



## KIDDERMINSTER HIGH SCHOOL O.G.A. NEWSLETTER 2014

### Future Events

Sat. 20/9/2014 A.G.M. followed by lunch at The Wagon Wheel Inn, Grimley, WR2 6LU. 11 a.m. AGM followed by lunch 12 noon for 12:30 p.m.

If attending this meeting, please notify Beryl Bedford two weeks beforehand. (80, Holmcroft Road, Kidderminster, DY10 3AG. Tel. 01562 752997)

Sat. 18/4/2015. Lunch in the Oldfield Hall at King Charles 1 School to commemorate the centenary of the Old Girls' Association.

Sat. 19/09/2015 AGM and lunch – venue to be advised.

If planning to attend either the lunch on 18/4/2015 or the AGM on 19/9/2015, please notify Anne Budworth, 108, Park Lane, Kidderminster, DY11 6TB. no later than two weeks before the meeting so that she can send you further details as they become available.

### OGA Contact Information

- Website - [www.khsoldgirls.org.uk](http://www.khsoldgirls.org.uk)
- OGA website Alison Hargreaves [web@khsoldgirls.org.uk](mailto:web@khsoldgirls.org.uk)
- Items for newsletter – Anne Budworth, 108, Park Lane, Kidderminster, DY11 6TB. [budwortha@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:budwortha@blueyonder.co.uk)
- For all other enquiries please until February 28<sup>th</sup> 2015 , please contact Beryl Bedford – 80, Holmcroft Rd. Kidderminster DY10 3AG Tel.01562 752997.

## **From the Editor**

Welcome to this, the summer 2014 issue of the K.H.S. O.G.A. newsletter. As we look forward to the celebration of the centenary of the founding of the O.G.A., we must also remember May Tuck and Mrs Hudson, both of whom have sadly passed away this year.

There will be changes during the coming months – Miss Bedford is retiring as our chairman and Rosemarie Morgan (née Pitt) is waiting in the wings to become our new chairman at the A.G.M.

We will have a new venue for the A.G.M. this year – further details below.

As ever I am quite happy to accept contributions for the newsletter at any time of the year – I put them all in a safe place when they arrive until I start to compile the newsletter in June ready to send out at the end of July or the start of August. I hope you will continue to send your contributions as so many people find them of interest.

I hope you all have a wonderful year!

## **Change of venue for AGM**

Please note that after several years of enjoyable annual meetings at The Hundred House, Great Witley, circumstances beyond our control have meant that the 2014 AGM will be held at the Wagon Wheel Inn at Grimley. The Wagon Wheel is just off the A443 Worcester to Tenbury road. For satnav users the postcode is WR2 6LU. It has a website [www.wagonwheel.co.uk](http://www.wagonwheel.co.uk) and comes highly recommended by the WI. The venue for the 2015 AGM has yet to be decided.

## **In Memoriam**

Sadly, we say farewell to a number of old girls and friends.

If anyone would like to send an obituary or memories of any Old Girl for future editions, please email or send details to the editor.

Mrs Phyllis Hudson (née Stoker) RE teacher 1947-73 died on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014 aged 100.

Mrs Juene Jones, Deputy Head at Kidderminster High School from September 1974 until July 1977 and then at King Charles 1 School from September 1977 until her retirement in July 1993. French teacher and Careers organiser, died on April 18<sup>th</sup> 2014.

May Phillips (née Tuck) died 6/11/2013. May was Treasurer of the OGA from 1957 – 2001, then a co-opted member of the committee until her death.

Mrs Elizabeth Mills aged 101 on 1/1/2014. Chairman of the O.G.A. Governors at the time of the merger with King Charles I School and Queen Elizabeth I Grammar School, Hartlebury.

Marjorie Sykes (née Samuel) died 4/2/2014 aged 88.

Connie Cole (née Burrows) died 2/2/2014.

Stella Smith (née Bullock) died 13/11/2013.

Claire Breakwell died April 2014.

Valerie Powick 1943-51 died 10/7/2014.

### **News of Old Girls**

If you would have any news of Old Girls that you would like included in the next newsletter, please send details to the Editor.

### **Betty Caswell (née Edwards) 1942-1949**

Despite her protestations last year that she had finished writing books about Cookley, Betty has been inspired to put pen to paper yet again. Cookley First School has recently had a grand opening of its new facilities by its oldest past pupil, Gwen Palmer aged 101 who has lived in the village all her life. Betty's book has, I understand, now gone to print but if there are any past pupils of Cookley School reading this who have memories of their time there, I am sure Betty would be interested to hear them. Any contributions can be sent to the Editor who will forward them to Betty.

### **Enid Hine (née Heming) K.H.S. 1953-57**

Saying "Hello" from Droitwich. Married to Rex. We celebrated our Golden Wedding in 2012. Our eldest son, Stephen, aged 50, lives in Birmingham and younger son, Robert, aged 48, also lives in Droitwich. I volunteer at a primary school helping 6-7 year olds with reading.

### **Alice Bennett (née Cookson) 1967-1974**

This time last year Alice was looking forward to her forthcoming trip to the Grand Canyon. Since her visit she reports that Mrs Crossland was right – the Grand Canyon is magnificent! The size, scale and beauty of the canyon were awe inspiring. Whilst in the region, Alice also visited Vegas (probably not on Mrs Crossland's "Must visit" list!) and also cycled over the San Francisco Bridge – another fabulous experience. Alice continues to work passionately at Madresfield Early Years Centre educating many young children and supporting the deprivation gap. Physical and outdoor education feature strongly in her rich and busy life on the farm. The wonder of nature and familiarity with farming cycles awake in children a fundamental respect for property, people and the environment and kindle self assurance, spirituality and a real love of life. She works hard to give every child a real sense of well-being that will enable them to reach out and fulfil their potential. The work is great fun, exhausting and very rewarding. Alice remains eternally grateful for the K.H.S. education she received and loves meeting up with Old Girls at the various O.G.A. gatherings. She would like to thank the committee for organising events throughout the year,

## **Sue Smith (née Cartwright) 1967-1974**

Having both parents as accountants our two children were adamant that was not what they were going to do. Charlotte trained as an Early Years teacher and secured her first job as a Reception class teacher on the Isle of Man. Seven years later she is still there, has a Manx passport and says she will never live anywhere else.

School life is an integral part of the community and Charlotte was pleased to point out to us the recent news item that reported on English Head Teachers making a trip to the island to see “how it should be done”.

We have visited a few times in term time and I have been press-ganged into helping on school trips – once to the local Wildlife Park (not quite on the same scale as the Safari Park but lovely nonetheless) and the local bowling alley. Those poor little 5 year olds were exhausted when they got back to school having walked a good mile each way plus having to manhandle those heavy bowling balls.

We did not know much about the island until Charlotte moved there but we now visit two or three times a year and find, like many people say, that the island is a microcosm of English life. It reminds us of how life was here when we were growing up although we still can't get used to going out and leaving the house unlocked!

There is the coast, mountains (well one mountain), glens all within a very short distance of each other. We think it's a small island but to a Manx native to make the journey from the North to the South (32 miles maximum) is a day trip and requires a packed lunch. They have their very own North/South divide. As well as a great place for walking (which we will get the chance to do when there aren't sheds to be erected and decking to be laid), it is also rich in heritage – museums, castles and not forgetting the famous Laxey Wheel. O.G.A. members who are also National Trust members should be aware if they ever visit that there is a reciprocal arrangement with Manx Heritage – it is not widely advertised.

James, our son followed me in having a penchant for Maths but left me behind at some point in his early teens; he went on to achieve his early ambition in gaining a place at Oxford to read Maths and Computer Science, We were very proud parents just over three years later when we attended his graduation which took place in the historic Sheldonian Theatre in the centre of Oxford. My O level Latin did help in following the ceremony but I was glad that there was a full translation in the programme.

He now lives Harpenden where he also works. I would struggle to describe in detail what he does but his job title is “software engineer” and I know it entails keeping the internet going and hopefully making it run faster. It is also a lovely part of the country to visit, rural but also within a 30 minute train ride of the centre of London. It is close to St Albans where last year I met up with Jill Bartlett who lives there with her husband and 3 daughters. Jill as many may

know qualified as a doctor and now practises as a GP in St Albans. We spent a lovely couple of hours catching up on the last 25+ years and hope not to leave so long until we do so again.

**Eileen Balmforth (née Evans) 1941-45** is still living quietly in the Forest of Dean. She keeps in touch with the O.G.A. via her cousin Elizabeth Watt.

**Mary Johnson (née Bradley) 1948-1955** Following a year with no holidays but her usual mix of walks, singing in choirs and becoming a more frequent "Lady who Lunches" person, she hopes to return to New Zealand for six weeks early in 2014 and hopefully to see Diana Gooseman (née Slater), Jennifer Morris (née Astill) and other K.H.S. folk. She regularly sees Eileen Tasker (née Porter) at Talking Newspaper committee meetings, Mary Davies (née Wilcox) and other K.H.S. O.G.A. members who lunch. Many thanks to Elisabeth Robinson (née Wigglesworth) for her excellent organisation of these events.

**Judith Knowles (née Bourne) 1936-42** reports that Lilian Bradley (née Smith) 1936-40 married a Canadian airman and lives in Verdun, Quebec. She had a stroke in June 2013, is no longer able to live alone and in is a Care Home in Verdun.

**Elizabeth Watt (née Gale) 1952-58.** A number of 1952 intake pupils still meet monthly. They have been to 50 different venues locally in their time, several more than once. For June and December they have around 15 ex-pupils and for the rest of the year they average about 6. There is always plenty to discuss.

**Chris Goggin (née Brook) 1969-74** made her annual visit to England from the USA this June. While here she met up with Jenny Booth (née Brookes) and Anne Budworth (née Amies). Her son Sean, who spent part of his school life at King Charles is getting married in September.

**Elizabeth Ireland (née Allen ) 1967-1974.**

Elizabeth recently featured in the local paper when she celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup> birthday of her town centre shop "Topstitchers". In a strange juxtaposition of copy by the Express and Star, the photo of Liz in her shop appeared next to an article about a prolific shoplifter!

**Rita Hardiman 1957-1964.**

Rita has recently learnt to use an iPad so that she can keep in touch with three of her former classmates.

She has sent another poem for us this year.

## **Teachers**

There were many teachers at K.H.S.  
Of every size and kind  
To educate the eager girls  
In body, spirit and mind.  
There were those who were very strict.  
To whisper we didn't dare  
Or else a detention would follow  
Which seemed a little unfair.  
The kind ones were lovely  
And gentle in every way.  
We could relax in their lessons  
But never took advantage to play.  
Some were so excellent  
We flourished under their teaching.  
Even now we remember them  
And the standards we were reaching.  
We all had our favourites  
And will certainly never forget  
What they did for us daily  
As we remain in their debt.  
So thank you greatly K.H.S.  
For the calibre of our teachers  
Who helped to make us what we are  
In life with all its features.

## **Carole Hughes (née Amis) 1957-64**

Carole attended and enjoyed the A.G.M. last year and has sent the following information about her life since leaving K.H.S.

When I left K.H.S. in 1964 bound for St Mary's C of E Teacher Training College in Cheltenham, the idea that 9 years from then I would be a Merchant Navy Officer was unthinkable and certainly unbelievable.

However after posts in Soham and Sutton Coldfield, whilst visiting my newly retired parents in the New Forest in 1970, I toured a South African vessel, the S/A Vaal, berthed in Southampton.

She was a large, white, seagoing palace with a magnificent Children's Learning Centre. On this deck there was a replica "Noah's Ark", a pirates cabin with hammocks, furniture and equipment that would grace the most up to the minute primary school. Here was the Junior Marines' Club – a place for 6-12 year olds to take part in art, craft, needlework, games including chess, prepare for competitions, fancy dress treasure chests, train for the Sunday Service Choir, undertake visits to the bridge, where messages were written

and posted in bottles attached to balloons and cast into the sea. (I did have one reply from Rhodesia.) We underwent the "Crossing the Line" ceremony, swam, prepared for a Charity Children's Fayre which made a large amount of money for a chosen charity each voyage.

In addition there were facilities for babies and children under 5 in the ship's nursery, a separate space with a sandpit and water play area where two trained Nursery Stewardesses cared for the young.

The Children's Hostess needed to be a fully qualified teacher with experience of teaching 5-12 year olds and be at least 27 years old. Together with the nursery nursing staff this was the Education Team and we supervised mealtimes and parties for the children between other activities.

Among other things at my interview, I was asked if I could sing and dance – not the usual entry on my C.V.! However, the ability to have a go proved invaluable as in the evening the ship's officers became the entertainment for the passengers. We performed revue type sketches and pantomime as well as Formation Dancing, Cossack Dancing, Panel Games and solo musical items. This was travelling by sea to South Africa, South America and the Med, not cruising as we know it today with professionals in charge of theatre productions.

I was appointed in 1973 to the flagship of the fleet, R.M.S. Windsor Castle taking Royal Mail, families and holiday travellers to South Africa, calling at Las Palmas, Madeira, Cape Town, coastal ports to Durban and return- all of which took six weeks. We then had 10 days leave in the U.K.

I have visited some fascinating places and met a large variety of people. There were often 100 children on board and once the grandchildren of Paul Getty – quite a responsibility.

The highlight of my career at sea was meeting my future husband; he was Scottish, a bachelor and just happened to be Commodore Chief Engineer. In 1977 the ship was sold to a Greek company and she was to become a floating hotel moored in Jeddah. I was offered a position aboard but it was not connected with teaching and by now I had met John and we were soon to be married.

I resumed teaching at a pre-prep private school in Hampshire where we made more memories for 10 years before moving to Bromyard.

Life at sea for me was very much a learning curve, a finishing school if you like and made an enormous impact on my own development, having been born in the rural surrounds of Bewdley.

I have always been well grounded, however, and this is in no small way due to my teachers at K.H.S. from 1957-64.

### **Carolian and Old Carolian Archives Magazines from 1886 to 2009**

The Carolian and Old Carolian Archives Magazines from 1886 are available in DVD form at £10 a set (plus £2 postage if needed). They are updated each

year with the new magazines. As many prize lists from Speech Days as have been found by Norman Broadfield have been incorporated. If you would like a set, contact [Norman@obroadfield.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:Norman@obroadfield.freeseve.co.uk) You need to run Word to be able to run the DVD.

### **O.G.A. Centenary**

We are all aware that this year is the centenary of the the commencement of World War I. It is also the centenary of the formation of Kidderminster High School Old Girls' Association.

In December 1914 the then Headmistress, Miss Raymond invited a group of pupils to her home to knit for the troops. This knitting group became a social group which evolved into the O.G.A.

At a recent committee meeting when discussing how we might commemorate the centenary, the suggestion was made that perhaps we could also knit for today's servicemen. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham is where military patients are cared for before many go on to rehabilitation at Hadley Court.

Sheila Garlick who works as a volunteer at the QE, spoke to one of the ward sisters and asked about knitted hats for the patients. The sister was pleased with the idea and suggested that the hats could be in the colours of the three services (navy, khaki or marine blue). If any member of the O.G.A. would like to knit a hat in uniform colours they could be passed on to the hospital.

There are many free hat patterns available on the internet. A particularly good source is Ravelry ([www.ravelry.com](http://www.ravelry.com) ). The patterns below have been worked out by the editor – please feel free to copy and knit as often as you like.

### **For hand knitters.**

Materials.

75 g double knitting yarn, 3.25 mm needles (old size 10), 4mm needles (old size 8)

With the smaller needles cast on 100 stitches and work 3 inches of K1 P1 rib, Change to the larger needles and work in stocking stitch until the work measures 9 inches in total.

Next row: K2 together 50 times.

Next row: Purl.

Next row: K2 together 25 times.

Next row: Purl.

Next row: K2 together 12 times K1.

Break yarn and thread through remaining stitches, draw up tightly and fasten off. Sew seam. Add bobble if required.



### **For machine knitters.**

Materials.

50g 4 ply yarn. Main tension 7. Rib tension 3/3.

With ribber in place cast on 110 stitches by your chosen method and work 40 rows K1P1 rib. Transfer all stitches to main bed and work 90 rows stocking stitch. Using transfer tool, transfer alternate stitches and knit 4 rows. Knit a few rows in waste yarn and remove from the machine. Using a yarn needle thread the yarn end through the stitches of the last row knitted in main yarn and gather together. Join off yarn and sew seam.

These are both very basic patterns which could be adapted to make more interesting hats; for example double the amount of rib and fold the extra back as a cuff, use a different rib formation instead of K1 P1 rib, add a few extra stitches and incorporate a few cables..... The list is endless and I am sure if you knit you will be able to think of other pattern variations.

Finished hats can be brought to the AGM or sent to the editor.

### **May Phillips – a brief life story.**

May was born in Abergavenny on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1929 and moved to Adam Street, Kidderminster when she was eight days old.

May played netball for the County and was also a rower. On leaving K.H.S. she worked at Steatite for 2 years. Then she went to Worcester College to train to teach juniors. She taught at Hill Street Primary School at Stourbridge, Wilden, Kidderminster College and Franche Primary School. She finally retired, having helped children in her retirement with writing and other skills, aged 75.

She married Trevor and had 3 daughters, the first of whom, Vanda, was born in 1958, and then Alison and Lisa.

May was a very skilful needlewoman and made beautiful wedding and evening dresses. She made vestments for St Bartholemew's Church in Arley Kings, her local church.

May was Treasurer of the O.G.A. for 44 years (1957-2001) and was a coopted member of the committee up to the time of her death on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

Her funeral was attended by a number of O.G.A. members.

### **Facebook**

The Facebook group seems to have been fairly quiet recently but there have been many comments on the sadly cancelled party for Mrs Hudson's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. More recently there have been messages of sympathy from past pupils after the announcement of her death. The funeral is due to take place on July 25<sup>th</sup> at St John's Church, Kidderminster and will have taken place by

the time this newsletter is published.

News of the death of Claire Breakwell was announced on Facebook by Nellie Winter – she posted the following message-

Thought I would share that I sadly attended the funeral of Claire Breakwell this week in case anyone remembers her. Claire and I were best friends at school. We were the last intake to Kidderminster High School for Girls who took the 11+ and were there from 1975 onwards. I left in 1980 and Claire stayed on to 6th Form and left in 1982. Claire went on to join the Navy, married a naval man and also had a son. Claire has lived down in Plymouth in more recent years and unfortunately had an accident at home a few weeks ago from which she did not recover. Claire would have been joining the 50 year old club in June and it is such a sad loss so young

There was also a stream of comments about the visit to the Carpet Museum in March – Alison Hargreaves started the thread with the following-

“Great OGA visit to the Museum of Carpet in Kidderminster yesterday!

Thanks to Beryl and the committee for organising it! Many old girls were and are involved in the development and running. It's a real credit to Kidderminster's heritage and a bright, interesting and informative museum. Just walking in and smelling the wool brought back the geography field trips we'd been taken on years ago.”

Diana Revitt paid the following tribute to Miss Stoker on Facebook :

I have great memories of Phyllis as a friend of my parents when I was a little girl growing up and then as my Religious Education teacher when I was at K.H.S. She is Godmother to our son Michael and she came over to visit us in Australia in 1980. Since then we have been back to England many times and we have been to see her each time.

We will sadly miss her interesting letters which we would receive just about every month. She was great at keeping us up to date with what was going on in Kidderminster and also at St John's Church where we worshipped with her up to our emigrating to Australia in 1971.

She will be greatly missed.

### **Singing the praises of Facebook!**

As some Old Girls will know the O.G.A. had an excellent group forum set up on Facebook. As a direct result of contributing to the group I have, in the last few months, been able to contact and meet up with Linda Stone (née Postans) & Deb Brown. It has been really good to renew these friendships after many years.

Thanks to Anne Budworth (née Amies), whom I meet from time to time with Sue Smith (née Cartwright) I was able to see Chris Goggin (née Brook) on her annual visit from the USA. I have also recently been in touch with Helen

Barlow (née Perrins) & hope to see her soon.

I would encourage anyone who is reluctant to get involved with Facebook to give it serious consideration. Provided you have set your Privacy settings properly it is a safe tool and can be very rewarding.

### **School History in Print**

The following booklets by Mrs Jo Roche are still available from Beryl Bedford

- The History of Hill Grove (the history of the Hill Grove Estate in Kidderminster) £1.50.
- Kidderminster High School – Pioneers in Petticoats (the story of Miss Catherine Bennett and Miss Constance Ellen Jordan who were Headmistresses of Kidderminster High School before it moved to the Chester Road site.) £2.50.

### **Changes at King Charles I School.**

At the end of this academic year, the current Headteacher, Mr Tim Gulliver, is retiring after a total of 23 years at the School and Headteacher since 2004 He has always been a keen supporter of the O.G.A. and will be sadly missed. We, as a group, would like to wish his successor, Mr Stephen Brownlow, a long and happy association with the School.

Also leaving at the end of the academic year is Ellen Ferguson. Ellen has been associated with the school since 1967 when she started as a pupil. She is looking forward to travelling extensively and is proof that you are never too old for a gap year!

Two other long serving members of staff, Pete Frizzell (Head of Technology) and Gary Keany (Head of IT) are retiring.

Over 100 current and past members of staff enjoyed a retirement dinner for them at Spring Grove House at the end of July.

### **OGA Flower Fund**

The Flower Fund developed from an idea by Edith Lamb. Frances Smith was involved in taking flowers to O.Gs in hospital (she did the hospital trolley) and at home. Barbara Hughes and Mary Wehner were then involved.

In 1973 Margaret Badland took on the organisation. She was involved in hospital visiting. Elisabeth Robinson helped Margaret and when she died took over and Rosemarie Moore helped her.

Elisabeth says that she and Rosemarie took over from Margaret Badland in 1988, and have been visiting K.H.S Old Girls for twenty six years. They feel very privileged to have been able to fulfil this role and have enjoyed meeting

so many people.

During the year Old Girls received flowers, tokens or cards for a variety of reasons, mainly celebrations, illnesses or bereavement. They have relied on Miss Bedford very much as she is in touch with so many people and passes the information to us. So far this year seventy-seven Old Girls have been recipients.

If you know of any Old Girl who would appreciate flowers please contact Elisabeth Robinson (01562 750891) or Rosemarie Moore (01562 67546).

### **O.G.A. COMMITTEE 2013 – 14**

Chairman	Beryl Bedford (former teacher)
Vice Chairman	Rosemarie Morgan (née Pitt)
Secretary	Beryl Bedford helped by Rosemarie Moore (née Brockway)
Assistant Sec.	Mary Wehner (née Crane)
Treasurer	Shirley Whiteside (née Hall) 2011-14
Committee	Judy Neale (née Beddoes) 2012-2014 Gloria Phillips (née Galloway) 2012-2014 Sheila Garlick 2013-15 Rosemary Gibbs 2013-15
Newsletter Editor	Anne Budworth (née Amies)
Flower Fund	Rosemarie Moore (née Brockway) and Elisabeth Robinson (née Wrigglesworth)
Co-opted	Monica Bashford (née Hall) Margaret Bazley (née Osborne) May Phillips (née Tuck) died 6/11/2013
Web-mistress	Alison Hargreaves

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, Beryl Bedford is happy to be the O.G.A. contact until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

After this date, please send any correspondence regarding the O.G.A. to Anne Budworth, 108 Park Lane, Kidderminster, DY11 6TB or [budwortha@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:budwortha@blueyonder.co.uk) who will forward it to the correct person.