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**THE ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OF
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**This is a special issue of the OUGSME
Newsletter, dedicated to the memory of Annette
Kimmich, our deceased Branch Organizer.**

**The Remembrance Service of
Annette Kimmich-Goddard
1946-2009**



Dave Kopsch and I met up in Zuerich and took the train together to Bern to attend the Remembrance Service of Annette, which was held in St. Ursula's Anglican Church in Bern on 3rd of December, 2009.

As Dave and I arrived, the bell was already ringing and the mourners were entering the church, which was practically full with about 140 people attending. The service was conducted in English and German in a manner which allowed all present to participate. Dave later mentioned that he was grateful that the congregation were not asked to sing. This job was taken on by a friend of the family, the head of the English Department at Bern University, who accompanied himself by guitar and sang Annette's choice of 'Scarborough Fair' and 'Lord of the Dance'.

Daniela and Mathias Kimmich read from Ecclesiastes 3 and 1 Corinthians 15, respectively, and the rest of the musical accompaniment was given by two recordings of the Grimethorpe Colliery Brass Band of 'The Lord's My Shepherd' and 'Abide With Me' and finally, 'You'll Never Walk Alone' sung by Chris de Burgh. This final rendering was a tribute to Annette's fanatical support of Manchester United. When announcing this, the Chaplain, who clearly came from the other side of the Pennines to Manchester, could not resist saying that 'nobody is perfect'.

The adjacent church hall, where the reception which followed was held, was as full as the church. Mathias Kimmich spoke in German and English, about the very intensive relationship between Annette and himself. His summing up of some of Annette's character traits was so alarmingly close to some of the remarks I have made about Annette, I decided to give him a copy of what I had written, to avoid any suspicion later, of plagiarism.

The reception ended around 16:00. All of the St. Ursula's congregation, the Chaplain, his Assistant Chaplain and the ladies who helped with the church decorations and the reception, had done a splendid job. At least, that was the general opinion amongst the small group of family members and friends, who retired to the 'Red Lion' in

Rubigen to finish the 'Wake' for Annette.

Mike Molloy.

Terry Warrington
Branch Librarian OUGSME

I first met Annette at the second AGM of the newly formed OUGSME, which was held in Brussels. So what was my first impression of the Branch Organiser, welcoming, friendly very competent and more, but as we say in Yorkshire a "Little bit Bossy". I thought yes this lady likes to run things her way.

Annette was the driving force behind OUGSME, her enthusiasm for Geology and Volcanoes in particular was at every opportunity passed on to others.

But it was her idea of bringing together other like people across Europe, as an independent Overseas Branch of the Open University Geological Society which was infectious to all of us, who had the pleasure to have known her.

She pushed the boundaries of the conventional society branch, a little too far at times for some people, leading to a conflict lasting some time between The Executive and OUGSME. Happily this situation was resolved before Annette became too ill to continue actively as the Branch Officer.

Anyway much time has past since that first meeting, several AGM's and Whit weekends later has my first impression altered with the passing of time. No not really, but I have to be honest and say I still found her "A Little bit Bossy".

I will miss her greatly, as I'm sure will all of us who met her. She was the Branch; her shoes will not be easy to fill.

So goodbye Annette missed but never forgotten.

God Bless.

Dave Kopsch
Webmaster OUGSME

I'm a relative newcomer to Geology and to OUGSME and therefore also to Annette, so I didn't know her well enough to comment too specifically on Annette herself - but I will write a few words about one very enjoyable weekend, spent with Hans and Annette in Rubigen.

It was Whitsun/Pfingsten 2008 and apparently it was a kind of standing arrangement that any OUGSME members who had the time to spare and the inclination, would be welcome to stay with Hans and Annette over the weekend, with various trips and activities arranged.

I arrived slightly ahead of schedule mid-afternoon on the Friday, but Hans and Annette were back from their shopping and welcomed me into their home like a long-lost relative and very soon I was escorted downstairs to The Red Lion pub. I had read this name in one of Annette's e-mails and assumed it was some kind of pseudo-English pub in the village. Wrong - the pub was in their house and it looked and felt like being in a quaint old English village pub!

Hans and I drank some beers together and had a chat about various things, with Annette appearing occasionally and adding her own opinions and topics. Later, Venetia Caine arrived and we tumbled up the stairs to meet our other expected guest. We had a very enjoyable evening meal and talked together until quite late.

In the morning we all assembled downstairs and then Annette's authority became more apparent - we were all willing helpers, of course, carrying breakfast things down to a small table by a brook at the bottom of their garden. In that lovely setting, eating our breakfast, I felt 'at home', a feeling that no guest house or hotel could provide.

We visited some very interesting places during Saturday, enjoyed a super BBQ in the evening 'at home' and did some more touring Sunday morning.

Now I come to Annette - I think that she was the driving force behind all of that

weekend, as she was also a driving force in OUGSME; but Hans was fully supportive and I drove away from their house on the Sunday afternoon with the feeling that they acted together as a very effective and loving team.

I hope that we can keep OUGSME going as an individual branch, both for our own sake and in loving memory of Annette.

Mike Molloy
Treasurer OUGSME

I first met Annette in January 2000, when the Mainland Europe Branch of OUGS was inaugurated in Basel. During this meeting, I managed to keep a low profile and avoid being 'pressed' into standing for any of the committee posts which were being voted on. I was able to sit back and enjoy the 'Clique-musik' played by Daniela Kimmich and her friends and look forward to re-visiting the 'Kaiserstuhl', one of my old haunts during my years living in Constance, in the 1970s.

The quiet life didn't last long, our Treasurer at the time, Mike Gibson, became bogged-down trying to do the OUGSME accounts on paper and a benign idiot who could handle EXCEL spreadsheets was looked for and found. I have been doing the job since then.

This automatically led to frequent, almost daily e-mail contact with Annette, from which, to my horror as a 'Kentish Man', I discovered that the 'Boss' was a 'Maid of Kent'! For the uninitiated, this could have been disastrous, in fact it helped on numerous occasions when we didn't see eye to eye on an issue, to defuse things. We simply accused one another of being 'pig-headed' and typical for the area of Kent, from which we originated.

AK 47*



That wasn't the only 'cultural' difference between Annette and I, she was the 'Visionary', I was the 'Brake Man'. A frequently used phrase by me was 'It' will never work but 'It' usually did. It was her visionary approach to things which led to the idea of forming a branch of OUGS for Continental European members and using e-mail and the Internet to keep in touch with members and with her committee. This 'distance organising' was made more personal by a series of thumping good and well attended field trips, which included Etna twice, the French Jura, the Auvergne, Santorini, Cappadocia, Greenland, the Eifel Volcanic Fields, Croatia and the Deccan Traps, amongst others.

My experience with colleagues and friends is that the most capable of them often display some 'rough edges' in their character. We tend to accept these 'rough edges' because the individuals involved are capable

and often very likeable as well. I think anyone who simultaneously ran a household, worked 75% full-time, ran an organization such as OUGSME and successfully obtained a Masters Degree, amongst other activities, can genuinely be considered as being very capable.

Before I come to the 'rough edge' that I noticed most, there were two other sides to Annette's character which I think need mentioning. Annette had a strong sense of 'justice', which also made her 'vulnerable' when she felt she was being unjustifiably criticized or even mobbed. It was frequently the case that after helping her to 'pick herself up' following one of these episodes, that I helplessly had to observe her 'Goddard genes' becoming activated as she 'brushed herself down'. When that happened, Annette could be awesomely stubborn.

This is not the time, nor the place to re-enact the drama between OUGS and OUGSME which unfolded during 2008 and nearly ended in disaster at the OUGS 2009 AGM. Some of Annette's more 'visionary' activities had taken OUGSME to the furthest boundaries of the OUGS 'Constitutional Universe', and even probably beyond. An amicable solution was found at the very last minute and gratefully taken up by all involved. The solution even opened up a perspective for Annette to pursue the kind of activity she wished for herself and for the branch. The real tragedy is that Annette's health never recovered sufficiently for her to make use of this opportunity.

Where does all this leave OUGSME now? I think we have come to the end of an era and while we are recalling some of the fond memories of the last 9 years, we should also be looking forward to a new era, under a new Branch leadership. It will be a pretty daunting task for a new Branch Organizer but very much in Annette's interest and infinitely preferable to simply watching the Branch lose its autonomy.

AK 47*

Annette's pseudonym, after the famous Kalashnikov automatic rifle, model of 1947.