



KIDDERMINSTER HIGH SCHOOL

O.G.A. NEWSLETTER 2003

FUTURE EVENTS

Fri. 12/9/2003 7.30 Annual General Meeting followed by coffee and biscuits

Fri. 19/3/2004 7.30 Talk about jewellery by Mr. Nicholls of Millers, Wolverhampton, followed by coffee and biscuits

THURSDAY 13/5/2004 at 6.30p.m
Tour of Kidderminster Magistrates' Court

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DAY

Sat. 19/6/2004 Summer Lunch
Venue and time to be arranged

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are at King Charles I High School.(formerly KHS) Comberton Rd.entrance only. If you are attending a meeting, please notify Beryl Bedford 2 weeks beforehand.Address:80 Holmcroft Rd.Kidderminster DY103AG Tel.01562 752997

All enquiries about membership or events should be addressed to Beryl Bedford – address above.

FROM THE EDITOR

2003. Another year of Golden Jubilee celebrations!

In Summer 1953, we celebrated the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. At KHS we marked the occasion with a magnificent pageant which involved nearly everyone in school, and must have been a nightmare to organize. It traced the history of England from the days of the first Elizabeth. England's cricket team got into the spirit of things by defeating the Australians to win the Ashes – and at the same time news broke of the British Expedition's success in achieving the first confirmed Ascent of Everest

At a more modest level, my generation of sixth formers will be celebrating their own Golden Jubilee : 50 years since leaving KHS and venturing out into the wide world to colleges, universities and nursing colleges – almost the only options presented to us in those days. Shirley Keays (née Green) was Head Girl. (see her inspiring report on p6). Reading through all the reports and mini - biographies sent to me, I am pleased to report that the majority of us are still going strong and making our mark on the 21st Century!

NEWS OF OLD GIRLS

First, sadly, a number of farewells.

Miss Margaret Davies – English teacher 1952 – 76 and Warden of Cobham House	d.21/1/2003
Miss Elizabeth Pearson – English teacher 1964–78.	d. 11/4/2002
Hazel Grant (née Thorpe).	d. 15/9/2002
Kathleen Hodgkinson (née Pilsbury)	d. 8/9/2002
Melva Parker (née Pritchard)	d. 4/4/2003
Muriel Pearsall (née Pritchard)	d. 29/12/2002
Dorothy Phillips (née Rowley)	d. 6/9/2002
Dulcie Sharpe (née Price)	d. 17/10/2002
Joan Smith (née Parsons)	d 16/5/2003

NEWS OF FORMER STAFF

Phyllis Hudson (née Stoker) Staff 1947 – 73

Mrs Hudson, a frequent participator in our 'Early 1950s' lunch group, had a wonderful 'music' holiday in September 2002 at a Schubertiade in Austria, and a week in Vienna with 40 other music lovers. She stayed with **Anne Nailor (née Roberts)** first in Cockfosters. Anne intends to retire from teaching in Summer 2003.

Beryl Haughton, English teacher 1957 – 64, has taught at Hereford Sixth Form College, Hereford Tech. and Art College, Belmont Abbey, and Hereford Cathedral School. She had a very interesting life as Head of Careers/ Student Counsellor till she retired 2 years ago.

Muriel Newman (Maths) lives in N.Cornwall after retiring as Headmistress of Plymouth Girls' High School.

Margaret Miles, History, has returned to her childhood home in the Forest of Dean.

Audrey Hadley (née Sparks) was widowed in 2001 but continues to live near Pershore.

Jean Tregaskes (History) and her sister Helen are busy in their village near Torquay.

Elizabeth Kissack's (Maths) catalogue of activities proves that living in a small hamlet north of Inverness is NOT being 'away from it all.'

Beryl Haughton is in touch with a number of Old Girls. She visits **Alison Davison**, a KHS pupil until 1963, in her Christmas shop at Lechlade. She also reports that former pupil **Karen Smith** recently retired as nursing sister and liaison officer at Chailey Heritage Hospital for profoundly physically disabled children aged 8-18.

Susan Alcorn (née Matthews) has retired from being a Senior Civil Servant in Sussex. She now lives in Uckfield and is pleased to hear from KHS contemporaries. **Joyce Kerigan (née Wyer)** 1936 -42 is a member of Bewdley Pines Golf Club, and plays at least 3 times a week. She is a volunteer with the Wyre Forest Talking Newspaper

Reunions

A number of groups have held reunions during the year.

Valerie Powick sends this report :

Sixteen old girls who took School Cert. in 1948 met at 11am on

April 24th 2003 at the Hundred House, Great Witley, for lunch and a chat! The gathering ended with tea/coffee and biscuits served at 4pm.

From Upper V X we had Freda Rutherford (Bourne) and Janet Hamer (Lowe), with Joan Greenhill (Richards) unable to come at the last moment. We were also delighted to see Betty Lane (Senter), the rumour of whose death, many years ago, we are pleased to report was 'greatly exaggerated.' A chance meeting between Betty and Valerie Powick at Great Witley Church led to Betty's first reunion meeting.

Upper V Y provided Rita Sheppey (Bolton), Doreen Swift (Bunn), Anne Cocum, Mary Wehner (Crane), Gloria Whight (Deubert), Betty Edwards, Meriel Williams (Greaves), Jean Pycock (Manson), Valerie Powick, Hazel Baines (Randle), and Mary Whiteley, who came from Jersey.

From Upper VZ we saw Joyce Spilsbury (Beddoes) and Jean Jones (Symonds).

Mrs Gethin, a very sprightly nearly ninety-year old, and Mrs Hudson (Miss Stoker) were our guests and we heard their memories of KHS and us, and we chipped in with our own reminiscences and read letters from those who were unable for a variety of reasons to come on that day.

It was a very happy occasion, and now that we have all reached our allotted three score years and ten, we have decided to meet every year on the last Thursday in April at the Hundred House, for after all who knows what the future may bring!

Alison Hargreaves' group held a reunion in October 2002, at which 5 new members were recruited.

Elisabeth Robinson (née Wrigglesworth) travelled to New Zealand, and met up with **Betty Foulkes (née Lloyd)**, **Diana Gooseman (née Slater)** and **Margaret Greenway**.

Jennifer Morris (née Astill) also journeyed to New Zealand to be present at her daughter Louise's graduation. Though not herself a KHS pupil, Louise has inherited the fighting spirit – while studying for a degree and a teaching qualification, she also produced three gorgeous daughters!

Margaret Bazley (née Osborne) 1955 – 62., after leaving KHS trained as a Home Economics teacher and taught in Lancashire for a while before returning to Worcestershire. She is married with 3

children. In 1996 she and her husband Peter bought a company dealing in discontinued china. Since then they have been very busy, but find time each year to visit Peter's mother and family in New Zealand.

Alice Bennett (née Cookson) 1967–74 lives in Malvern. The eldest of her 4 children has gained a place at Cambridge. A new room has been put in the Early Years Centre on the farm, and they now employ 50 staff.

Sarah Bryson (née Gibson) 1972 – 79 is now living in Kirtlington, Oxfordshire, and working part time as a research nurse in the area of childhood infections. She is the daughter of **Hazel (née Gasson)** who lives in Spain, near Malaga.

Susan Matthews - left KHS in 1970. She is still teaching at Birchen Coppice First School, where she began teaching when she left college. She has been working on the Bishop's Certificate course and began the 2 years' Readership training in September 2002.

Elisabeth Percy (née Adams) 1952 – 59. has lived away from Kidderminster for over 40 years, having had a successful career as a teacher and then as a prison education officer. Sadly her husband died in 1975. Her sister Rosemary, who left KHS in 1962 died in Florida 15 years ago. Elisabeth would like to thank everyone for their support on the death of her Auntie Edna Adams, and of her "auntie" Connie Everett. She expresses gratitude for visits made to Edna when she was left on her own.

Jill Tucker (née Mountford) 1956 – 61. Jill and **Anne Hawthorne (née Yeates)** visited Edna Adams after an OGA meeting in 2001 and were entertained by her memories of their antics when she was their Guide captain. Jill is still in touch with Elisabeth Sharrock (née Mountford) who now lives in Herefordshire, Linda Crockett (née Tibbetts) who lives in Stourbridge and Jennie Stott (née Dewsbury) who, with her husband, has moved to live permanently in France.

Philippa Wadsworth (née Crosbie) 1968–75, has moved to Buckfastleigh, Devon, and has a senior teaching post at Saltash Community School in Cornwall.

Rosie Connolly (née Addleton) 1970 – 77, a former Modern Languages teacher, is now commercial Sales Manager at Brintons. She is in contact with **Jackie Godfrey (née Akers)**, **Belinda Kershaw (née Daghish)**, **Sue Keating (née Bulmer)**

Jan Gullachsen left KHS in 1974 and studied Hotel and Catering management at Birmingham College of Food. After a varied career, which has included running a Women's Refuge, she now works as Catering and Hospitality Manager at Stratford-upon-Avon College. She is divorced and has reverted to her maiden name.

Shirley Keays (née Green) 1945 – 53, a former Head Girl of KHS, lives in Nottingham, and sends news of **Muriel Fraser (née Frier)** 1947 – 53. Mu has lived in Florida for many years and likes to hear from schoolfellows. *Address : 258 Cougar Way, Rotunda West, Florida, USA.*

Shirley herself is still demonstrating her capacity for positive leadership and compassion - she has been doing stalwart work helping Cancer Charities and support groups, initially by working in the local Cancer Research Shop. Then, following her own personal tussle with the disease, she turned to Fund Raising on a grand scale.

This is Shirley's report

“When I went to the hospital for tests I learned about an ambitious plan to raise £1million pounds towards the projected £5million cost of a new Breast Care Centre at Nottingham City Hospital. While I was recovering from surgery I composed a letter and sent out hundreds of copies to friends, former colleagues etc. I was sent over £5 thousand – a wonderfully generous response. Since then I have helped the Millennium Millions Appeal on many occasions and in many ways. Happily the building has now begun and will be ready for use in July 2003. The people of Nottingham have raised £800,000 so far and we haven't stopped yet.(The government and the Lottery have found the rest of the money.)I have also, with 3 more former cancer patients, set up a local cancer support group called CHAT (Cancer Help &Action Team). We combine talks from health specialists with informal chat time. Our regulars find this very helpful, but for us it's hard work (phone calls, writing letters, checking up on members undergoing treatment and sending good wishes etc.) but very rewarding. Those of us who have survived cancer are only too pleased to offer support to others who are struggling with it now. Our involvement is sad sometimes, but mostly we are positive and forward-looking.”(*Ed's comment: Shirley, we are proud of you- Gratias Hodie Agimus!*)

Old Girls have been breaking into print!

The Chronicle 7/11/2002 reports on **Kate Spohrer (née Smith)** who was at KHS during the transition period, in the 5th form 1978/9. Kate, an advisor for Sandwell council, has won the teaching and learning category of the Special Needs Book Awards for her book, "Supporting Children with Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder" The book is aimed at parents and teachers and is available from Questions Publishing, Birmingham.

A report in The Shuttle Sept 2002 features **Margaret Williams (née Adams)** who was here from her home in Australia to promote her children's books in the *Adventures of Wilberforce (a water vole)* series. The inspiration for these was rooted in the Worcestershire countryside, where as a child Margaret spent hours exploring woods and streams. Her original publisher having gone into voluntary liquidation, Margaret is seeking a new publisher for the rest of the series. Margaret was visiting her lifelong friend **Anita Bateman (Née Liddel)** ex – KHS 1945 - 56

Now for something different- an **SOS** from an **OLD BOY!**

Ronald Jenkins was a pupil at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, who, together with Dick Bakewell spent 3 mornings a week at KHS in the mid/late 1940s, working for Higher School Cert. Biology. They were taught by Miss Betty Brown and would very much like to find out what became of her. The Hudson Encyclopedia has been able to tell us that Miss Brown left KHS in 1949 to marry, and then moved to Sheffield. She had a daughter, but her husband developed health problems, and it is thought that they finally separated. After that the trail runs cold. Has anyone any further details? Ronald (who married ex KHS pupil Gillian Howe in 1951) and Dick Bakewell would be grateful for any information. Please reply direct to Ronald Jenkins at : R.E.L. Jenkins, Cartref Ganol, Ffynnongain Lane, Pwll Trap, St.Clears Carmarthenshire, SA33 4AR

O.G.A. COMMITTEE

<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>	Sheila Garlick, Peggy Guest (née Summers), Meriel Williams (née Greaves), May Phillips (née Tuck).
<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

Newsletter Editor Sheila Kirk(née Ryder).

Items for inclusion in the Newsletter should be sent to the Editor **Sheila Kirk** at:

West Fortune', Ashford Carbonell, Ludlow, SY8 4DB.

Telephone & Facsimile 01584 831257.

E-mail : sheila@rkstudio.demon.co.uk

OGA FLOWER FUND

Rosemarie Moore (Tel. 01562 67546) and **Elisabeth Robinson** 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.