sure that it is true for me much of the time, but what is true is that the years are speeding by, and that we are forever facing new challenges and embarking on new ventures. The continuing exploits and achievements of Old Girls never ceases to astonish and impress!

Though our OGA membership necessarily increases in age, and it is almost twenty-five years since KHS ceased to exist as a separate entity, we are not a stagnant organisation. We constantly look to the future and are even moving into Cyberspace by setting up our own web site! *See separate note.*

In the summer of 2000 we took a nostalgic step back in time, when we met for the Millennium Lunch in the Oldfield Hall at the ‘Old School’. This was attended by a wonderful mix of 88 past pupils and teachers and was a very happy day. Audrey Howell proposed the toast to the O.G.A., the school song was lustily sung and a group photograph was taken on the lawns outside Hillgrove House. Our numbers were supplemented by the presence of one brave male in the person of the President of the Old Carolians, Tony Bishop. How times have moved on – a Grammar School boy dining in our midst! Tony was invited as a guest in return for the invitation extended to the O.G.A. to send a guest to the Old Carolians’ 100th Anniversary dinner. Yvonne Ward represented us on that occasion.

A number of smaller group reunions were held during the year, some of which were reported in the last newsletter.

**Audrey Howell (née Bishop)** 1951-58 reports that the third reunion of the 1951 intake took place in April 2000. Friends travelled from as far as Australia. They were pleased to find they could still raise the rafters with their chatter. On 6th May 2000, **Eileen Shirley (née Greaves)** reports that



**Josie Matthews (née Butler) Betty Briscoe (née Duffill)**  
**Lily Perry (née Ingram)** d. Oct. 2000  
**Margaret Ward (née Bowen)** d. Oct. 2000  
**Gertrude Whitehead (née Hodgkins)** formerly Baulk  
  
**Madeline Williams (née Morris)** d. Apr. 2001.  
(formerly Willstead) mother of Julia  
**Jane Worsdell (née Rhodes)** age 44yrs d 11.11.2000  
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News of old girls arrives from many sources—word of mouth, phone calls, written reports, news cuttings and by e-mail.

**Barbara Amies (née King)** 1937-44 reports that her daughter **Anne Budworth** 1967-74 is working at King Charles I High School and is still very interested in her craft work. Her daughter **Hilary Dolan** teaches in Northamptonshire.

**Jennie Banfield (née Cocum)** 1923-27 is still working at the age of ninety, in the office of her company J. G. Banfield & Sons Ltd. in Tenbury Wells.

**Sheila Brindley (née Brettle)** 1956-62 works for a city centre pharmacist in Hereford. Both her children have graduated and moved away. Sheila would be interested to hear from anyone in her years in K.H.S. and who lives in Herefordshire.

**Betty Caswell (née Edwards)** 1942-49 is still writing local history books on Cookley village. *'Cookley the first 1000 years'* was launched for the Millennium. *'Cookley at War and at Home 1939-45'* is now being published.

**Linda Cox (née Mann)** 1955-60 was hoping to be over from New Zealand this summer, but has had to delay her plans. She is as busy as ever in her role as the Canterbury delegate to the New Zealand Spinning, Weaving and Woolcraft Society.

*Ed's Note:* I visited Linda and David again this February. We were joined by **Jenny James (née Oakes)** and Mike—another great O.G.A. reunion Down Under!

**Janet Dyson (née Foster)** 1959-66 is currently working as an education consultant and university researcher. She is in contact with her sister **Linda Foster, Jane Pugh, Gaye Jacobs, Pat Howell, and Ann L'Estrange.**

**Jenny Filby** (1964-72) had over 500 visitors to her garden in 2000, which she opened under The National Gardens Scheme. This is in addition to her job as Senior

Leisure Officer and Serious Complaints Investigator for Epping Forest District Council.

**Gwennie Gregory (née Norris)** 1935-39 sent in a very interesting letter highlighting memories of her childhood in Wolverley, when she lived near the land where Bodenham Arboretum is now situated. She mentions Eileen Greaves who lived nearby. This is a fascinating letter depicting life in the villages of Wolverley and Kingsford pre-war. I am sorry we cannot include it in full.

**Deborah Harman** left K.H.S. after A levels in 1969, and qualified as a solicitor, now living in the Isle of Wight. Her mother **Pat Harman** who taught English at K.H.S. sent a press cutting highlighting Deborah's successful campaign to clear a client who had been wrongfully convicted of rape and who had served 15 years in prison as a result. Deborah was featured on T.V and radio and was "Lawyer of The Week" in The Times as a result of the case.

**Phyllis Hinton (née Dutfield)** 1917-24 has moved into a residential home near Hagley, owing to severe arthritis.

**Kathleen Hyde (née Gregory)** 1942-46 has been delighted to meet some K.H.S. friends again, and hopes to meet others at future O.G.A. events.

**Elizabeth Ireland (née Allen)** 1967-74 has taken over a haberdashery and needlecraft shop in Kidderminster now called "Topstitchers" and enjoys seeing old girls and teachers.

**Jean Malbon (née Lamb)** 1938-44 lives in Ledbury and sadly lost her husband in November 1999. Unfortunately poor health prevents her from travelling far, but she would love to see anyone who would like to call.

**Deanne Robson (née Hyde)** 1951-56 reports that life begins at 60. Although retired from Halifax PLC she is still very busy looking after her grandson Cameron,, playing golf, helping out at the Halifax agency in Stourport and working one day a week at Bodenham Arboretum.

**Brenda Talamo (née Gasson)** 1941-52 reports that her sister Hazel has moved to Spain to live, but comes home fairly often to visit her family.

**Janette Woolley (née Ricketts)** 1957-64 is a Primary School Teacher in Halesowen. Her husband Richard is an old boy of King Charles. Her daughter Claire is studying for a B.A. in Jewellery and Silversmithing; her twins Julian and Alison are studying Landscape Architecture and Nursing respectively.

**Margaret Jones** 1930-41 cannot believe she left K.H.S. 60 years ago. Since retiring from Gloucestershire College of Education, where she lectured in Home Economics, Margaret has continued to enjoy her musical studies. She sang for many years in Gloucester Choral Society and in the Three Choirs Festival Chorus, and now plays violin in Gloucester Symphony Orchestra. She sees **Mary Wilkinson (née Rose)** regularly and keeps in touch with **Margaret Howell (née Gill)**, **Jo Morgan (née Gillibrand)**, **Beryl Smith**, and **Georgina Bulteel (née Priest)**.

**Pamela Upsall (née Rowley)** 1947-54 is Church Warden at St. Cecilia's, Kidderminster and is in touch with **Kay Pagett (née Hayes)** whom she meets for regular walks, **Pam Parke (née Richards)**, now living in Devon, and **Brenda Rae (née Hill)**.

**Gillian Bowen (née Vowles)** 1956-59 sent a fascinating e-mail outlining her work in Egyptology. Gillian left school following 'O' levels, subsequently married, emigrated to Australia and raised three children. She never gave up longing to pursue a career in Archeology and at the age of 38 returned to full-time study, gained her first degree with honours, then embarked upon a Ph.D!

Gillian continues: "In 1990 I achieved my long held ambition when I was given the opportunity to join an Australian team excavating the Ptolemaic-Roman period town site of Ismant el-Kharab, ancient Kellis in the Dakhleh Oasis, Egypt; here my practical training in

archeology began. I became a member of the Dakhleh Oasis Project, a Canadian based, multinational, multi-disciplined project which studies mankind's adaptation to the semi-arid, Saharan environment. I have excavated annually in Egypt since then. The area upon which I focus is the spread of Christianity in Egypt and its supersession of the indigenous religion. Ancient Kellis is the ideal site for such a study as it has preserved three of the earliest surviving churches anywhere; all have been excavated under my direction.

My fortunes in the academic field have paralleled those in archeological field work. In 1999, following the completion of my Ph.D., I was appointed lecturer in Archeology and Ancient History at Monash University; this is one of those coveted positions today for it comes with tenure.”

What an inspirational story!

Another interesting item comes from our indefatigable roving reporter, Margaret Phelan. *See next page*

### **The Remarkable Background of Miss Kathleen Quayle**

I recently read a small local history book and found a photograph of Miss Quayle with her family, taken in 1918, when they were then living life according to the ideals of John Ruskin: religion, art, and self-sufficiency at Uncllys Farm, a smallholding clearly marked on the larger scale OS maps of the Bewdley and Far Forest areas. My discovery began with the current journal of the Pre-Raphaelite Society in an article about John Ruskin, the noted Social Reformer, Art Critic and visionary writer. It mentioned the Ruskin Society of Liverpool and the formation of the Guild of St. George in Bewdley. This latter began with a wealthy Birmingham industrialist George Baker, who was enthused by Ruskin's ideals and who built Beaucastle. Among the Liverpool members who migrated to Bewdley were the Quayles—Clucas Quayle, his wife Margaret, and their three children Kathleen, Kendrick, and Cuthbert. They moved in 1914, the last of that idealistic group from Liverpool to do so.



My information comes from the book 'Ruskin and Bewdley' by Peter Wardle and Cedric Quayle (pub. Brentham Press 1989.) They are both grandsons of the founder members of the Group. The story is fascinating, made more so by knowing one of the people involved. Miss Quayle was one of the staff who moved with the school from Proud Cross to Chester Road. *Margaret Phelan.*

### **A Message from Rosemarie Moore (1945-52).**

Recently, when a group of us were having lunch together we were trying to remember the House songs and mottoes. Sad to say, we were not very successful, but did manage to compile the following:

**Chad:** Fight the good fight. Motto: ?

**Clare:** Who would true valour see.

Motto: Semper Fidelis (Always faithful).

**Clent:** Song? Motto: ?

**Cyniberht:** For all the Saints. Motto: ?

Can anyone help on this? Should get the old brain cells ticking.

*Ed's. Note: I found a reference to Numquam non paratus in connection with Chad. Was that the House Motto?*

### **O.G.A. FLOWER FUND.**

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the above fund over the past year. Many people, especially at Christmas time, have been remembered and gifts have also been delivered to old girls who live too far away to be visited by Elisabeth or Rosemary.

We have noticed even when visiting people whom we perhaps do not know, as soon as KHS is mentioned there is never a lack of conversation. Many thanks to everyone for keeping this circle of friendship going.

## O.G.A. COMMITTEE

<i>Chairman</i>	Beryl Bedford (former teacher)
<i>Minutes Sec.</i>	Yvonne Ward (née Simon)
<i>Assistant Sec.</i>	Mary Wehner (née Crane)
<i>Treasurer</i>	May Phillips (née Tuck).
<i>Members</i>	Shiela Hodges (née Jacobs), Peggy Guest (née Summers), Alison Hargreaves, Gloria Phillips (née Galloway).
<i>Flower Fund</i>	Rosemarie Moore (née Brockway) and Elisabeth Robinson (née Wrigglesworth).
<i>Catering</i>	Elisabeth Robinson.
<i>Editor of Newsletter</i>	Sheila Kirk (née Ryder),
<i>Ex Officio</i>	Marjorie Rivers (née Elcock) Group 4. Patricia Nash (née Harris) Group 5.
<i>Co-opted Secretary.</i>	Rosemary Gibbs—Former Secretary. Barbara Chalmers (née French)—Former

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