



# Friends of the Chalet School

Onwards and Upwards  
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November 2014



Mark Taha “Peter Jones’ article on prams was very interesting but I prefer pushchairs. Perambulators just take up too much space.”

Nicola Pollard “I did enjoy Peter Jones’ article on prams and wanted to share this treasured photo of my two boys taken in 1995 in their Silver Cross ‘York’ pram



dating from the 1950s. Bought for £20 in 1992, this second hand pram did sterling service in transporting boys and shopping. The body was easily detached from the chassis and the handle folded over so it actually fitted in our estate car and went on holiday with us. I just wish we had thought to photograph it when we were at the Gian’s Causeway in Co Antrim! This pram was sold on but I kept the 1980s Mothercare pushchair plus a more modern Silver Cross pram/pushchair. Another book to look out for published by Shire Library is *Perambulators* by

Jan and Geoff Swift though Jack Hampshire’s book is regarded as the definitive guide.”

## Best Fictional Teacher

Mark Taha “Times Educational Supplement (TES), 25 July: Poll for best fictional teacher won by Albus Dumbledore. Madge Bettany joint 37th.”

### *Adrienne*

Jilly Day “Catherine Inchmore raises an interesting point regarding Joey’s ‘mothering’ of Adrienne. It does seem to be conspicuous by its absence as Adrienne stays at school for her first half term holiday at the Chalet School, despite Robin asking for the orphaned girl to be treated as a member of the Maynard family. Interestingly Ailie Russell is also at school for the half term holiday, although I seem to remember reading somewhere Madge thanking Jo for making herself responsible for Ailie’s holidays while the Russells were in Australia. It certainly wasn’t Ailie’s desire to remain at school as she grumbles at not being invited to accompany Adrienne when Felicity arrives offering the latter ‘English Tea’ following the party. I thought Adrienne was a promising character and, given the link with Robin, it would also have been a nice way to give news of Robin as the series neared its end.”



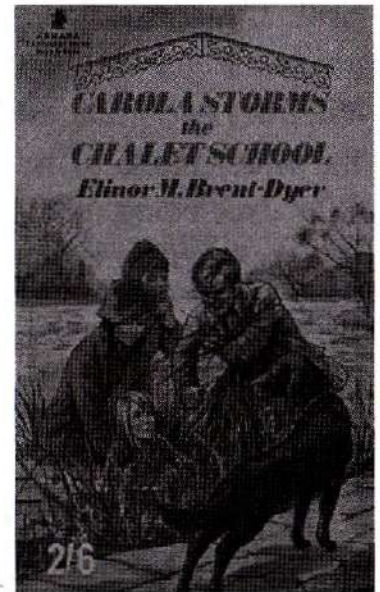
### *Half Term Begins*

Mark Taha “Kim Spicer mentions that Jean never comments on the fact that Carola had run away to school. She might have been dumbstruck, not interested, or simply not listening.”

Ruth Gemmell “I enjoyed the recent discussion about Carola and Jo’s house in Carnbach. Another explanation, of course, is that Carola so often ‘didn’t think’ so hadn’t registered where she was or what Jo’s home looked like.”

### *Travelling and Reading*

Sue Biggs “The Floral Clock in Interlaken used to have flowers in the design about 20 year ago when I first saw it.”





## Games

**Mark Taha** “I agree it was strange for EBD to ignore netball. How many schools played both hockey and netball?”

**Judith Simpson** “Like ViV Turner, we had a games mistress who always seemed to have it in for us. Her favourite ploy was to insist that we took our jumpers off at the beginning of a game of hockey or netball on a freezing winter day, while she had her coat, gloves and scarf on! Still, I suppose that standing on the touchline was a bit chillier than running around the field.”

**Viv Coffey** “Frances Bailey’s comments about the swimming teacher not going into the water came to mind recently when reading an article about the Second World War. Not being able to swim was no barrier to joining the Royal Navy. They were simply taken to a gym, lay on their fronts on the exercise benches and were talked through the motions. Not a drop of water in sight!”

**Ruth Gemmell** “I only had two achievements during compulsory games at school.



One was to be able to sit and chat at the top of the wall-bars without the mistress noticing, as she would have if we’d been on the ground. The other was a piece of luck in the timetable – a parallel form had a scheduled prep session in the dining room next to the Gym and changing rooms. For many weeks I joined them instead of going in for games, and no comment was ever made. Of course the games mistress may have noticed but been glad to be rid of me as I’ve never been able to run.”



## **Butter-in**

**Mark Taha** “In reply to Jilly Day’s comments, how many of us would have been able to resist listening in? I certainly wouldn’t!”

**Sheena Wilkinson and Susanne Brownlie** “Neither of us had any difficulty knowing what a ‘butter-in’ was as we were both accustomed, as children, to the phrase ‘butt out’. Jilly Day wonders what readers consider the ‘worst’ example of Joey’s butting in. We both felt that, whereas the younger Jo butted in with someone else’s happiness in mind and always to good effect (Juliet / Donal; Phoebe, etc), the later Jo reminded us of what Bridget Jones would have called a ‘smug married’.”





### **Gisela Marani**

**Mark Taha** “Herr Marani was described as both having his own engineering business and also being a cashier in a bank. Perhaps he did a second job temporarily during the Depression?”

**Griselda Fyfe** “I loved Jilly Day’s article on Gisela. The NKB illustrations are magic!! I think that was what originally attracted me to the CS books – the illustrations.”

**Sheena Wilkinson and Susanne Brownlie** “Jilly Day’s article on Gisela posed the interesting theory that Gisela, rather than Jo, could be seen as the spirit of the Chalet School and that Jo was presumptuous in so readily assuming the status of a legend. What a terrific point, and hard to disagree with in some ways – Jilly certainly puts forward a thoughtful and convincing case. However, it was EBD who thrust greatness upon her creation, even though the later Jo took on the role with unseemly relish!”

**Caroline Brown** “Thank you for another enjoyable profile from Jilly Day. Gisela and her husband Gottfried were among my favourite characters. In some ways it was disappointing that they didn’t reappear in the later books, but on the other hand perhaps it isn’t so surprising. They weren’t ‘spineless jellyfish’, and didn’t need the emotional crutch of the school and the san.”

**Eileen Mackintosh** “All Jilly’s ‘second eleven biographies’ are very good and my favourite contributions but I think Gisela the best yet. Apart from a thoughtful portrait of a very charming and strong character, the article manages to encapsulate a whole history of the ethos and development of the Chalet School.