



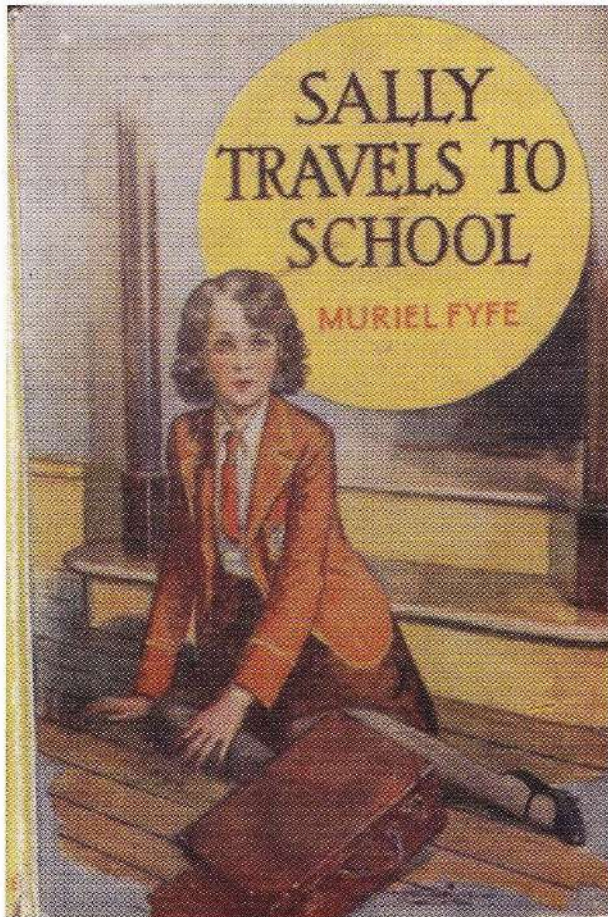
# Friends of the Chalet School

105 Onwards and Upwards



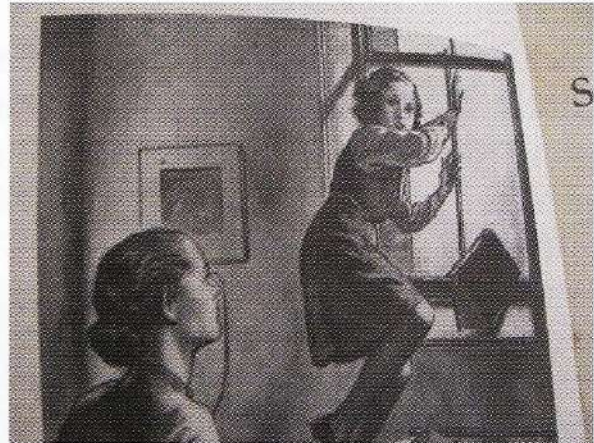
August 2014





*Sally Travels to School*  
by Muriel Fyfe

**Mark Taha:** I wonder if Muriel Fyfe got the name Josephine Linton from EBD?



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**Mark Taha** “I doubt if British parents would have cared for their daughters being forced to speak German just after the war. I always supposed that other languages had their regional accents. I’m surprised that they never had an Austrian, German or Swiss-German teacher, as their French teachers were French.”



ministers for many years and has led the way in appointing women to every high office.”

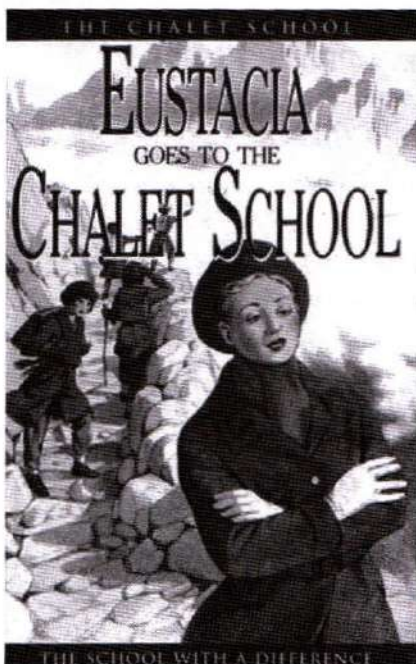
**Margaret Bird** “Oh, I so enjoyed this story. It took me a while to realise who was reminiscing. What an apt choice in Tom Gay. I have often thought – long before female ordination became the norm – what a good priest she would be. However I would never have thought about Margot Maynard changing denominations; but God works in a mysterious way and one never knows what will happen in the future. I was expecting to be a lifelong Anglican but events outside my control meant that I and several others felt pushed out of our local church. The local Methodist church welcomed me and my ministry as a Local Preacher and made me feel very much wanted and loved. It’s always interesting to read other people’s interpretations of the Chalet School characters and long may our authors continue to write.”

**Mark Taha** “I can see Verity as a successful singer – the Charlotte Church of her day? But Joey having even more children?”

**Jill Ashmore** “Sandra Millar’s story *Reminiscing* was beautiful and touching. What a lovely idea that Tom might have been ordained in later life, and a very fitting event in the later stages of her life. I was very moved by it.”



## Eustacia Benson



**Anne James** “I much enjoyed Jilly Day’s articles on Eustacia. I think that attitudes have changed somewhat since EBD was writing. She reflected more the attitudes of her day towards someone who would not conform. There was little understanding of Eustacia’s real grief and uncertainty. I can relate to the thought that she would feel it disloyal to her parents to reject their ideas. At the age of 12, during the war, I was sent to stay with an aunt in the country. My aunt was kind, but had her own ideas for my upbringing which I resisted when they clashed with my mother’s. My aunt tried to introduce me to different foods which I would not eat and I can still hear her despairing cry of ‘just try everything once’.”

**Mark Taha** “I don’t believe Aspergers had been



diagnosed in her day. It wasn't mentioned when I was a badly bullied misfit at school in the 1970s. I can hardly see how Eustacia would have been responsible for Robin developing TB. Ironically, I believe that the old Eustacia would have coped better than the new one with her illness; she was more of a self-contained loner and would not have put up with being babied like Robin and put to bed ridiculously early. I suppose she'd have been one of the last prefects in Austria and at the school when it was closed. I find it very unconvincing that she'd have moved to Switzerland for the same reason as Jilly – those were the days before the Internet, after all. Unless she'd followed tradition by falling for a doctor! And, while she undoubtedly knew about classics and Maths, what qualified her to teach Geography?"

**Catherine Inchmore** "I've always thought it unfair that Eustacia should be blamed for Robin's health scare. Joey and Eustacia had squabbled throughout the half-term weekend. During the climb to the glacier, Joey accidentally spilt coffee over Eustacia who became angry and was rebuked by Bill. When they had to hurry to the shelter of the hut, Joey could have more usefully helped Miss Stewart with Ruth and Dorothy. Instead she expected Eustacia, with whom she had quarrelled, to take her arm. Eustacia had not been in the mountains long enough to understand the full danger of a blizzard. Even without Bill's accident, the group would have had to stay on the mountain until the storm cleared the following day so Robin would still have had the distress of Jo not returning on time. I agree with Jilly that Eustacia in middle age might find life at the Gornetz Platz somewhat suffocating!"

**ViV Turner** "I found Eustacia an interesting character and was sorry that she had such a rough ride. EBD seemed to have a down on some of her characters, like Grizel until *Reunion*, whereas Margot, who almost literally got away with murder, escaped with little punishment."

**Eileen Mackintosh** "I confess that I cannot bear the book *Eustacia*. I thought poor Eustacia was very badly treated by the School, in a non-characteristic way. Jo, in particular was positively spiteful and seemed to have lost her ability to 'get into other people's skins'. To charge Eustacia with stealing when she borrowed the library key was childish and quite ridiculous. I gave my copy of *Eustacia* away!"

## EUSTACIA GOES TO THE CHALET SCHOOL



ELINOR M.  
BRENT-  
DYER

CHAMBERS