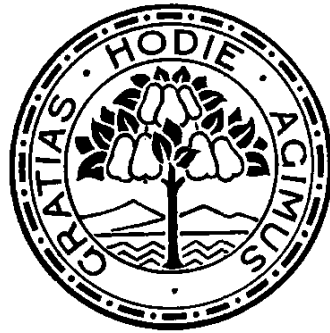


Website version 2009Newsletter

(apologies for all and any errors – Miss Bedford hasn't been sent this homework to proof read!)



**KIDDERMINSTER HIGH SCHOOL
O.G.A. NEWSLETTER 2009**

FUTURE EVENTS

Saturday 12/9/2009 11a.m. A.G.M followed by lunch at The Hundred House, Great Witley.

Fri. 19/3/2010 7.30p.m

Illustrated talk "Discover the Real Ethiopia" by Juliet Clarke.

Sat. 18/9/2010 11.00a.m. A.G.M. followed by lunch at The Hundred House, Great Witley.

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are at King Charles I 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.

Website: www.khsoldgirls.org.uk

FROM THE EDITOR (and 'Web-Mistress'!)

Many thanks to Sheila Kirk for the last ten issues and for a very useful format for me to 'cut and paste' the information into. It has helped enormously in this my first role as Editor.

Miss Marky Davis gathered copious amounts of information from her ex-pupils. I think she has had the last laugh since she had suggested I should be a receptionist when I went for careers advice! Thank goodness I did a typing course!

There is a more detailed newsletter on the website, www.khsoldgirls.org.uk If you would like to show any pictures of people or events we have covered, or of any reunions etc. then please send them on to me and I can add them to the website version.

If you would like to make members aware of an event – whether it be a fundraiser or a concert, send me details and we can put details on the website.

I would think that some old girls have a website of their own, a family member or one that they have found useful; if anyone would like a link from our site to another then please send me the address – it could be interesting.

It is your website so please let us have any suggestions or comments about the site to alsharg@aol.com Newsletter articles can be emailed or sent by post to either Miss Bedford (see front cover from address) or myself at:

The Marshalls, Sneads Green, Droitwich, WR9 0PY,

IN MEMORIAM

Sadly, we say farewell to a number of friends.

If anyone would like to send an obituary or memories of any old girl, please email or send details to the editor.

Lucilla Dudley d. 25/5/2009 aged 85

Edna Astill (nee Smith) d. 21/1/2009 aged 95

Sheila Corbett d. 9/5/2009

Shirley Crew (nee Harris) d. 10/12/2008

Marky Davis d. 6/1/2009 Head of Geography 1955-73, Warden of Chad House from 1962 and organized careers work from 1967.

Edna Wakelin (nee Llewellyn) d. 17/12/2008 aged 92.

Beth Williams d. March 2009

Joy Williams d. 10/2/2009. R.E. teacher KHS 1969-1977 and at King Charles I School until 1982.

Eileen Worrall (nee Gregory) d. 17/9/2008.

Sue Fudge (nee Allen) died Nov 2008 aged 52

Sheila Corbett KHS 1941-47, died 2009

Sheila and I had been friends for 74 years since starting infants' school in 1935. Sheila was born with spina bifida and gradually become more disabled until she eventually needed a wheelchair. However despite her many health problems she never complained, was always a happy person and she lived a very full life. On leaving school Sheila worked as a secretary at Bradley and Turton's in Kidderminster and at Denvic in Stourport until she retired. After the death of her mother she moved to Shrawley to live with her sister Margery. She produced the Shrawley and Witley Parish magazine and also typed books on the history of Shrawley written by a local author. After Margery died, Sheila moved to a bungalow in Holt Heath where she

lived until her last illness. She had the support of a very caring family and made many friends throughout her life. She will be very much missed.

Written by Greta Humphries nee Morris KHS 1941-48

Joy Williams Staff 1969-82, *died 2009*

Joy taught RE and Latin at KHS before becoming head of RE at KHS and then KC1. In 1987 she was ordained Deacon in Worcester Cathedral, and in 1994 she was ordained priest by the Bishop of Worcester at the Parish Church of Hartlebury. She served on the staff at Pershore Abbey.

Susan Fudge (Nee Allen) *KHS 1967-74, died 2008*

My friendship with Sue started at KHS on the first day of term September 1967 in Miss Baker's form room IIIS. Sue became a secretary and worked at Painter and Sons. She was happily married to Ivor for 33 happy years (I had a great time being her bridesmaid!) and they ran several pubs including the White Hart in Hartlebury and finally back to the Radcliffe Arms in Birchen Coppice where she had grown up. They had two sons, David, aged 26 and Michael, aged 23. I know that Sue was immensely proud of them both. Sue was always caring and very generous – even sharing her chocolate biscuits with Jan Bevan (now Turner) and me at 'Milk Time'! She was clever and quick-witted and loved people – hence her success in the hospitality trade. I suppose I also held Sue in awe a little, she was, after all the first person I knew who used electric rollers, wore white lacy boots (the height of fashion) and had holidays in Spain! Sue died from cancer, at her home with her family on 29th November 2008. It is with a sense of loss but immense fondness that I remember Sue Fudge – my old school mate and long-time friend. *Written by Sue Heaton (nee Hume)*

Eva Landon KHS 1941-48, *died 2006*

Eva left her memoirs of her childhood in Habberley Valley. She had often talked to Jan Taylor (nee Woolley 1961-66) about publishing them and Jan edited them as a piece of local history. They were published in Eva's memory in April 08 & are available for £2.50 per copy from Jan - tel: 07803 008007

MARRIAGE

Maralyn Heathcock to Alan Francis on 3/1/2009

NEWS OF OLD GIRLS

Shortly before her death in January 2009, **Miss Marky Davies** (staff 1955 – 1973) persuaded the former staff and pupils to write the following contributions to the newsletter/website.

Miss Marky Davis wrote:

"From 1944 until KHS closed in 1977, the school evolved into a very good girls' grammar school. This was largely due to stable staffing. Many of the long term serving teachers were appointed by Miss Oldfield and some of these were extremely talented. She writes about Dr. Tucker, Mrs Gethin, Miss Davies, Mrs Washington and a number of other staff (full details on the website) and got some of her pupils to write about their lives:

Quite outstanding as an academic intellectual was **Dr. Tucker** (historian); few state schools have been fortunate enough to have someone of her academic excellence and as Jane Fletcher (Cox), who herself achieved a first class honours degree in history, was to say later "It was a privilege to be taught by Dr Tucker."*

Mrs Gethin played hockey for Kidderminster Ladies' Hockey Club (1938-80) in that time serving as Captain and President. She was also president of the Worcestershire Schools'

Hockey Association 1978-84. In 1968-69 the whole of the KHS hockey team played for the county and in 1969 went to Holland. She put in more hours than now seem possible, and was always a kind and understanding teacher.

Miss Davies (English) influenced many girls and gave them a love of literature and theatre.

Marky Davis scoured Greenland, Iceland, Ethiopia, Canada, Egypt and Europe searching for rocks and fossils **

Mrs Washington was a well known artist, and until crippled by arthritis, Miss Hugh Jones, a gifted pianist could be heard on the radio.

A number of staff devoted most of their lives to the school; these include Miss Billam, Miss Chalk, Miss Everett, Mrs Hudson (Stoker) who is still an active member of the OGA. Miss Hunt, Miss Leigh, Miss Quayle, Miss Wells, Miss Whittaker, Miss Wilkes and Miss Wood. Ancillary staff such as Mrs Phelan (lab technician) Mr. Brassington and William (groundsmen) and cleaners like Mrs Leigh who were always unfailingly helpful to everyone.

All those individuals welded the school into a vibrant community. Girls were academically successful and developed self-discipline and good manners going on to lead full and interesting lives. Their sense of social service, largely developed through the house system, has continued through their lives and many have remained in contact with each other and with the few remaining staff.

Although KHS no longer exists in reality, it lives on in the hearts of many people.”

M-D

*Editor's note:

Remarkable teaching leaves its mark on those who are lucky enough to experience it. I'd be very interested if anyone has a memory of any teachers who inspired them directly or indirectly, how were you inspired, and also, why – what was their style?

**Editor's note:

Slides of her trips nearly always showed Miss Davies 'for scale'.

Madame Genevieve Rougette (nee Gillibert) French assistante at KHS 1958-9
(Address supplied)

'The year from (1958-59) I spent at KHS was one of the happiest years of my life. I had spent the previous year at St Paul's School for girls in Edgbaston and felt that my command of English was far from adequate and I "asked for more".

I vividly remember my first day at KHS: the pleasant discovery of the building which I found elegant and so different from my severe French High School. The grounds were green and beautifully kept. The staffroom and classrooms seemed cosy to me, with a light smell of polish floating about – I felt slightly awed! Miss Renwick and Miss Everett kindly took me around and introduced me to the staff – Miss Chalk, Miss Billam and Marian Baker. I remember all the staff clearly, no matter what their subjects happened to be. I sat in front of Mrs Crossland who always had a kind word for me. Marian Baker was my age and had spent a year in a French school – her French was faultless. We met up every year either in France or England from 1959 until 1994. Miss Davies and Miss Marky Davis were my 'family'; they made me welcome in their home at any time, in fact I used their bathroom very often since I had made the mistake of not checking that my lodgings in Offmore Road had this facility! I ate with them every Friday evening, and even discovered the delights of 'Dr Zhivago' with them at the cinema!

At school I only had 12 hours of teaching a week but not one of my group of VI formers ever missed a French conversation lesson. Among those I remember by name are Angela Clarke, Patsy, Elizabeth Saunders, Helen Willis and her sister. They were all very keen to learn and discuss and I learnt a lot from them!

I hope that this short report will bring back happy memories to some of you, the new parents and perhaps teachers! Yes, this is where I learned English, discovered the English way of life and made friends of ever.

Thank you all.
G.R.

Melissa Johnson (nee Harman) KHS 1964-71

(Younger daughter of Mrs Pat Harman, English teacher)

On leaving school I went to Liverpool University – following a wonderful summer picking soft fruit on a farm near Worcester – to study for a degree in English Language and Literature. After graduation, I moved to North West London where I still live. My first job in London was in a Mayfair pub – lots of fun – then I fell into work in the publishing industry, with a careers publishing company called New Opportunity Press. Here I learnt the ropes of journalism, (computers were still science fiction objects), and started to write articles for a teachers' journal. I went on to work for Lloyds Log and the staff magazine for the Corporation of Lloyds (backing up the insurance business). After that I worked on Thames Water News (for the staff of the Thames Water Authority) and enjoyed visiting water treatment and sewage plants throughout the Thames river area to research stories. Moving onwards, in 1980 I joined Medical News Group, where I was a reporter for the weekly newspaper for GP's.

In 1983 I married Alan Johnson and we have three children, Annie (25) Heather (23) and Christopher (18). At first I continued to work in journalism on a freelance basis whilst bringing up my children and developing a strong commitment towards my community, serving on management committees of my housing co-operative and community association. I also started exploring my creativity, taking local classes in art, drama, creative writing and pottery as well as acquiring IT skills. I have had success in writing and performing my own poetry (thank you English teachers at KHS). My paid work is of an eclectic nature. I spent 3 years working with adults with disabilities – teaching creative writing and assisting with a drama class. I now work regular shifts as a personal assistant for a local lady academic who has a disability and I do seasonal work as invigilator/amanuensis for London Metropolitan University and other education organisations. I also help with the running of my husband's business Alan Johnson Furniture Ltd. Alan makes bespoke furniture, specialising in kitchens, from his workshop in Kilburn, London NW6.

I am about to go to Vietnam for a short break to join Annie who is currently travelling for 3 months. This seems strange to me as during the 1960's when we were at school, the name Vietnam was synonymous with a terrible pointless war and our school assemblies would often focus on this, with protest songs like Bob Dylan's 'Blowing in the Wind' echoing around the school hall. Sadly, despite all our protests, the world hasn't managed to put and end to war. Not yet anyway.

Maralyn Heathcock KHS 1953-60

Maralyn Heathcock left KHS in 1960 and went to the University of Birmingham to begin a Combined Honours degree in English and History.

However, in the first year she met and fell for a Dutch student called Rudy and followed him back home to Amsterdam with the intention of studying there. Her mother managed to grant the 'giddy girl' a year's leave of absence. She duly returned and graduated in 1964 with a 2/2

After graduating, she and Rudy took an old beaten-up Citroen 2CV (or Ugly Duckling) overland to Tehran where, having almost run out of money, they took on jobs as teachers of English in Danushga-e-Meilli, or National University (a private one for children with rich parents). It was a trial for all concerned!

She returned home at the end of the academic year and took a secretarial course. Then, to the great relief of her parents, she eventually found a sensible job as Director of the Barber Institute of Fine Arts in the university of Birmingham. Not satisfied with this sensible job, she gave it up and drove alone to Istanbul, leaving her Morris 1000 with the Customs there and taking a bus overland to Tehran, in pursuit of an Iranian boyfriend who had returned home. Fortunately she had arranged to stay with friends because when she telephoned the ex-boyfriend's family home, she learned he was on his honeymoon! She returned to Hagley.

She got her old job back and joined Birmingham's prestigious amateur theatre, the Crescent, and after playing several leading roles, she determined to try to follow the ambition she had had and been talked out of at nineteen – drama school. She was accepted by the Webber Douglas Academy in London for their one year post grad course in 1974. Since leaving there Maralyn has had a rather chequered career, including waitress (for a very short time!), dresser at the Royal Opera House, charlady and more recently, a door to door salesperson – clocking up 6000 miles round hostile council estates on her bicycle!

She has also taken one woman shows on a tour of the Middle East for the British Council to Pakistan, three times with different shows. Her first professional engagement was playing the French Maid in Noel Coward's 'Private Lives', so the first word she uttered as a professional was 'Merde!' She has done theatre on the liner QEII, dinner theatre at the Hilton in Istanbul, appeared in both 'Amadeus' and 'The School for Scandal' (with Donald Sinden) both times in the West End. In the latter she understudied Dulcie Gray and Beryl Reid and had the good fortune to play for both of them over several weeks. She even played in front of the Queen while entertaining visitors at the Public Records Office Domesday exhibition in 1986.

Last year she moved to Cleator Moor in Cumbria and married Alan Francis, a former head of Physics in a Worcestershire school, and they live in an old sandstone former infirmary. And she is *still* trying to get into the theatre!

Jane Cox (formally Hoare) nee Fletcher

Jane left KHS (the happiest days of her life...) aged 19. She was warned by Miss Marky Davis on the day of departure that she had been a big fish in a little pond and that it would be very different in the big world!

In 1964 she gained a first class degree in history at Queen Mary College, London University. She started research on Charles II's Privy Council for her PhD but her project was not completed due to her marriage and arrival of her first son who was named Charles by way of compensation.

Jane worked at the Public Record Office (now the National Archives) as Principal Assistant Keeper of Public Records and for 10 years sorted and catalogued forty tons of ancient probate records from 1982–1989. During this time she lectured widely at home and in the US and Australasia; wrote four of PRO's genealogical guides, organised PRO's Domesday Exhibition and then took early retirement to pursue full time family history research and write books. Her main areas of interest are the East End of London and ecclesiastical history. She drove a mini-cab for six months to finance her writing – but it didn't!

1978-1998 on Council of British Record Society
1989-93 Chairman of Stepney History Trust
1996....Churchwarden of Christ Church, Hampstead
2007... on Council of Friends of the National Archives
2007 Freeman of City of London (Wax Chandlers' Company)

Her finest moments in life include playing Davy Crockett at KHS on Clent Day circa 1960, appearing on Start the Week in 1986, being Keynote speaker at International Genealogical Conference in Christ Church, NZ in 1996, watching her spaniel bitch give easy birth to nine healthy puppies and watching her granddaughter play Elizabeth I in her school pageant.

Married twice and now a widow, Jane lives in Kentish Town, just a few minutes walk from her great friend from KHS, Patsy Douglas (nee Laurence). Her sons Charles and Oliver, work at the British Museum and the Cabinet Office respectively. She divides her time between her church, her three dogs, her writing and her three grandchildren.

Publications:

Tracing your Ancestors in the Public Record Office, HMSO, 1981 5eds.

Shakespeare in the Public Records, co-authored, HMSO 1985.

Domesday Exhibition Catalogue, 1986.

A singular Marriage, a Labour Love Story in Letters and Diaries (Ramsay MacDonald), Harrap, 1988.

The Nations' Memory, A pictorial guide to the Public Record Office, 1988.

Hatred pursued beyond the Grave, tales from the London church courts, HMSO, 1993

Affection defying the Power of Death, an introduction to wills, Federation of Family History Societies, 1993

London's East End, Weidenfeld and Nicholson, 1994 (paperback 1996)

New to Kew? A guide to the Public Record Office for family historians, PRO, 1997.

Never been here before?, a guide to the Family Records Centre, Pro 1997.

Pitkin Guide to Stepney Church, 2004

Puppyline Tales, Paul Mould publications, 2007.

Old East Enders, Stepney parish, church and people (with Phillimore for publication 2009)

Regular contributions to a range of genealogical journals.

Other News of Old Girls

Jenny Booth (nee Brookes) KHS 1967-74

Jenny has retired and she and her husband are enjoying walking in the Lake District and Shropshire hills and visiting Greece. She has had some short articles about Greece published.

Brenda Father (nee Owen) KHS 1947-54

Brenda and husband Frank celebrated the Golden Wedding on 12/3/08. They have 3 sons, 1 daughter and 9 grandchildren!

Chris Goggin (nee Brook) KHS 1969-74

Chris and husband Pat visited the UK last year from their home in the USA. They met up with Anne Budworth (nee Amies) and her husband Rob, and Carol Bishton (nee Pugh)

Audrey Howell (nee Bishop) 1951-8 pupil; 1963-64 staff

Audrey's granddaughter Hannah Tainton attends King Charles I School following Audrey's footsteps and those of her great-grandmother Joan Massey (nee Clark, 1919-27) who is now 99 years old.

Mary Johnson (nee Bradley) KHS 1948-55

Mary continues to act as treasurer for the WEA and Stourport Civic Society and has resumed singing in the Stourport Choral and Operatic Society now that her husband's health has improved a little. Mary Wehner, Alison Hargreaves, Val Powick and Joan Watts are also in that choir. She still attends Wolverley-Cookley Historical Society meetings, acts as Liaison Officer for the Talking Newspaper (Wyre Forest) and generally enjoys being 70.

Judith Knowles (nee Bourne) KHS 1936-42

Judith Knowles was mobile again in April 2008 after 5 months. She had great pleasure from the flowers she was given by the OGA which lasted more than a month and sent her grateful thanks.

Rebecca Heath (nee Walker) KHS 1965-70

Rebecca's eldest daughter Nicola is now living in Melbourne and Rebecca has visited twice. Her son Simon is just buying his first home and youngest daughter Hannah is in her third year at Manchester studying Biomedical Science.

Eva Landon (1941-48)

Eva who died in July 2006 left her memoirs of her childhood in Habberley Valley. She had often talked to Jan Taylor (nee Woolley 1961-66) about publishing them and Jan edited them as a piece of local history. They were published in Eva's memory in April 08 & area available for £2.50 per copy from Jan - tel: 07803 008007.

Dorothy Lowe (nee Fathers) KHS 1937-44

Dorothy is delighted to have just been made a great- grandmother!

Marie Skerratt (nee Walters) KHS 1940-47

Marie and her husband enjoyed a cruise to on the QE2 to Iceland and Norway. It brought back happy memories of her exchange teacher year to the USA in 1963 when she travelled on the QE1.

Wendy Williams (nee Whitehouse) Staff 1967-74

After leaving KHS, Wendy joined the Careers Service but was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2001 and took early retirement. She is doing lots of craft projects including making and selling greetings cards to raise funds for the Parkinson's Disease Society.

Joan Nottingham (nee Leighton) KHS 1946-50

Joan and Eric celebrated their Golden Wedding last September and instead of presents, they asked for donations and raised £885 for The Macmillan Renton Appeal which will fund a new cancer unit in the grounds of Hereford County Hospital . Joan was also crowned champion at the Townswomen's Guilds' national scrabble final in November. The competition was open to all 34,000 members and Joan was a delighted winner since she had previously been 2nd twice and 3rd three times! Well done, Joan! Practice obviously does make perfect! (*see a photo of Joan with her trophy on our website*)

Muriel Hein (nee Taylor) KHS 1939-45

Muriel and her husband Perry celebrated their Golden Wedding in 2007 but sadly he passed away in 2008. They had lived in Calgary for all those 50 years

"I think the newsletter is a great idea.

Snippets of my life :

I worked in the KHS office with Miss White during spare periods in 1944 and then when I had finished school in 1945 I was offered a permanent job in the office to assist Miss White who trained me well. I worked there until March 1946 when Miss Oldfield asked me to go and work in the office of a new training college for teachers about three miles out in the country towards Hartlebury called Shenstone. I was there for three years and Audrey Spokes was secretary to the principal. She married the history lecturer, Jim Lewis, and left when she was expecting her first child, and I left in the spring of 1949. I went to work in Church Street for two general practitioners and stayed with them until I emigrated to Canada in 1954. My friends Sibyl (Squires) and Mick Rogers from Kidderminster invited me to visit them in Calgary and I lived with them until I married my husband, Perry Hein. I returned to England in March 1957. Perry came over and we were married at the end of April 1957. Amongst the guests were Audrey Spokes (Lewis), Marian Allton (Checkland), Margaret Hand (Clark), Joan Porter, Annette Devitt (Jacobs), Muriel Williams (Bent), Margaret Jones (Wight), Buntly Ryland (Booth) and Phyllis Ryland (Steward and Stott) all from KHS.

My husband's name is Perry Hein and he was born in Alberta, Canada.

His grandfather emigrated to New York from Bavaria in 1859 and joined the Union army when the Civil War broke out. His son Joe was Perry's father and he emigrated to Canada from the US in 1917 and became a wheat farmer on the prairies. Perry trained to be a draftsman and followed that occupation until 1960 when he bought a cabin resort in the heart of the Rocky Mountains in Yoho National Park which is on the way to Vancouver. We operated the business for 24 years from May until September. We had a house in Calgary and our four sons took their schooling there, and I worked on and off at the Calgary General Hospital until I retired. I had many positions mainly clerical and for ten years was the manager of a surgery ward with ICU, and for my last twelve years I ran the Office of Continuing Medical Education and put on many educational programs to upgrade physicians, residents and nurses in Calgary.

Since I retired I have been a volunteer at the Calgary International Airport called a White Hatter because we wear white stetson hats, and red jackets and assist travellers giving them information and helping to solve their problems (such as lost luggage). I am now 80 years of age.

My parents James and Marcia Taylor emigrated to Canada in 1959 and lived in Calgary for forty years watching their grandsons grow up and marry and have children.

Over a fifty year period my good friends Buntly Booth, Muriel Bent and Audrey Lewis have faithfully corresponded with me, and in recent years Margaret White and I have exchanged

emails. I have also received phone calls from Bunty and Muriel. In the 1990's I had visits from Margaret and Dennis White, Marian and Eddie Checkland, Audrey and Jim Lewis travelling with Owen and Mollie Shiels (West) and Bunty and David Booth. In the early years we had visits from Kathleen Duignan whose younger sister Sheila was a friend of mine at school, and also Norman Willis who I believe was in the KHS kindergarten as was Bob Bent."

Zena Ward KHS 1967-1974

'Survived (just about!) two husbands, sadly no children, disastrous relationships and loads of major and minor surgery, keeping the medical profession very busy. I am single (easier sometimes when one is poorly), and live in Bewdley, very close to the river. The love of my life lives in Hong Kong. Currently recovering from back surgery for prolapsed discs and spinal nerve damage and other complications. Guess I must have been very wicked in a previous life - or just this one -)

Still don't know what I want to do when I 'grow up' but I am studying for a BA Hons with the OU and now wish I had been as bookish while still at school! If only I knew then what I know now! Does anyone else feel like this? All makes good material for my as yet unwritten novel. Names will be changed to protect the not so innocent! Would love to hear from any old KHS people as life is pretty restrictive currently'. zenagward@bitinternet.com

Cindy Woodall KHS 1967-74

After leaving school Cindy became a medical secretary. Not taken with this at all, by chance found herself whisked away to work in foreign parts: 3 times in Switzerland (the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other International Organizations); twice in Canada (she was born in Canada); Sultanate of Oman; Bermuda; United States of America – and has travelled to all points in between. Last or next stop? The UK since July 2008 - and what timing!

Marion Wilson (nee Groves) KHS 1967-74

I left KHS in 1974 to begin my three year teacher training at Coventry College. I returned to Kidderminster for my first teaching post at Franche Middle School staying in the profession for the next twenty eight years teaching at different middle schools in the county. I was fortunate in being able to teach Art as well as Design Technology which were subjects that I had greatly enjoyed myself at school. Although, of course as you remember, we didn't work with resistant materials like wood and metal! The lessons learned in Domestic Science in the late sixties have been most useful even though I have never yet repeated the Soused Herrings recipe!

I married Mick in 1981 and we have been very lucky to have two boys of whom we are very proud. They are now aged 19 and 17 and both have a love of sport, rugby and American football respectively.

In 2005 I made a career move and became self-employed, utilising old and newly learned skills, to help people lose weight. I had naively thought that I would have some free time to rediscover my own creativity but my paint box lid remains closed for another day. Marion's email address is marionwilson56@aol.com & see her website is www.lighterlife.com

Cheryl Skidmore (Nee Faulkner) KHS 1968-74

I worked at the Midland Bank (later to be HSBC) for 23 years culminating with me being a mortgage advisor and Financial Planning Officer. 1997 saw a change of career and after doing voluntary work in schools for a while I trained as a Special Needs Support Assistant working at several local schools in the area specialising in Speech and Language problems and Emotional and Behavioural Disorders. In 2002 another change in career beckoned as I joined my husband Andrew in his internet business and where I still work to date. Over the years – since I was 14 in fact – I have enjoyed my hobby of amateur dramatics taking on many roles

within the local societies. I am currently directing a new Andrew Lloyd Webber, Tim Rice show called the "Likes of Us" which is to be staged in October at the Civic in Stourport. I also run a small drama group for 9-14 year olds and assist my niece with her dancing school in Droitwich. I have recently had my first book published and am hoping to write another one in the near future. I have two sons James And Josh.

Maggie Bradley (Nee Shaw) KHS 1967-74 Maggie was voted the Most Outstanding Virtual Assistant of 2009 in the National VA Awards 2009 during the Women's Business Mastermind Conference. Well done, Maggie! (see the article on the website)

Angela Potter KHS 1975-7, KC1 1977-80

Angela won the Outstanding Regional Individual Award during Adult Learners' Week in May 2009 for 30 years' devoted service to the West Midlands Safari Park. She has achieved a double distinction on a City and Guilds zoo animal management course, a certificate in natural sciences from the Open University, and tutors many of the Safari Park's keepers. All Angela's learning achievements have been undertaken in her spare time in between bringing up her young daughter and hand rearing dozens of animals around the clock.

Llewellyn's Shop (and later 'Gladys')

Edna and Joan Wakelin, who both went to KHS, were two sisters who married two brothers. They were the daughters of Mrs Llewellyn who had a shop near the top of High Street in Kidderminster, on the left hand side going up the hill.

Besides other things it sold, the shop was the supplier of uniforms to KHS (together with the Don of Birmingham who were the tailors). Llewellyn's dressmaker was called Gladys, and later on she opened a shop on Comberton Hill under her own name and sold uniforms.*

Llewellyn's was a small, narrow shop which stretched between High Street and Swan Street. The door was in High Street, a glass counter ran down the left hand side, and there was a "matchbox" sized measuring and fitting-room at the back. Many people remember the smell of cloth, but oddly, some of us have not got that first impression. An advertisement in the 1936 School Magazine announced "Panama and velour hats, blouses, dresses, knickers, knicker linings, gym hose and socks. We also supply cream spun silk blouses from 5/11d. Blouses re-sleeved, dresses repaired and lengthened." I think the shop remained until the creation of the Swan Centre.

Written by Shiela Hodges (nee Jacobs) Research by Annette Jacobs (nee Devitt)

Postscript: In 1939 there were 300 spaces open for the public during air raids in the basement of Llewellyn's shop.

**Editor's note: My memory of Gladys was as a very severe and scary lady who wore brogues, had silver hair pulled into a bun and service was almost unbearably slow and seemed to be a favour! When 'Jackies' started to also sell the uniform it got my vote!*

O.G.A. COMMITTEE 2008 - 9

<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>
	Margaret White (nee Jones) 2007 - 9	
	Sheila Garlick 2007 - 9	
	Margaret Bazley (nee Osborne) 2008 -10	
	Elizabeth Watt (nee Gale) 2008 - 10	
<i>Ex Officio</i>	Patricia Nash (nee Harris) Group 5	

Co-opted May Phillips (nee Tuck)
Flower Fund Rosemarie Moore (née Brockway) and
Elisabeth Robinson (née Wrigglesworth)
Catering Elisabeth Robinson
Webmistress Alison Hargreaves
Newsletter Editor Alison Hargreaves

OGA FLOWER FUND

Over the last year we have travelled 170 miles between us and made over 46 visits which included Christmas when we took delightful arrangements of flowers to old girls. These were greatly appreciated. 21 cards or tokens have been sent to people who live too far away to be visited. Thanks to everyone's generosity we are able to carry on this service to the Old Girls' Association. *If you hear of anyone who is ill or bereaved, and would appreciate a visit, please contact us.* **Rosemarie Moore (Tel. 01562 67546) and Elisabeth Robinson (01562 750891)**

www.khsoldgirls.org.uk