



KIDDERMINSTER HIGH SCHOOL O.G.A. NEWSLETTER 2010

FUTURE EVENTS

Sat. 18/9/2010 11a.m. A.G.M followed by lunch at The Hundred House, Great Witley.

Fri. 18/3/2011 7.30p.m

Illustrated talk by Mr Neil Cook, Head Gardener of Hanbury Hall

Sat. 17/9/2011 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'!)

The biggest change in my opinion regarding the OGA this year has resulted from setting up a 'facebook' page. To the non-computer members, it is a drop-in club on the internet where you can write messages, show photo's, name people in the photo, and comment on anything written or shown. Our facebook group is called 'Kidderminster High School OGA' and we have 42 members from all around the world at the time of writing this in July, and 22 photographs dating from 1957 onwards including some lovely ones of staff outside Hillgrove House. There is a link from our website to the facebook site.

At the grand 'young' age of 54 I think my peer group and I are very lucky to still have so many of our teachers alive, well and active and that they remember us as girls. Miss Bedford is massively important, self deprecating and hardworking as ever for the OGA, King Charles School and many other local societies and committees, Shiela Hodges is as laid back and good fun as ever, Mrs Hudson (Miss Stoker) is a graceful, erudite lady of a very good age and enjoys classical music as much as ever, Mrs Harman is still animated and enthusiastic despite her hearing difficulties. I have recently been in contact with John Armstrong, Judith Shakespear, Wendy Williams (Nee Whitehouse) Margaret Rogers and all seem to have aged wonderfully slowly! It is so comforting!

We enjoyed a lovely meal at the Hundred House last September and an excellent talk about Ethiopia by old girl Juliet Clarke in March. Please join us if you can for the future events as shown on the cover of this newsletter.

Please note the new email address web@khsoldgirls.org.uk

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

The Marshalls, Sneads Green, Droitwich, WR9 0PY

There is a more detailed newsletter on the website

www.khsoldgirls.org.uk

ADVANCE NOTICE

The committee is planning to hold a service to commemorate the centenary of the opening of the KHS building in Chester Road. It will be on Saturday, October 6th 2012 in the afternoon at St Mary's Church, Kidderminster. If you would like to sing in the choir or if you are an ordained priest and would like to help conduct the service, please let Beryl Bedford know.

MARRIAGES

Deborah Thomson (nee Chaundoir) 1970-77

Congratulations to Deborah who married Philip Williamson at Kidderminster Register Office on 13/6/2009 followed by a reception at Chaddesley Corbett village hall. KHS Old Girls – her sister Helen Van Swaaij and friends Janet Ligema (nee Bown), daughter of biology teacher Mrs Dorathy Bown, Shiela Hodges and Audrey (and Graham) Howell were guests.

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.

Brenda Brooks (nee Holland) Biology teacher 1949-51 d. 20/1/2010

Brenda Gallagher (nee Winwood) d. 2009

Nancy Gill d. 16/11/2009 aged 89

Dione Jeavons (nee Meredith) d. 20.1.2010

Marjorie (Mardie) Johnson (nee Pritchard) d, 15.4.2010 aged 91

Eileen Perrin (nee Somers Brown) P.E. teacher 1932-37 d. 21.3.2010

Mary Pugh (nee Downing) d. 1/1/2010 aged 102

Barbara Warr (nee Yeomans) d November 2009

Noel Vincent – Kindergarten c. 1944. Died 31/7/2009

Diane Wilcox d. June 2009 aged 47

Phyllis Stott (nee Ryland) formerly Steward d. September 2009

Cicely Christopher (nee Phillips) d. 23/5/2010 aged 99

Phyllis and Bunty Ryland

Email from Muriel Hein in Canada (nee Taylor) **KHS 1939-45,**

I don't know whether anybody has informed you that Phyllis Ryland died last September. Her sister Dorothy (Bunty) Ryland has been my friend for over seventy years and the three of us chummed around at one time. Phyllis was 84 and married Martin Steward who had been in Kindergarten with her. Bunty married David Booth who also had been in the Kindergarten. The Steward's only child Linda was my little attendant aged four when I was

married and we email each other - she lives in Co.Mayo and is now 57. Phyl lived in Somerset after her divorce.

Mary Pugh, (nee Downing)

Email from **Jane Randall (formerly Raimes, nee Pugh)** KHS.....

'My Mother, passed away peacefully as the New Year was beginning. I think that she was the oldest surviving KHS OGA member – she was 102, and attended KHS - I think - from 1918 to 1925. She lived most of her life in Kidderminster, organising OGA get-togethers in our house and attending the annual functions was very much a part of her life, and she always kept in touch after she moved to Kempsey, attending whenever anybody would take her (she didn't learn to drive!) and receiving the newsletter with great pleasure every year, even after she moved to Dorset aged 93 to be nearer to me.

Sadly she was a widow for over 30 years, but was a world traveller, visiting my brother in Sydney more than 20 times and stayed with me many times in Dorset, being quite competent to look after my young daughter on her own for a day, until well into her late 80's, by which time they looked after each other!

I noticed a name in the last newsletter, in the piece by Audrey Bishop – Joan Massey. I read it out to Mother since we both knew her, and she was the mother of twin boys, whom my peer group called the 'Mushy Twins'. We used to see them cycling home up Comberton Road when we were ambling back from after-school events of various sorts – we lived in Hill Grove Crescent in those days. Mrs Massey was certainly somebody that Mother knew reasonably well through the many activities she was involved with e.g. WI, Gas Federation and floral art classes.

She really appreciated being remembered by the OGA, who continued to send her a gift every Christmas which meant a great deal to her. I should be very grateful if you would pass on my personal thanks to whoever was responsible for this kindness.' (Jane currently manages an academic journal.)

NEWS OF OLD GIRLS

Ann Crowther (Mrs Oakes) 1945 – 57 has written a book "Yours ever, Charlie," inspired by the letters from her grandfather Charles Crowther to his wife during 18 weeks from his sailing to Gallipoli with the 9th Worcestershire regiment until his death in hospital in Malta. It is due out at the end of April 2010 published by the History Press.

Edna Astill (nee Smith) KHS 1924 – 30

A handkerchief tree (Davidia) has been planted in Brinton Park in memory of Edna and her husband Frank and to mark the moving away from the area of

the family which served Kidderminster in the retail trade from 1860. On April 6th, 2010, a lovely, sunny afternoon, the memorial plaque was unveiled by Jennifer Morris (KHS 1942 – 54) and Edna's great granddaughter.

Janie Thomas Biology teacher 1975-7

Patient representative for Wyre Forest received the Chief Executive's Award for Outstanding Performance at the Worcestershire Primary Care Trust's Long Service and Staff Achievement Awards in March 2009. She is a past Chairman of the Worcestershire Patients' Forum

Miss Betty Brown – Where is she now?

Appeal from Ronald Jenkins who was taught Biology by Miss Brown at KHS 3 mornings a week in the mid/late 1940's. He and Dick Bakewell from Queen Elizabeth Grammar School were her pupils and would be grateful for any information. Please reply direct to Ronald Jenkins at Cartref Ganol, Ffynnongain Lane, PWLL Trap, St Clears, Carmarthenshire SA33 4AR.

Elizabeth Meeks – Where is she now?

She took 'O' level in 1963 and left in the Lower VI in 1964 to become a radiographer at the Q.E. Hospital, B'ham. Information to Beryl Bedford, please.

Joan Massey (nee Clark) KHS 1919-27

Audrey Joan Massey, nee Clark, was born on December 16th 1909. She was the youngest of four children. As the family home was Farfield House, Birdsgreen, Alveley, she was a boarding pupil at KHS between 1920 and 1926, firstly at The Firs and then as a senior at Stanmore, Chester Road North. One of her sisters, Sally, was also a boarder at the school. On leaving school, Joan became a Gym Mistress in Swanage, then at The Uplands in Smethwick. Joan still has a very good memory and she is able to recount all these details. For her 100th birthday party on December 16th 2009, she received flowers from KHS OGA, delivered by Miss Beryl Bedford who with other old girls has visited her most years on her birthday, since she became confined to her bungalow. On this special day she received a card from the Queen and had a special birthday cake. During the day she was visited by three of her four sons, Richard having died in 1977, two of her three granddaughters, as well as her two great granddaughters, Hannah, a pupil at King Charles 1 School and her sister Rebecca. She also has three grandsons and two great grandsons.

Joan's daughter-in-law is Audrey Howell, nee Bishop (1951-58) and her granddaughter Jane Tainton is on the staff at King Charles 1 School.

Cheryl Skidmore (nee Faulkner) KHS 1968-74

In October 2009 Cheryl directed 'The Likes of Us', the first musical written by Andrew Lloyd-Webber and Tim Rice in 1965 and made available to amateur

performers in 2009 for the first time, before a professional release. The Kidderminster Carpet Trades Musical Theatre Company won the Best Musical prize for the Worcestershire area from the National Operatic and Dramatic Association this Spring for the production.

The show was superb and it was lovely to spot Alison Hargreaves in the chorus. (*Editor's note: she knew all the steps but not necessarily in the right order!*)

Margaret Bazley (nee Osborne) KHS 1955-62

In January 2009 while on holiday in New Zealand, Margaret met up with Renee Hoedemakers (nee Shutt) and her daughter Linda Cox (nee Mann) 1955-60. At an Inner Wheel meeting in Worcester she met Carole Hughes who gave her her email address which she has mislaid. Can anyone help?

Alice Bennett (nee Cookson) KHS 1967-74

Some of the 1967 starters at KHS had a lovely sunny reunion at Bennett's farm in July 2009. Shirley Whiteside, Cindy Woodall, Julie Kynaston, Alison Hargreaves and Marion Groves were served a feast with lashings of Bennett's ice cream to round it off. Val Maybury was unable to make it but has sworn to come next year! It was great fun and they all enjoyed sharing news and views. Alice is a very busy and passionate woman and continues to run her own early years school at Madresfield near Malvern and is still teaching PE and woodland activities weeks. Alice and husband Chris visited New Zealand in 2009 where they enjoyed white water rafting and sky diving among other adventure pursuits. They have 4 children and their eldest son, Andrew, is to be married this Summer.

Sheila Brindley (nee Brettle) KHS 1956-62

After living and working as a pharmacist in Hereford for the last 25 years Sheila has now retired but seems as busy as ever. She has corresponded regularly with Mary Pike (nee Hall) and Pauline Grundy who still live locally.

Phyllis Hudson (nee Stoker) Staff 1947-73

Phyllis is grateful still to be mobile and – she thinks! – compos mentis. She continues to enjoy greatly the company of the Old Girls at year reunions and Elisabeth Robinson's lunch group meetings. One great pleasure is to attend concerts by the CBSO and Worcestershire S.O. The highlight of 2009 – her 95th birthday celebrations. Special thanks to so many old girls who contributed to a memorable birthday.

Mary Johnson (nee Bradley) KHS 1948-55

Life goes on as before. She is still acting as Arnold's carer and they go out for lunch as often as they can. She regularly attends the Historical Stourport Civic and Classical Music Societies. She is still treasurer of the W.E.A. and

enjoys the literature course especially. Her sister Pat and her partner Angus visited from NZ last year and cruised part of the canal system.

Elizabeth Watt (nee Gale) 1952-58

Elizabeth's group of 1952 onwards still continues to meet monthly for pub lunches or a visit to a garden centre. The 8-10 members swell midsummer and Christmas when more join them from more far flung parts of the UK.

Eileen Shirley(nee Greaves) KHS 1934-42 is researching St. Martin's Church, Worcester for an exhibition for its centenary.

Lindsey Granger 1968-73

With an army of breast cancer survivors stormed into action from the trenches at Staffordshire Regimental Museum to present soldiers at Whittington Barracks with the pink and blue "camouflage" enamel ribbons to help launch Cancer Research UK's latest campaign. Lindsey took part to celebrate being 10 years clear of breast cancer. On March 20th 2009 the OGA had been inspired by Lindsey's illustrated talk on her Great Wall Walk in China and Cycle India Challenge fund raising for Cancer Research UK. She has also organized three Summer balls. To date she has raised over £25,000 for the charity.(from the Kidderminster Shuttle)

Susan Rennison (nee Dobson) KHS 1943-55

Sue has been very much involved with "Cevisillo" a national Payer Worship and Retreat Group of which she is currently secretary. She and husband John are also active members of Canterbury Cathedral, Soroptimist's and two orchestras (Sue plays viola and John, cello).

Christine Hisom (nee Green) KHS 1950-57

Christine still helps with Arnside Overseas Group and International Aid Trust. Husband Malcolm grows fruit in their garden and makes jam of all kinds to sell for charities. They have four children.

Barbara Midwood (nee Parkington) KHS 1952-59

Barbara and husband Alan emigrated to Australia 7 years ago, the first 2 of their family – now 21 of the family are over there! The couple toured Tasmania, Darwin and West Australia, Mumbai and Borneo in 2009. Climate change is a hot topic politically in Australia.

Elaine Hurst (nee Baily) KHS 1962-69

Elaine and husband Gary live in Canada and are keen wildlife photographers and help to maintain a conservation area. Last year they located 12 Whooping Cranes, 6% of the world's population. Elaine has begun to work with Crabtree Publishing on curriculum and children's books.

Frances Chadwick (nee Lane) KHS 1963-71

Seconded for 7 months to a health project in Stoke, Frances is now back in Library work but hoping to get a job with Age Concern. Her husband Martin runs 'Beat the Cold' project for Stafford Borough (to reduce fuel poverty) and has begun a new project to reduce the carbon footprint.

Brenda Jones (nee Taylor) KHS 1958-63

Brenda now lives in Lancaster and is Churchwarden at her local church, coping with an Inter-regnum. Sadly, husband Trevor is undergoing extensive treatment for lung and bone cancer. Friends have been an invaluable support.

Glen Walford KHS 1952-59

Has had a very busy year; based in London but commuting to Japan and many other places plus visiting Worcs to see her mother (94) in Astley Hall Nursing Home and coping with the restoration of an historic old home at Astley Burf. She sent Phyllis Hudson (Stoker) the following last Christmas: "I have directed two major musicals in Tokyo – 'Titanic – the Musical' and 'Blood Brothers'. Both were very successful as was 'Shirley Valentine' which I directed at the Royal Court in Liverpool – Willy Russell was very pleased with the success of his plays. 'The Gut Girls' opened in Debden, Essex and I am about to open 'The Prisoner of Zenda' at a beautifully converted church in Southend. Many of the original features of the church remain and there are balconies to which we have attached ladders, ropes etc. which adds to all the swash and buckle. During the year I have directed many workshops and master-classes in Barbados, Scarborough, Portsmouth, London etc."

Margaret Hoppensack (nee Froggatt) KHS 1940-47

After KHS I went into nursing, graduating from King's College Hospital with SRN and CMB certificates. In 1954 I emigrated to Canada with a colleague to work our way across the country. We started at Montreal, Quebec, Ontario and onto Winnipeg. We did private duty for a few weeks, then went to the Calgary Stampede July '55 and toured the surrounding area for 6 weeks returning to Winnipeg broke! We joined the Winnipeg Canoe Club and went paddling on many of the Red River's tributaries. We also joined the Winnipeg Sports Car Club taking part in many rallies in our 1950 Austin A40, even first females once! Eventually we burned out its motor and the mechanic at the local garage took weeks to fix it – English parts were difficult to get so he loaned us his car – we eventually married Sept 1957 and had 4 sons and a daughter. We worked opposite shifts to minimize baby sitting needs; Guenter as a railway diesel mechanic while I worked as Evening Supervisor, Head nurse on a respiratory ward and in 1977 became Assistant Director of Nursing until my retirement in 1993.

In 1969 we bought a lake frontage property, and started to build our cottage in the times when no permit was needed! We had to manually clear the bush to make a 1km roadway from the main highway and dig a well 120ft deep. All this with no electricity for a few years during which time we fed the family on a camp stove & built the house. We have been adding things ever since – what a joy when we installed a dual flush toilet in 1998!

All boys played hockey with a practice and game each week (different times/teams); all had a musical instrument lesson and a swimming lesson each week so we had a constant eye on the clock!

In 1977 we bought a 400+ acre farm that we worked for 17 years growing mostly grain. One of my sons headed it and I drove the combine.

We had many wonderful holidays in Hawaii, England, Germany and twice touring Europe. We took an Alaskan cruise last summer and had a final trip to England in April and met all the family whilst in London. My husband died last August but wanted me to take a Panama Canal cruise that interested me which I did in January 2010 missing the –35 degree weather! Life has been very busy, full of challenges, never a dull moment. Being busy kept me healthy and in the last 24 years of my working life I had just 3 days sick and 2 of those were after I'd had a flu shot in 1976 – need I say more?!!

Jennifer Gowland (nee Potts) KHS 1953-60

(from an email dated 25.3.10)

Just wanted to let you know I came across the Old Girls website by accident and spent a couple of hours reading the magazines and looking at the photos....how they took me back.....names like Mrs Gethin, Miss Quayle (my first form mistress) Billam, Everett, Tregaskes....and on and on.

I started at the school in 1953. I've always told people I received a good solid all round education. I've lived in Australia now for many years but spend a great deal of my time in Papua New Guinea (where I am at the moment).....my husband (Aus) is a health advisor here.

I'll certainly keep an eye out for more news from you and would love to come to your meeting in September, if that is allowed, when I expect to be in Kidderminster. PS I still have my hatband!!!!

Sue Smith (nee Bannister) KHS 1957-62

After leaving school, Sue worked at Brintons. She married John in 1965 and has a son Matthew (who works at the New Theatre in Cardiff) and a daughter Emma. She has worked as a PA for many years and is now at a commercial mortgage brokers in Worcester with no plans for retirement.

John and she both enjoy travelling and have visited many countries far and near, have sailed round Cape Horn and they are going to China this year. Sue's email address is: [susansmith@eggconnect.net

Sheila Kirk (nee Ryder) KHS..... (Extract from the Shropshire

Journal, Jan 2010)

Ludlow Festival has honoured Sheila as its former Shakespeare production wardrobe manager with a life membership of the festival's friends association and a floral presentation. Sheila Kirk retired from her positions as wardrobe manager and festival council member just before Christmas 2009 and the festival council marked the occasion with a presentation. (*see press cutting on website*)

"Sheila has been a superb and incredibly dedicated wardrobe manager and a much valued member of the festival council," said festival chairman Jenny Vaughan.

"She has worked tirelessly on behalf of the festival and has always been a true professional – her superb work in the wardrobe department during our annual Shakespeare production has been very much appreciated by actors and directors alike."

Formerly a biology teacher, Sheila joined the festival wardrobe team in 1986. Her first task was to look after costumes for a company which included Nicholas Smith (of Are You Being Served fame), Mandy Rice-Davies and a young Abigail Cruttenden.

"I have measured out one third of my life in Ludlow Festival productions!" said Sheila. "It has been fascinating and very rewarding. Looking back, I can recall an amazing procession of talented actors who have passed over the Ludlow Castle drawbridge – John Duttine, David Rentoul, Joanna David, Alexandra Gilbreath, Haydn Gwynn, Clifford Rose to name but a few.

"I have always been supported by dedicated teams of assistants without whom the job would be impossible, and now, with 26 productions behind me, I feel it is the right time to bow out with no regrets.

Sheila meets with her KHS year group friends for a meal in April and December. She will have had two operations on her hands this year with 3 months in plaster after her July op. She has also had various vascular tests which she says would be described by her little grand daughter as 'it feeds me up!' Get well soon Sheila.

Melvyn Hickey (Hockey captain around 1947) Sheila Kirk would love to get in touch with Melvyn if anyone has contact details for her.

John and Mary Painter

John who is 90 and was at Kindergarten had a hip replacement just before Christmas 2009 and Mary (who taught PE around the 1970's) has been looking after him but she too has a bad leg.

Friends Reunited website news

John Armstrong, Staff KHS around 1970's and Judith Shakespear, Staff KHS around 1968 have both been spotted on the Friends Reunited website. John lives in Stourbridge, has been married for 40 years and is a big Pink Floyd

fan after being asked to go with a group of pupils to the B'ham Hippodrome (he thinks to provide the muscle and get parental seal of approval since it was the time of the pub bombings). He says the concert was fantastic and he's looked back since then!

Judith Shakespear taught in Worcester and then became a lab assistant at Bromsgrove School for many years until her retirement. She has just moved back to her childhood home near Bromsgrove.

Zena Ward KHS 1967-74

Zena who lives in Bewdley suffers from Fibromyglia, a chronic illness characterised by chronic widespread pain, hypersensitivity to pain, chronic fatigue and sleep disturbances, & is keen to raise awareness of the condition which you can learn about via www.fibroactioni.org . She also wonders" if anyone is interested in joining a Book Club. People could put forward suggestions for reading material and could meet up once a month. We could get information from the internet and get notes for each book etc. I could host it or people could take turns, as they please. There are Book Clubs at libraries but walking there in the dark on a winter's night kind of put me off and I don't think they serve wine and nibbles!! ". Please contact Zena on zenagward@bitinternet.com or via facebook.

Jenny Filby KHS.....

Email from Jenny: After training at Bedford PE College, I decided I preferred organising sports events and coaching to teaching so I initially worked at Europe's largest leisure centre for a couple of years before joining Epping Forest District Council Leisure Services in the late 1970's. I soon branched out into working not just in sport but also in the arts, heritage, nature conservation and even old wartime airfields! After 8 different jobs over some 25 years with Leisure Services , I was asked if I would like to take on the brand new corporate post of Serious Complaints Investigator dealing with any complicated complaints against the Council on any subject from planning and homelessness through disputed benefit payments and high hedges to airfield noise and sewers! I couldn't resist that challenge so gave up my Leisure job. I've been the Serious Complaints Investigator for 8 years now but have been allowed the luxury of working from home so I now live close to the coast in North Norfolk and just go into Epping when I need to which is only about once every 3 weeks . I'm married to Geoff and busy organising lots of fund raising and social events in the village where we live.

www.khsoldgirls.org.uk

O.G.A. COMMITTEE 2009 – 10

<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) 2008 - 11
<i>Members</i>	Margaret Bazley (nee Osborne) 2008 –10 Elizabeth Watt (nee Gale) 2008 – 10 Judy Neale (nee Beddoes) 2009 – 11 Gloria Phillips (nee Galloway) 2009 - 11
<i>Co-opted</i>	May Phillips (nee Tuck)
<i>Flower Fund</i>	Rosemarie Moore (née Brockway) and Elisabeth Robinson (née Wrigglesworth)
<i>Catering</i>	Elisabeth Robinson
<i>Webmistress</i>	Alison Hargreaves
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Alison Hargreaves

GROUP LEADERS

The following people are contacts for their peer groups, if you would like to contact them or add your name for your year group or time at KHS please contact the editor or Miss Bedford

Mary Wehner (nee Crane) 1943-50
Sheila Kirk (nee Ryder) 1946-53
Elizabeth Watt (nee Gale) 1952-58
Patricia Nash (nee Harris) 1956-63
Alison Hargreaves 1967-74

OGA FLOWER FUND

Over the last year we have travelled 163 miles between us and made over 36 visits which included Christmas when we took lovely arrangements of flowers to old girls. These were greatly appreciated. 20 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.*

Elisabeth Robinson (01562 750891) and Rosemarie Moore (01562 67546)