



## **KIDDERMINSTER HIGH SCHOOL O.G.A. CENTENARY NEWSLETTER 2013**



This picture featured on the cover of the Order of Service – the original is a glass plate negative which sadly proved quite elusive so this version was adapted from a photocopy of an article which appeared in the local paper over 30 years ago. It is the earliest known picture of the Old Building taken around 1912, although during the search for old photos, 2 more, also pre-Bennett Building were found as glass plate negatives.

### **From the Editor**

Welcome to this, an extra edition of the K.H.S. OGA newsletter celebrating the centenary of the opening of the School at its Chester Road site.

I hope everyone who took part in the celebrations in any way enjoyed the day – I certainly did. Many comments and photos appeared on the Facebook site within days of the events – some of them are included later on in this newsletter.

King Charles 1 School, currently occupying the High School site have mentioned the celebrations in their latest school newsletter which can be found at [www.kingcharlesschool.co.uk](http://www.kingcharlesschool.co.uk)

### **Review of the Centenary Celebrations**

On Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> 2012 we celebrated 100 years since the opening of the K.H.S. building in Chester Road.

At 11 o'clock around 50 past pupils gathered for a tour round the School in its present form. The visitors spanned a wide age range and many people discovered friends and acquaintances that they knew from when they were at school. The weather was kind and we wandered around the grounds rediscovering places like the Rose Garden. The statue is not currently gracing the pool in the Rose Garden but has been removed for safekeeping. As I work at King Charles, I was able to give current information about the school during the tour which linked with people's memories of their time there. As an added bonus, the current Headteacher, Tim Gulliver was on site doing some paperwork, so we unexpectedly had access to the staffroom(library in our day) and his office to the right of the Hillgrove entrance which was previously used as a Lower Sixth Form Room. The honours boards had also been recently rediscovered and these were on show in the Oldfield Hall. There are plans for them to be permanently on display in the Oldfield Hall at some point in the future.

Special thanks must be given both to Sheila Garlick for her help and to Chris Goggin(née Brook), who at zero notice was also roped in to help. Although Chris now lives in America, she did work at the school when she and her family moved back to Kidderminster for a few years and so was the ideal person to help escort a group round when it was realised how many Old Girls were actually there.



School tour photos – exactly how many old girls are on the steps of the 1912 building?



While some of us were reliving our lost youth wandering around school, others were with the choir at St Mary's Church, practising singing the school song under the expert guidance of Rosemarie Morgan (née Pitt).

Rosemarie has sent the following article for this newsletter.

*In keeping with true K.H.S. tradition, music was an important feature of the Centenary Commemoration service.*

*Organising the choir for the service could have been a somewhat daunting task, but turned out to be nothing but a privilege, due to the enthusiasm and commitment of all the willing volunteers.*

*A rehearsal held at St Mary's Chantry on 22<sup>nd</sup> September meant that about a dozen were able to go through music chosen for the service, ( as well as having a lovely time catching up!), and provide a 'lead' for those unable to join with us until the morning of the service.*

*Seeing so many join together on the morning of the service was great, and a good rehearsal filled us all with confidence. Thanks from everyone in the choir must go to Rosemary Gibbs for organising the lovely lunch in the Chantry, enabling us both to catch our breath and have a lovely social time together.*

*The choir's contributions to the service, as well as leading the hymns, were the anthem 'The Lord is my Shepherd' by Howard Goodall ( perhaps better known as the 'Vicar of Dibley ' theme ), in which mention must be made of our soloists, Caroline Worthington and Judy Neale . The benediction 'God be in my head' was, for me, a most moving experience. As it ended, light streamed in through the stained glass window above the altar - a very special moment in time. Leading the church full of Old Girls in the singing of the school song, must also be one of my highlights of the day.*

*The organist for our service was David Morgan, until recently Director of Music at St Mary's Church, and the son of an Old Girl – me! His contribution, in music before and after the service, and accompanying both the hymns and the choir was invaluable, and an important aspect of the whole atmosphere of the service. (As an Old Carolian, it was interesting to have him become part of K.H.S. history.)*



*Many favourable comments were received about the contributions we made to the service, and thanks must go to everyone who was part of the choir. I really felt that the beautiful flowers given to me afterwards should have been shared by everyone in the choir.*

The choir included the following people:

Caroline Worthington, Jean Harrison (née Whiteman), Cheryl Skidmore, Alison Hargreaves, Alice Bennett (née Cookson), Wendy Collison, Peggy Guest (née Summers), Meriel Williams (née Greaves), Rosemarie Moore (née Brockway), Elisabeth Robinson (née Wrigglesworth), Mary Wehner (née Crane), Judy Neale (née Beddoes), Sandra Cartwright, Monica Bashford (née Hall), Rosie Padmore, Elizabeth Dunford (née Cotterell), Brenda Zych (née Amphlett) and Mary Johnson (née Bradley).

The church service was planned to start at 3 o'clock but people started to arrive well before that and by 3 the church was packed with ex-pupils, teachers and friends of the OGA, all eagerly awaiting the service to be conducted by an Old Girl, the Revd. Alex Vaccaro (née Mills K.H.S. 1975-77, KC1 1977-82).

The welcoming speech, given by Shiela Hodges (née Jacobs) is given below.

*On behalf of all the people who have been associated in any way with Kidderminster High School for Girls, may I welcome you to this service of thanksgiving for the 100 years the school and its successor have been on the Chester Road site.*

*Why me? Well, I have been associated with the school for 80 years. I joined the Kindergarten in 1932, had all my school education there, had three daughters as pupils there, taught there, and now my youngest granddaughter is about to take her GCSE's.*

*The original building was first occupied by the school in September 1912, so has played a part in all our lives. Even in this throwaway age it seems that the only change has been the introduction of double glazing. Such places were built to last, as K.H.S. was built to last. The name has gone but the spirit lives on. Through all these 80 years I have admired and loved the school. It has influenced every one of us and helped to make us what we are.*

*So – Welcome to our Thanksgiving Service: in the words of the school motto 'Gratias Hodie Agimus' We give thanks today.*



A number of Old Girls took part in the service as readers-

The Three Headmistresses:

Miss Raymond 1912-1933. Read by Judy Neale(née Beddoes K.H.S. 1953-8)

Miss Oldfield 1933-1955. Read by Rosemarie Moore (née Brockway K.H.S. 1945-51)

Miss Renwick 1955-1977. Read by Margaret Bazley (née Osborne K.H.S. 1955-62)

Lesson 1 Wisdom vi 12-19 was read by Shirley Keays (née Green K.H.S. 1943-53) while Lesson 2 I Corinthians 13 was read by Gloria Phillips (née Galloway K.H.S. 1968-75)

Prayers were read by Monica Bashford (née Hall K.H.S. 1956-61), Alice Bennett (née Cookson K.H.S. 1967-74) and Anne Nailer (née Roberts K.H.S. 1954-61)

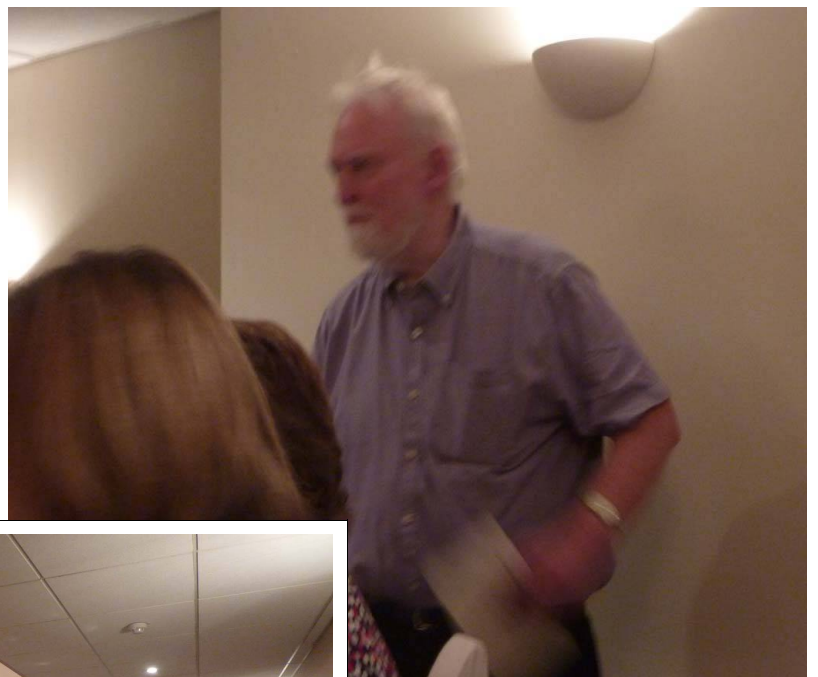
After the service guests mingled outside the church and in the Chantry, where light refreshments were served. Many friendships were rekindled and the buzz of conversation was constant. There were opportunities for photos, both official and impromptu – many appearing on Facebook quite soon after the day.





At least two groups of pupils had arranged meals for the evening. The 1964 starters met up at The Mercure Hotel – an enjoyable time was had by all.

The 1952 and 1967 starters joined together for a meal at La Brasserie in Kidderminster town centre. Around 100 people attended including John Armstrong, a former Chemistry teacher. Also at this meal were Chris Goggin (née Brook) and Libby Shewry (née Owen) both of whom had travelled a long way to attend. Libby produced a set of school badges which she had had made in Australia. She distributed these during the evening but two people missed out as two of the badges made a bid for freedom and hid in Libby's quite expansive handbag. If you were one of these people, please contact the editor as the runaways were recaptured before Libby returned to Australia and are now safe and waiting to be claimed. Thank you, Libby, for organising this.





Below: Alice Bennett (née Cookson) speaking after the meal at La Brasserie and Sue Smith (née Cartwright) and Chris Goggin (née Brook



During October an exhibition of memorabilia connected with K.H.S. was held in Kidderminster Library. I hope you managed to see it. Items on display included a Sixth Form hat tassel which proved very hard to track down!

Soon after the events on 6<sup>th</sup> October comments and photos started appearing on the OGA Facebook page. A selection is printed below.

**Chris Goggin** - Wonderful day. So glad I was able to attend. I am now at the Radisson in Manchester ready for my 8am flight to Atlanta tomorrow (Monday). Work beckons on Tuesday. Hope my boss understands how jetlag works.

**Cheryl Skidmore** -What a wonderful afternoon - thank you to

everyone involved in the organisation of the event - you did a great job!!!

I couldn't believe the emotion the school song evoked after all those years - I just loved singing it yesterday - thank you !

**Gill Mackay** - Back in Bavaria after all the fun - thanks to all the organisers for a great day, can't believe how well you shepherded such a huge gaggle of overexcited girls! It was lovely seeing so many remembered and half remembered faces after so long, and I woke up this morning with the school song going round and round in my head....

**Sue Smith** - A lovely, happy day. Please can we do it again in 2014 to celebrate 100 years of the OGA?

**Rosemarie Morgan** - Thank you to everyone for all the kind comments about the choir. It was such a pleasure to be involved in such a wonderful and emotional day . Thanks also for my beautiful flowers - I felt very privileged to be part of the occasion, and to work with such a lovely and talented group of ladies. Roll on 2014 !

**Naomi Bishop** - What an emotional and fun day. We are so lucky. Thanks to everyone involved in making it happen

**Helen Willis** - The school song was exactly as I remembered it.

**Diane Hickman** - Just been browsing through all the wonderful photographs and sooooo jealous that I couldn't be there. Hope to be at the next one. Xx

The following comment only recently appeared but I felt I had to include it – congratulations, Linda, from all members of the OGA!

**Linda Stone** - I couldn't make the celebrations in October, ( too busy getting married - again, was Trigg, née Postans) but it's been good to see pics on here and glad that it went off well. A big well done to all those who helped organise things and continue to do the hard work of keeping us all in touch, especially Alison H. xx

The above are only a selection of the comments found about the centenary events. If you have any thoughts on the day which you would like included in a future newsletter, please contact the editor.

## **Future Events**

### **Sat 11/05/2013 at 3pm**

An opportunity to see the site of the former K.H.S. (now King Charles 1 School) followed by tea at 4pm in the Rose Garden and Science Theatre. Booking is essential - please let Beryl Bedford know if you are interested in attending this meeting.

Please feel free to bring photos of the centenary celebrations with you to show others. If the weather is kind, you are invited to bring garden chairs so that we can sit outside to take tea.

### **Sat 21/09/2013 at 11am**

A.G.M. followed by lunch at The Hundred House, Great Witley. Further details of the A.G.M. are to follow once the arrangements have been finalised.

Other meetings are to be held by the OGA during 2014, but as yet they are still in the planning stages. Any ideas for future meetings would be welcomed by the committee.

2014 sees the centenary of the founding of the Old Girls' Association. There will be event(s) planned to celebrate – watch this space for more details.

If attending a meeting, please notify Beryl Bedford two weeks beforehand.



## Kidderminster High School Houses

### **Chad**

Numquam non paratus(Always prepared)

Colour – gold

### **Clare**

Semper fidelis (Always faithful)

Colour – green

### **Cyniberht**

Macte virtute (A blessing on you)

Colour – purple

### **Clent**

Fortiter in re (Courage in action)

Colour – Wine red

### **Caldwell**

Ad altiora tendo (I strive towards higher things)

Colour – russet brown

### **Cobham**

Magna est veritas (Truth is great)

Colour – light blue

## Contact Details

- 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 contact Beryl Bedford -  
80 Holmcroft Rd. Kidderminster DY10 3AG Tel.01562 752997.