



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS  
**DELTA KAPPA GAMMA**

## **GREAT BRITAIN NEWS**



**EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

**Autumn 2015**

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This edition of GB News includes a number of reports on events at the European Regional Conference in Boras, Sweden, in August, from which you will see that it was both enjoyable and enlightening. It also includes the first State President's report from our new President, Kathy Hodgson. Sadly, the next item is a Eulogy on our beloved Loetitia Stone, who died earlier this summer, by her daughter, Joanne. She is a sad loss to us all, having been such a valuable member of Beta Chapter, and a great friend to us all. We will miss her.

### THE CANTERBURY AWARD 2016

Now is a good time to consider applying for a Canterbury Award. This can be granted for either an educational project you have been considering or a travel award to enable you to attend a state, regional or international for the first time. Look at our DKG website where the Canterbury Award is clearly signposted on the right hand side of the KEY DOCUMENTS section. Information and full instructions for the Application Forms can be downloaded and will assist you. These should be completed and posted or emailed by **10 January 2016**.

Chairman of the Awards Committee:  
*Mary Wardrop*

You will also see on page 17 information on the various forthcoming conferences and conventions: the GB conference in April 2016, the International Convention in July, and the next European Regional Conference in Estonia in July 2017. So much to look forward to!

Contributions for the next edition by 15 December please—it would be good if we could include any Christmas activities. As always in Word, with photos attached to an email. Thanks as always. [dbillam@hotmail.com](mailto:dbillam@hotmail.com)

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**Kathy Hodgson**  
**STATE ORGANISATION PRESIDENT 2015—2017**



Well – here I am. Who would have thought, back in 1999, when invited to attend a meeting of fellow educators by Gloria, that I would be elected to represent Great Britain as State President. I do feel truly honoured to have so many people believe in my ability to do the job. And what a beginning! The Regional Conference in Borås, Sweden was successful in so many ways; great location, interesting speakers, the opportunity to meet again so many familiar, friendly faces (thank heavens for the name tags!) and for me, two and a half days of excellent training and the emotional carrying of the Union Flag – at the start and at the end of the conference. I don't think I shall ever forget those two moments.

So, back to work – committees already created and a conference to organise. For this I shall be relying heavily on the membership – to give ideas for speakers, to turn up for the event, and to take on roles at the conference to help it run smoothly. I already have two incredible ladies – Evelyn and Joan – chasing me up, searching for venues, and gently giving support. That's what we do best in DKG – we support.

During my Presidents' training we talked a great deal about leadership, and what kind of leader we felt we were, or hoped to be. The word 'support' appeared in my description. So did compromise, honesty and empathy.

During my membership of DKG I have felt the support of members of my chapter, especially when there were difficulties in my school, with constantly changing leadership. Chapter meetings – the heart of our Society – felt like a safe haven, a place to unwind and realise there was still a world out there of intelligent, thoughtful and understanding ladies whose good humour raised me up. I'm starting to sound sentimental, but they really were a lifeline.

We have a lot of hard work ahead of us (but hopefully fun as well) if we are to keep our Society afloat by introducing new members. The word on the block is 'Poland'...watch this space!

## A EULOGY FOR LOETITIA STONE BY HER DAUGHTER, JOANNE

Loetitia was part of several groups, across which, it seems, there are interconnections. There are the inhabitants of Consort Close, the residents and former residents of Thorn Park, the congregation here at Emmanuel, the British Sugarcraft Guild and its local branch, the Plymouth Shakespeare Society, and the society of women educators, Delta Kappa Gamma. Loetitia came to some of these groups through her talents and interests – acting, literature, education, baking, hospitality, creativity and artistry. But to all of them she brought a great capacity for what I think we can call fellowship, and through the various strands of her life she found numerous friends.



She gave up paid work after I was born, but after both children were at school she began teaching again; this time teaching French to primary school children in Yealmpton, Brixton and Holberton. This was part of the Nuffield project that tried to introduce languages to children from the age of 8. In 1974 Loetitia returned to full-time teaching as the domestic science teacher at Tamar Secondary School. She finished her career teaching needlework part-time at St Dunstan's.

In the late 70s Loetitia was introduced to DKG - Delta Kappa Gamma – a society for women educators founded in America which was expanding into Europe. DKG brought together a group of women from around the country, passionate about teaching, among whom lasting friendships were forged. As a member of the society she got to travel to DKG's conferences in the US and in Europe, she had a particularly busy year of travel when she was State President.

Not long after her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday Loetitia became ill. She was diagnosed with a rare auto-immune disease, which among other things does progressive damage to the lungs. She was not one to complain and faced the change this brought to her life bravely. Many people remember her setting off somewhere, carrying her oxygen canister in her backpack. She had a great sense of hospitality, and talents to go along with this. But when her health had failed her, and she was no longer capable of doing the things she used to do, Loetitia showed a serenity of being, that made a great impression on those around her.

**Joanne Stone** (Beta Chapter)

(abridged by permission)

*The photo above shows Loetitia with the wonderful cake she made for DKG GB's 25th anniversary in 2002.*

## EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2015, SWEDEN

Boras was an intriguing place for the Delta Kappa Gamma conference. It is a small town at the centre of the Swedish textile and fashion industry. Our hotel, the First Grand, was in a prime position to enjoy the city and its street statues including a jolly green rabbit and Pinocchio! We faced a flower-filled town park bisected by a meandering river with a lake which has a splendid fountain. We were treated to an open air performance from one of the most popular bands in Sweden. So we had the Swedish cultural experience in every way!



The First Grand has its own conference floor. Its suite of main rooms has folding doors to create versatile spaces and nearly two hundred of us were easily accommodated for plenary sessions and the conference dinner. The breakout rooms were well equipped in spite of the occasional technical blip which enabled our talented speakers to show that they can perform without aids! The huge bow window overlooking the lake made a glorious backdrop for national photographs. On a domestic level, the rooms were comfortable and well equipped. The breakfasts were utterly delicious. We could choose between traditional scrambled egg and bacon or Scandinavian delicacies like pickled herrings. The traditional theme was continued at the special lunches and I shall be trying out recipes for meat loaf and seafood roulade.

Boras was a special place for the conference. Although it is a modern Swedish town, it is very much a working town for the people who live there and has a rich heritage. There is a vibrancy from the fashion trade which has grown from the tradition of wool and cotton processing. The old mills are now museums or centres for fashion. There is also an all pervasive sense of Scandinavian style. I felt that it brought those of us from Britain closer to the DKG members from northern countries. We look forward to Estonia.

**Hilary Goy** (*Alpha Chapter*)

## TOUR OF SKARABORG

At 8.30 am on the Monday before the Conference, the coach drove away from the Grand Hotel in Boras for our first tour. Marianne Olsson was our Hostess, the weather was perfect so we were all set for an interesting day! We travelled northwards and were soon surrounded by fir trees stretching as far as, (and beyond) the eye could see. Occasionally we passed through a small hamlet but all very quiet and peaceful and not a living person to be seen. Eventually we reached Falbygdens Ost (Ost=cheese) and were taken into a small room

attached to the biggest cheese shop I had ever seen. We were told about the particular cheeses which the owner makes and invited to sample them - they were quite delicious. We could also buy them, and hundreds of others, in the shop. Here was an opportunity to take a 'fika' - a quick coffee stop.

Back on the coach we were joined by Niclas Fallstrom, a very knowledgeable local person, who was to be our guide for the rest of the journey. We drove through Ekornavallen which is an ancient area where people have been living constantly for thousands of years. We saw many large 'stones' which Niclas told us were sites of burials. We next arrived at Dahlens Museum. This is a museum set-up in memory of Gustaf Dahlen, a Nobel Prize-winner, who was an inventor of, among many other things, the Aga stove and great improvements to light-houses. It was obvious, from the many comments, that most of us had had no idea of this brilliant man. We saw a short film and then the museum guide (a volunteer) showed us around. I am sure I was not the only one who felt full of admiration for this very clever man.



Then it was time for lunch before we were back on the coach and off to our next stop. This was Varnhem Abbey. We were given a short briefing and then allowed to walk around the church and grounds outside on our own. The Abbey was founded by Cistercians in 1150. They had been given it by a wealthy woman. Over time it has been destroyed and rebuilt many times, the most recent restoration being in 1918-23. It is now the parish church of Varnhem.

Once more back on the coach we set off for the Vadsbo Milk Production farm. Swedish dairy farmers are having the same problems as the British ones. Unable to make a living from their milk, here eight farmers have combined their cows under one large unit. Again we saw a short film and then the manager explained how the system worked. After donning blue plastic overshoes, we were taken around the vast, light and airy cow-sheds. We saw how the cows come in from the fields, udders are washed, and the cows step onto a carousel, have the milk pumps fixed and travel on round. When they have given all their milk, the pumps fall off, the cow kicks them away and off they go to their stalls for more food! The slurry from the cows is put back on the fields. All the milk produced is organic. We were rather upset to hear that calves are taken from their mothers after 24 hours and the bull-calves sent to be slaughtered but this is business and no room for sentiment.

Our last stop was at an ancient graveyard in Askeberga. We were free to walk around vast 'stones' which marked the graves. Many questions filled our minds - who were these people? How did they move the 'stones'?

Before we got on the coach for the final time, Marianne produced some juice and delicious, traditional cakes for us all. By now we were well over our journey time and reached the hotel an hour later than planned, but it was well worth it. The day was full of interest due to our excellent guides.

***Evelyn Goodsell (Gamma Chapter)***

## CELEBRATING EUROPE LUNCH

As we sat at our table for the luncheon we were greeted with music and song by Kirsten Sodal and Anikken Soyland. Gudrun Nylander formally welcomed us. Marianne Skardeus then described how we became the European Region. This was all written in a delightful program booklet, which I find nice to keep. Also in the booklet each Regional President has written the highlights of their biennium. Those present described their term of office in more detail. Afterwards there was a brief rehearsal of new DKG songs and it was decided to hear more at the next conference. Dorothy Haley described her hopes for the future of DKG in Europe wishing expansion to be sooner rather than later.

The Swedish meat loaf and vegetables were good; apple pie and cream is universally liked. We felt very contented as we were played out with music by Eva Lindblad and hurried across Boras to the Science Centre for the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Session.

***Unity Harvey (Alpha Chapter)***



*Members at the Navet Science Centre waiting for an excellent presentation on Sustainable Development. We were divided into groups and taken round with knowledgeable guides who explained the interesting range of exhibits and things to do—luckily the Centre is planned for children! Photo by Barbara Kern.*

## NIGHT ON THE TOWN

A pleasant ten-minute walk across the river, through the park in the sunshine, to the Pulsen Centre, a beautifully refurbished warehouse facility, was the start of a most entertaining evening. We were welcomed with a glass of sparkling wine, and went into a spacious dining room with a high ceiling and large windows – very Swedish! The talk had the theme: Be Proud of Yourself! Borås is known as the fashion capital of Sweden, and it was good to see, in the presentation, a succession of ordinary women rather than the models we are used to seeing in fashion shows, whose looks are unattainable by the majority of women.

The models for the fashion show were also of a range of sizes and ages, and the clothes still looked fantastic! This was encouraging. The clothes were eminently wearable, and there were certainly several that even I could feel comfortable in! A very enjoyable dinner of white fish with a very tasty sauce, mashed potatoes and steamed vegetables was one of the best meals I had at the conference, and certainly contributed to the 'feel-good' atmosphere of the evening. We had been told during the presentation that items would be for sale after dinner, so I wandered upstairs to have a look, not really intending to buy anything. Perhaps no surprise, however, that I ended up buying a 'LBD' or 'Little Black Dress' which I hope will become a staple of my wardrobe, my excuse being that it was in the sale!

A most entertaining, enjoyable evening, which we discussed with pleasure as we walked back through the park, to find that there was an event taking place with lots of music, dancing, and good cheer. What a good way to end the day!

**Diane Billam** (*Gamma Chapter*)



Diana Bell's photo of Liz Day and some of her workshop session group.

### 3rd GENERAL SESSION: EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Many of the lectures at this conference were excellent, particularly the first two that got the conference going by setting out themes of valuing teachers and the challenge of immigration; themes that echoed throughout the conference.



Dr. Urve Laanemets is a much respected academic and loved DKG member from Estonia, demonstrated by the standing ovation she received for her talk on Shared Values and Identities, but I'm afraid she didn't quite win me over. In fact I remember her joke about PowerPoint© more readily than her message; ' Invariably there isn't any power, or indeed any point'. But without any graphics or headlines, it was difficult to discern any structure, although her passion was evident in believing in the positive influence of good teachers to influence young people's lives and thus the need to invest in their professional development and social status, which we heard subsequently was particularly low in Estonia.

I enjoyed the 2nd presentation by Ulrika Bergman more. She is an Assistant



Professor from Lulea University, situated in the far north of Sweden, near the Finnish border. She illustrated her talk with great pictures of this remote coastal town accompanied by poems she wrote for her students to convey pithy sentiments. Her theme was that in an era of increasing measurement of pupils, teachers and everything in education, the real business of teaching, that is the interpersonal relationships between pupils and teachers and between staff, because it can't be easily measured, is ignored. It is interesting to find that the same agendas are at the forefront of her research in remote Lulea as elsewhere. In fact she based her work on the pioneering work of Jean Rudduck at Cambridge University who established the body of research on Student Voice. I like to think of Ulrika writing up her research for her PhD in the very long dark winter months in Lulea, where she also compiled huge amounts of data with a fellow PhD student to publish industriously in various journals and books together. She gave

some very real examples of pupils' testimony, reading them dramatically to good effect, so we well understood pupils' concerns in their desire to feel appreciated and feel they belong to their school, are treated fairly and have an opportunity to affect their environment. She suggested a mantra, expressed by the students, of 'meet me, see, hear and respect me' to express their desire to be valued, share responsibility for their education and above all be appreciated and valued for their contributions.

**Liz Day** (Alpha Chapter)

*Photo of Dr Lyn Schmid, our International President, taken from the official programme for the European Regional Conference. As always, Dr Schmid played an active part in making the Conference the great success it was for all who attended.*



*This group in traditional Swedish dress entertained us on Sweden Night, with music and dancing. You will also see the flowers we had made earlier that evening, later formed into the flower tree shown on page 17. (Photo sent by Marianne Skadeus).*

## GRAND DINNER

The Grand Dinner was held in the conference room, which had been transformed for the occasion. Marianne Skardeus (European Regional Director) and Dr Lyn Schmid (International President) thanked the outgoing State Presidents and welcomed their incoming successors. Leading Councillor Lena Palmén spoke about our host city with great enthusiasm under the title 'Boras – A City for Sustainability'. It is indeed a beautiful city, with the River Iskan winding through it. Evelyn and I were lucky enough to be on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of the Grand Hotel, overlooking the river, with a splendid view of the fountain.

Councillor Palmén gave some of the history of the city, in particular its involvement in the cloth trade, and nowadays in the fashion industry. We had enjoyed a splendid fashion show the night before (see the separate report), and some of us had visited an exhibition at the Fashion Museum. The city is also enlivened with a number of sculptures in a range of genres and materials, mostly paid for by private citizens, and has an interesting variety of older and newer building styles. The parks are extensive and very carefully tended, very popular with residents and visitors alike. It was good to hear a leading councillor so passionate about her city.

Dr Lyn Schmid (International President) spoke about 'Who are the Women who will advance DKG?' It was interesting to compare this with an illustrated leaflet we had been given entitled 'Famous Swedish Women inside and outside DKG'. Each chapter chose one woman they wanted to highlight who has worked or was born in the chapter area. All of them have something to do with education and how to empower women. One in particular impressed me: HRH Crown Princess Victoria, Duchess of Västergötland. She has struggled with dyslexia all her life, having great difficulty not only in reading, but also in recognising people and remembering names. How brave of her to agree to be included in this leaflet!

Then came a session of splendid brass band music by a very smartly dressed band, who entertained us with a range of music leading to a feeling of wellbeing as we left the hall. We left the hall with a real 'buzz'! A Grand Dinner indeed.

***Diane Billam (Gamma Chapter)***

## EUROPEAN FORUM

The hall was filling up at 8.30am when I began the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing the EF Committee Members, timekeepers, attendance recorders and reporters. Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir (Iceland), the previous EF Chair, gave some wonderful 'Words of Inspiration'. She reminded us how, when Dr Annie Webb Blanton created DKG, women all over the world were fighting for equal rights. This year Iceland celebrated 100 years of women's suffrage. During International Women's Year in 1975, Icelandic women's organisations joined together and put forward a motion 'to urge women to take the day off' on United Nations Day, 24th October, in order to show the importance of their work. The community was almost brought to a standstill – schools, shops, fishing industry factories closed, and men had to take responsibility for their children and the home. With this action Icelandic women demonstrated the great importance of their contribution to society. Ingibjörg reminded us that there is still a lot to fight for and how DKG members have the possibility to work together. 'We have to strengthen educators to use the tools available in technology and science and to communicate, lead and mentor'.

Marianne Skardéus (Sweden), our Regional Director, led the 'In Memoriam', which allowed us to reflect on those members who have passed away.

It was noted in Joan Carroll's report on EuForia that we have sadly lost Loetitia Stone, who was a key member of Beta Chapter. It was Loetitia's inspiration to give our electronic newsletter the name EuForia. It was created at the European Forum meeting and when spoken aloud sounded the same as 'euphoria', meaning great joy and delight. Joan also asked the questions in her report: 'Do you think EuForia still serves a useful purpose as a communication link between the countries of our region?' 'Or, has its function now been superseded by our national and regional websites?' Members' views were divided. They will be asked by their state presidents for a clearer answer and a new editor sought. After 16 years of editing Euforia Joan has decided that it is time for someone new to take over if EuForia continues. She was thanked for her work and Barbara Kern accepted a certificate and scarf on her behalf.

The EF Guidelines were updated and the updates agreed. (These are on the website [www.dkgeurope.org](http://www.dkgeurope.org)).

Eygló Björnsdóttir (Iceland), our European Webmaster, gave her report and explained that the website needs more input from members. She was thanked and presented with a scarf for her work.

Marika Heimbach (Germany), our previous Regional Director, reminded us that there is still plenty of time to write a new DKG song. (We had heard two of the new songs at the European Breakfast, plus Jess Curtis's song 'Hello from Europe').

Marianne Skardéus reported that she had sent in an application to make Malala Yousafzai an International Honorary Member of DKG.

Two proposals were agreed: The first was regarding the regional director using 'the amount of money she has received from the EF for travel costs within the biennium', and the second that we should ask headquarters 'if they would pay travel costs for the European Regional Director'.

There was then a lovely moment when Ria Bleeker and Dr Riet Smits-Hoenderken (The Netherlands), presented Dr Trijny Schmitz du Moulin (The Netherlands) with her well-earned European Achievement Award.

Reporters took the business meeting minutes which will be put on our [www.dkgeurope.org](http://www.dkgeurope.org) website.

The business meeting was closed and then Katrin Saks (Estonia) gave a fascinating talk about her 'Study on the Popularity of the Teaching Profession in Estonia', with many useful facts and figures. Her conclusion was that large numbers of teachers still feel positive about the job. They like working with young people and the pleasant working atmosphere. Further measures should include political action on salary and workload, school action on the working atmosphere, stress, tension and support, and teachers' action on personal feelings, attitudes and values. Margarita Hanschmidt (Estonia) led the discussion that followed.

***Diana Bell, EF Representative for Great Britain, (Alpha Chapter).***

*Dr Riet Smits-Hoenderken and Ria Bleeker present Drs Trijny Schmitz du Moulin with the European Achievement Award.*





*Katrin Saks (Estonia) gave the Keynote Speech at the European Forum on the subject of 'A Study on the Popularity of the Teaching Profession in Estonia'.*

*Swedish members in their beautiful national dress. At DKG Conferences we always lament the fact that, so far as we know, we in the English part of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have never had such a thing! (Photo sent by Marianne Skadeus).*



*This display of the national flags of the member states of the DKG European Region reminds us of the special flavour of our Region, with its different languages and cultures. Attending regional conferences helps us treasure this diversity.*



*This photo shows members of our party visiting the dairy farm (see page 6). We were required to don these blue protective overshoes to avoid contaminating the cows' living area. Don't we look smart?*



## EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE: INCLUSIVE GAME DEVELOPMENT

Jenny Brusk is a senior lecturer in Computer Science, with specialisation in Game Development, and teaches game design at the University of Skovda. She has almost 20 years of experience from working with games, first as a game developer working on titles such as Backpacker II and The Great Moomin Party, and later as a teacher and programme developer in game design. In 2011 she initiated DONNA, a project that works with gender equality and inclusive game development at the game development programmes in Skovde. She is currently involved in a research project on inclusive game design, in which games are under development that can be played by both seeing and visually impaired players. She obtained a PhD in General Linguistics at the University of Gothenburg with the thesis 'Steps Towards Creating Socially Game Characters', in which she presents dialogue models for socially oriented interactions with game characters.

Jenny began by asking the question 'What is a game?' She said that all games are rule based, and that the players must all agree to the same rules. This is true of football and all sports, poker and all card games, chess and all games involving pieces and boards. Anyone who has tried to explain the offside rule in football, or listened to the arguments about bidding systems in bridge, will understand this! For every game there is a winning position: there is a winner, and therefore a loser! Game play involves a series of challenges, to arrive at an object by permitted actions and interactions to address the challenges.

Inclusive game development aims to cover or include everything, be open to everyone, and not limited to certain people. There are gender differences within game players, with boys preferring sports and action, girls liking games with social interactions. Later girls tend to involve themselves more in social media. It is clear that the visually impaired can be excluded, so inclusive game development aims to be for everyone, requiring new forms of gameplay, themes and stories. It is better to have diversity in teams of gender, age, ethnicity, experience and backgrounds.

DONNA aims to increase the proportion of female students in game development: at Skovde they had 16% in 2013, 18% in 2014. They want to inspire women to become game developers, actively recruit female students, and support them by networking and providing positive female role models.

Inclusive games develop new forms of gameplay: Social challenges, social skills

for game players, dialogue based, characters adjusting their behaviour. They look for games that challenge the norm, and ensure accessibility, particularly for blind or deaf players, so that all groups can play on the same terms. Social challenge includes practical dialogues such as buying a ticket, negotiation, small talk, and even gossip, defined as evaluative talk about an absent third person.

I found Jenny’s talk very interesting, and her comments on gender preferences are certainly confirmed by watching my grandchildren in action! There was plenty of food for thought, delivered with enthusiasm and skill. Thank you, Jenny!

**Diane Billam** (*Gamma Chapter*)

*This photo of Jenny Brusk was supplied by Jenny herself (Note from Editor: it is much better than the one I took!)*



*Kathy Hodgson, our State President for 2015—2017, carries the Union Flag.*

## CONFERENCES TO LOOK FORWARD TO!

### Great Britain Conference, 2016

Weekend of 9 April 2016. Venue to be decided—Eastbourne and Wrotham are being considered.

### International Convention, 2016

Nashville, Tennessee, July 5 - 9 2016.

What an exciting city for a Convention!

### European Regional Conference, 2017

Tallinn, Estonia, July 24 - 29 2017.

We look forward to meeting in our newest DKG State!

*At Sweden Night we all made a paper flower from an excellent range of materials provided. This photo shows Evelyn Goodsell (Gamma Chapter) standing beside the 'Paper Flower Tree' which had been made up of everyone's flower. What a great idea!*



## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

For the first time ever I was asked to be the presider for Kathy Hodgson's session on 'Finance'. I was very excited to be asked but wasn't quite sure what was involved. I needn't have worried, it was all very straight forward, I just had to count the number of people who attended, be a timekeeper and generally support Kathy. The room was set up and Kathy was ready to go. I was really looking forward to this session as Kathy knows such a lot about DKG finance and I have a lot to learn! Gisela, who was supposed to present the session with Kathy, was unable to attend the conference so Kathy was on her own. Of course this did not phase her.

Unfortunately only one person attended the session but they had the opportunity to have a one to one session with Kathy. Questions were asked as they came up and the whole session was lively and animated – people missed a great opportunity to delve into DKG finance and enjoy themselves. Whole areas of DKG about which I knew nothing were opened up to me. Kathy gave an excellent presentation but at the end of the session we did question whether it would be worthwhile to offer the session at another conference due to the apparent lack of interest.

There were lots of really interesting sessions on offer and it was difficult to choose which ones to attend. I asked people who had attended other sessions to comment so I hope to give you a flavour of the diversity of subject matter. The session that talked about a life legacy was encouraging members to leave an amount in their will to an international fund such as World Fellowship, Cornetet, etc. The reason the funds are so successful is that some members in the past have done just that. Sandra Smith Bull led a discussion on diversity and how we as a society can be more diverse. I am told that Unity's session on bees was 'quite brilliant', a lively and detailed introduction to bee keeping which was appreciated by all. What a cross-section of subjects and talent.

After such a wonderful conference I can hardly wait the two years until Estonia. See you all there.

***Carole Stirling*** (*Gamma Chapter*)

## BREAKOUT SESSION: WHERE LEARNING TAKES PLACE

Martina Lundstrom introduced her session by saying that students can now learn 24 hours a day. Traditionally learning has been mainly part of teaching in the classroom, but the internet has changed all that. Increasingly in Swedish schools, secondary students have an iPad or other tablet each, and primary students have one between two. This is a reality that teachers are facing when they meet their students today. This makes some teachers nervous in the classroom, and perhaps even uncertain as to their role in the overall experience of students.

There is now a `Digital Competence Framework` covered in Swedish schools which includes topics such as information technology, communication, content creation, e-safety, and problem solving. Teachers increasingly work with librarians in schools, and use online tools to enhance communication in schools.

Teachers need to ask themselves how they can provide excellent quality in the `flipped classroom`, where the teacher provides online material, students read/view in their own time, leading to discussion in class. Increasingly students can also provide material. It is a technical issue as well as a methodological challenge. Martina made this an interactive workshop where we could together explore this vital issue. She gave examples from Swedish schools and provided tools for teaching in a modern classroom. She ended by reminding her audience that we have to face up to changes such as this imposed from outside. Schools will become obsolete if we do not adapt appropriately. A stimulating talk which gave us plenty to think about as teachers face these challenges every day in school.

***Diane Billam*** (*Gamma Chapter*)



## ALPHA CHAPTER REPORT AUTUMN 2015

Our April meeting began with an illustrated presentation by chapter member Carolyn Olton describing her new post-retirement role as a volunteer with the National Trust. She described the history of the Trust, which protects areas and properties of outstanding beauty, and the role of volunteers, of which there are about 60,000. Carolyn volunteers at Standen House, near East Grinstead, acting as a room guide in this Arts and Crafts property. A fascinating illustrated precursor to our planned visit to the house and garden in July.

In May Barbara Kern welcomed members to Sydenham Garden, where she volunteers in the Art and Craft Group. Alpha warmly welcomed new member Janet Carroll, Joan's daughter in-law, who has joined the society. After an delicious 'bring and share' buffet Barbara showed the group round the garden, wildflower and woodland area and greenhouse and explained about the charity and her involvement. Sydenham Garden is an award-winning charity that aims to transform lives through therapeutic activities, gardening, and arts and crafts projects. Indoors there was a colourful display from the art and craft activities. Staff are supported by local volunteers helping at the sessions. Truly a calming magical garden hidden behind a street entrance.

At our June meeting those gathering in the morning enjoyed an interesting visit to the London Wetlands Centre, guided by Alpha member Unity Harvey, who has volunteered there since it started. Here was another magical area, a reserve for birds and wildlife in the heart of the capital. After a lunch enjoyed at Unity's home, the afternoon meeting was treated to a detailed presentation from Unity about bee-keeping, describing the life-cycle of bees and the role of the different bees in the hive and hive management. There was a lively discussion about the medical and cosmetic use of honey, and also about the present endangered state of bees round the world, followed by cream tea!

July saw some members pay their annual visit to the Royal Society Science Exhibition. As last year, it was fizzing with activity, exhibiting cutting-edge projects from universities and schools and visitors of all ages were clustered round the stands and round the demonstrators who also used tablets to show the finer details. Two interesting ones were 'How Richard III died' - archaeology, with forensic and weaponry information combined to tell the tale of the skeleton found in the car park, and Stonehenge Underground, where the use of non-invasive geophysics is shedding more light on the area around the Henge.

A sunny July day saw our visit to Standen House - enhanced by a local wine-tasting! The building is a perfect example of the Arts and Crafts movement - down to the smallest detail. It is furnished in this style, as the family house it once was. It also has a wide collection of Arts and Crafts paintings and decorative art. The garden is also being restored. Carolyn gave us further interesting information, and then let us loose to enjoy the house. Afterwards we had a lovely picnic on the lawn.

### **Forthcoming Meetings**

**19 September: 2 pm. Speaker - Dorcas Rogers** – Succeeding against the odds with Dyslexia, ‘a student’s success story’ + Business meeting at Rotherhithe, Holy Trinity Church Hall.

**10 October: 11.30am. The Red House, Bexley.** Home of William Morris, founder of Art and Crafts movement. (National Trust).

**21 November: 11.30am + light lunch. Speaker: Sonia Birch-Woodcock.** Experiences of Ofsted. The Soroptimist HQ, 63 Bayswater Road, Lancaster Gate, London W2 3PH. Joint Alpha/Gamma meeting. Sonia unfortunately had to cancel her presentation at our state conference, so now we have a chance to hear her.

**12 December: The Guildhall - City of London 11 am.** The Guildhall is an iconic City of London venue and art gallery.

**19 December: 7.30 pm: Christmas Concert Lewisham Choral Society.** Holy Trinity, Sloane Square, London SW 1X 9BZ. Barbara Kern sings with this choir. Concert includes carols for choir and audience. Full details at a later date.

**23 January 2016: Speaker – Liz Day** – Continuing Education, the University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age + business meeting.

### **Further Alpha dates for 2016:**

20 February, 19 March, 23 April, 21 May,  
18 June, 16th July.

**Barbara Kern** (Alpha Chapter President).

*Joan Carroll enjoys the wine tasting  
at Standen House (photo by Barbara Kern).*



## BETA OUTING

We had two special reasons for choosing to visit Lanhydrock – some of us had last visited it with Loetitia, and we wanted to remember her in a place which held memories of her. The other reason was a special exhibition ‘Monarchy and the Book’ inspired by the discovery of a special book held in the Library of the Long Gallery – a book not only having once belonged to Henry VIII but a book linked to his notorious divorce of his first wife freeing him to marry the ill-fated Anne Boleyn. Such a special visit on many levels was beautifully framed by the beauties of the Cornish countryside. A day to remember.

*Gail Gladwin (Beta Chapter)*

## BETA CHAPTER REPORT AUTUMN 2015

A Beta Meeting was held on 15 August 2015. Pat Constable has kept in touch. She is for the time being in Birmingham but hopes to return soon. No pressure on her to return to active membership. With Loetitia’s death and Joanne’s likely retirement Beta active membership is now down to four. Members shared experiences of Loetitia’s funeral. Two members had been unable to attend and were glad to receive copies of the funeral service which had been a warm, moving and even joyful occasion. It was agreed each member would contribute written memories of Loetitia. These can be seen on our website [dkggb.org](http://dkggb.org).

A wide-ranging discussion was held about DKG membership, and the relation to Plymouth University. It was strongly felt that there is a necessity for new strategies to attract a broader constituency of membership. Until this realisation is transformed into action at top level, membership will continue to diminish. Beta still has a chance to strengthen the liaison with Plymouth University, and if this comes off will need a great deal of support and advice. The idea of awarding a prize to undergraduates was mooted, and we would be interested in a response to this idea.

A decision about who might hold the post of Treasurer is being held over until Sue Blackburn’s return from Canada, when we would address the matter again. Our next meeting will be after Sue’s return in October.

*Jess Curtis (Beta Chapter President)*

## GAMMA CHAPTER REPORT AUTUMN 2015

Our last meeting this year was an outing to the 'Fashion on the Ration' Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum. It was fascinating to see young textile and art students gazing at the beautiful fabrics and innovative ways that clothes had been constructed with so little income and resources. The 'make do and mend' section was a real eye-opener for them! For our members it was more of a reminder and a trip down memory lane. I was transported back to that time as the sight of an army uniform like my father's brought back the strange sensation of being in the arms of a strange man wearing rough khaki clothes.

We now look forward to the new year's programme and are delighted to welcome Pat Johnston as a member. Beechwood School will again be the venue for six meetings and we have been allocated a large light study room. We are grateful for this facility in an ideal location and hope to invite students to join us at times. Various ideas have been discussed about being more involved and connected with the community and educational establishments and hopefully some of these will come to fruition. Involving ourselves at the Tunbridge Wells Puppet festival will be a start!

### **Forthcoming Meetings (all at 10.00 for 10.30 at Beechwood School, Tunbridge Wells)**

**12 September: Speaker: Anna Astin:** 'It's your duty to be beautiful'. A tie-in talk after our visit to the 'Fashion on the Ration' Exhibition in London.

**3 October: Speaker: Unity Harvey.** Unity will give us her talk on bees, which was so well received at the European Regional Conference.

**10 October:** Tunbridge Wells Puppet Festival organised by Linda Lewis, a recent Gamma speaker.

**7 November: Speaker: Jean Brushfield.** 'Darcy and the Accidental Author'.

**21 November:** Please see Alpha Report for details of joint Alpha/Gamma Meeting in London.

**Liz Malik** (*Gamma Chapter President*)

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**Mission Statement**

**The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.**