There was a great buzz and a sense of anticipation around Cuisle in Rathmines on the 20th June 2012 as we gathered for a rare and unique occasion ...the launch of the much looked forward to NEW HORIZONS, researched, published and edited by Jo O’Donoghue, commissioned by CLT and written about us and our lives and the evolving story of the Institute since 1947, in this rapidly changing world.

As I looked around “CUISLE” I wondered why exactly this lovely space had been so renamed with this gentle Irish word? “Cuisle” can mean impulse, heartbeat, throb, vein or fount, as used in the phrase “Cuisle na hÉigse”...the Fount of the Muses or of Poetry ...or even more endearing “a chuisle mo chroi” meaning my heartbeat! So here we were in this delightful, colourful space that has moved from being a place of prayer and celebration, to now a place of music, poetry, song and book launches ...a gentle transition, surely and so much still a place of creativity and peace.

Gathered there on the 20th June were about 130 of us, with 68 sisters and 65 others, from Associates, Family, Past pupils, Colleagues, Past
SSLs, and others who wished to support us, and the chatting and catching up was mighty! It was good to meet so many that we may not have met for years, over a glass of wine and some lovely eats, and if it takes a launch to get us together ..great!

The move by CLT to have our story written in these times was prompted by the enormous changes that have taken place since 1947, not just in St Louis, but in the Irish Church, in the developing countries where we went on Mission, and in the wider world, changes that are historical, financial, social and ecclesiastical. In the midst of all of this evolution, St Louis, as an International group of dedicated women, continued to grow and adapt, move on and change, welcome new life, and watched other areas fade and die, right up to today. So many people, alive and dead, have been a part of that rich and amazing tapestry over the past 65 years.

This is some of what Jo O'Donoghue tried to encapsulate in the huge challenge she had of putting our story on paper. Part of the excitement generated on the Launch day in June, was that here was a writer, who was not one of us, who would very capably research, write and publish our story, as Pauline McGovern did so comprehensively for us in 1959 in God Wills it. In the previous weeks and months, it became increasingly clear to all of us, as we watched Jo move quietly around the Region, that she was sensitively absorbing the sense or the atmosphere of the life we live, and have lived, and with great honesty, creativity, truthfulness, insight and humour, tried to make sense of it all and reproduce it on paper….not an easy task! Jo, whose daughter Fionnuala was at school in Rathmines, had been recommended to CLT by Séan O'Boyle of Columba Press. What seemed like an insurmountable task initially, became manageable when Jo was entrusted with this important research, and they found that she was a delight to work with. Jo had the gift of listening carefully and made selections and interpreted events in a manner that we could not do for ourselves. Maybe she could see things clearer than we could, who were in the middle of it… or as St Exupéry once wrote “The mountain to the climber is clearer from the ground”… I suppose in some ways it is impossible to write “The story” of any group but Jo has admirably penned “A Story” of the decades since 1947, in a remarkable narrative. As someone said to me later “many retain versions of the story in their hearts and these do not appear in the texts”. that also may be true, and perhaps certain parts of our story will be written only in heaven.

CLT had wisely invited Dr Margaret Mac Curtain OP, to launch New Horizons. Before actually doing so she shared some of her insights about the major prevailing influences, political, ecclesiastical, social, of the time. She challenged us to continue to be women of courage. With great sensitivity, she kindly congratulated us on many aspects of St Louis over these years. She mentioned how we adapted in the post Vat II era, and acknowledged our commitment to solidarity with the poor and underprivileged esp. with the introduction of free education in the south. She spoke of us as wonderful educators who also made the radical move into health Ministry when that was necessary. She was impressed by the quality of our Archives, and the way in which Acts of the Chapters were preserved for posterity! Having already read “New Horizons! she said that speaking as a historian this was a “thumping good read “. And the book was launched!

Uainín, on behalf of CLT, thanked all the Sisters and Associates who generously responded to being interviewed for this special project. She acknowledged that it was not an easy decision to make but one that called for humility, generosity and honesty, and for this she was grateful. She thanked Anne Jordan and Deirdre O’ Connor, who saw to all the practicalities, like setting up the interviews with Jo, making archival material available, arranging transport, accommodation and meetings…without which this
project could not have happened. She also thanked the “Advance Readers” who carefully read the draft copies saying, theirs was an important and time consuming task.

So now it is over to us to settle down to this “thumping good read” and whether we contributed to the book or not, we have all contributed to the story in one way or another over the years! Maybe for the next edition of “Seo & Siud” someone will draw our attention to some of the insights, images or memories in it, that have special meaning for them?

We concluded the Launch by joining with Uainin in “Sing we, Sing of a blessing”! We hope that wherever “New Horizons” is analysed, read, shared or passed on, memories of women of courage, hope, challenge, commitment and gratitude will be evoked, and that” a blessing of hope, a blessing of courage, a blessing of love, and a blessing of mercy”, will be showered down on all of us.  

Méabh Ní Uallacháin
Summer has not been good 2012, but dotted throughout many wet and cloudy periods, we have had some wonderful sunny days. Pentecost Sunday was one of them. Iona and Carrickmacross communities hosted the commitment day for the new Irish associates. Eighteen women and one man came here to Co Monaghan to join the St Louis Family in a very simple and yet formal ceremony. It was a joy-filled day and the new associates together with their facilitators from Belfast, Kiltimagh, Dundalk and Carrickmacross arrived in Iona house to a wonderful, warm welcome from Maureen, Margaret and Enda. They opened their hearts and their home to us. We had coffee, tea and homemade cakes on their delightful little patio. The sun was beaming down on the happy gathering, the birds were singing and there were flowers and shrubs blooming at this loveliest time of the year. We were reluctant to leave this idyllic place, but we had a schedule to keep.

The community room in the convent was beautifully prepared and Pauline Haughian welcomed us into this sacred space. Flowers and a themed altar reminded us that this was a very special occasion. Catherine Brennan, Director of the Associates in Ireland, welcomed us and explained that the sisters in the community were on retreat. Marie Byrne greeted us on their behalf. Catherine who had carefully prepared the booklet explained the ritual to us. There was music, song and prayers. A sacred dance, on the theme of fire, (the descent of the Holy Spirit), was performed by a group of Monaghan Associates. The recitation of the Act of Commitment is simple and moving, especially at the point when each new associate individually states what s/he is promising to do as a special ministry. Family, work, care of neighbours, the sick, the environment, prayer and mindfulness were general themes. The sisters present then publicly renewed their vows.

Anne Murray treated us to a beautiful reflection. Her opening lines summed up the feeling of all present: “This day was made by the Lord, we rejoice and are glad.” We celebrate the sending and receiving of the Holy Spirit in each one of us. She quoted St Paul “The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” She said that the commitment of our new Associates in the Irish Region is a moment of new life in the St Louis Family, a family born out of the dream of Turquestein, a dream of unity of heart and mind. Ut Sint Unum is never about uniformity but rather about rejoicing that notwithstanding our differences, together we reflect the incredible richness, radiance and beauty of our Creator God. Each of us is called to reflect this beauty in his/her own way. Certainly Anne gave us all much to reflect on and much to rejoice in. We also rejoiced in Anne’s special gifts.

After this inspiring ceremony we went out into the sunshine and walked the short distance to the Shirley Arms Hotel to enjoy a delicious meal. The hotel staff, adding to our festivity, served us with complimentary ice-cream and strawberries, the latter, a real treat, as they were the first fruits of the season. We shared stories and renewed friendships. It was a happy and relaxed occasion for all. Thank you to those who organised and hosted it.

Mary O’Connor

A poignant moment came my way on Pentecost Sunday, here in St.Louis, Carrickmacross when the “new” Associates were making their First Commitment. There we were, the Sisters, on Retreat, full of earnestness, and celebrating Mass in our Oratory, while overhead in our community room, 18 women (and a supporting caste of Sisters) held their commitment ritual, pledging themselves “to
Friday, June 8 and Sunday, June 10 saw the ceremony of Renewal of Commitment of two ‘clusters’ of Associate groups - in St. Louis House, Monaghan and Dun Lughaidh Convent respectively. Each cluster was accompanied by its facilitators and by a ‘supporting cast’ of local Sisters. All praise to the Dun Lughaidh Sisters who came away from the TV showing of the opening of the Eucharistic Congress on that very special day. All praise too to those who prepared the venues in both locations. Long ago, we would be thanking the ‘young Sisters’ for that help (did we ever really thank them?) but now we thank the ‘younger’ Sisters, one of whom, this year, was Sister Bridget Nwankwo from Nigeria and (latterly) from Merchants’ Quay, Dublin.

Unsurprisingly, the theme for this para-liturgy was bread and Eucharist. Four voices told of “God labouring, God giving birth, God rejoicing.....and humanity was born in the yearning of God. Then God said, ‘Let there be bread’. And God’s sisters and brothers, friends and lovers knelt on the earth, planted the seeds, prayed for the rain, sang for the grain, made the harvest, cracked the wheat, pounded the corn, kneaded the dough, kindled the fire, filled the air with the smell of fresh bread. And there was bread.....the earth was blessed and the bread is rising.” The enfleshment of God begot the Eucharist and our role today as God’s hands, feet etc. was clearly delineated for us in the reading aloud of de Voight’s poem, ‘Eucharist’.

Yes, we adored, shared and looked to the future. The Associates spoke their commitment, individually and collectively as appropriate – always a moving experience, being so real. Not to be outdone, the Sisters present renewed their particular vowed commitment to God and to SSL. Then, what better response than the sung Magnificat?

Our two speakers, Ann (Concannon) and Anita (Muldowney), were wonderfully challenging and profound. We were left in no doubt that our Eucharist, rather than being a ‘private devotion’, is a calling-forth to live the Christian life, whatever it demands, after the manner of Jesus Christ.

Towards the end, we gave the usual blessing with raised hands, first the Sisters to the Associates and then the Associates to the Sisters. At both venues, there followed some delicious refreshments and many happy encounters. A lot of thanks must go to those who brought these foods – mostly Associates, and to those who presented them. Our simple party was further enriched in Dun Lughaidh by stories from Sr.Bridget (Nwankwo) about our Associates in Nigeria, the leper-ministry there, and her helpful experience at Merchants’ Quay, Dublin.

The above is my account (on request) of the ‘doings’ in Monaghan and Dundalk this year. There were also renewals of commitment in Belfast, Bundoran, Dublin and Kiltimagh.  

Mary Jo Hand
Lough Derg is well known internationally as a place of penance and pilgrimage. It is called St Patrick’s Purgatory and many pilgrims will attest that it is indeed purgatorial. Not surprising, in keeping with the historical revisionism of our times, it is now said that St Patrick never was on the island. However it continues to be named after our patron saint and many St Louis sisters have over the years done the three day purgatorial pilgrimage. Indeed some few brave souls still do this on an annual basis. It was a tradition in some St Louis schools, in the middle years of the last century, for a whole year group to make this pilgrimage, at the end of the Leaving Cert. I did the pilgrimage a number of times and always intended to return. However, like many others, I procrastinated, not this year, not yet. Then I, like so many others, realised that we had missed the boat. We had gotten too old or too stiff or too whatever, to do one of the most challenging pilgrimages in Christendom.

When the Animation and Spirituality Group proposed a one-day pilgrimage to the Holy Island I was delighted. This was an opportunity to return and I would not be obliged to do the rigorous penances. Once we contacted Margaret Anne everything was arranged for us, and we just had make our way to the boat for the island before 10.00 am on Wednesday, August 22. Anne Murray, Una Agnew and I arrived as a huge shower was falling but we cheered up on seeing Méabh Ní Uallacháin on the shore to welcome us and to facilitate our embarking. On arrival on the island we were welcomed ashore by Maura Dempsey, Margaret Agnew and Noreen Murphy and ushered to a large dining room and served with tea and a buttered scone with jam. The contrast with our previous pilgrimages flooded our minds and made for lively conversation. We saw the other 20 SSLs we greeted each other joyfully. However the purpose of our coming was soon a reality. We had to hurry to the Basilica where Morning Prayers were about to start. This meant the 15 decades of the Rosary followed by the Stations of the Cross. The stations are set in the stain glass windows which are very beautiful. After this we went outside for further prayers led by the priests who direct the pilgrims. It was a welcome opportunity to get fresh air and to admire the beauty of the island and the lake. We then returned to the Basilica where more prayers were recited. There was a large crowd there. Some of us are not enamoured of long vocal prayers but it appeared that many pilgrims there loved it. In fact I was told that most would have felt cheated if they had been given quiet time. Wonderful diversity and we were all united on Lough Derg in prayer and petition.
After lunch, we, SSLs went to a beautiful room in Davóg House, for a lovely prayer service prepared by Méabh. We enjoyed the calm and peace of the place and the beauty of the stain glass windows. We had prayers, singing and sharing and felt that this was the high-light of our day. St Patrick’s Breastplate, and the Deer’s Cry as well as other readings from Scripture were aptly prayed. We had a period of silence to reflect on our own lives as women, as family, as St Louis Community, as Irish Region in 2012. We prayed for St Louis world-wide and for the needs of the world. We visited a special room dedicated to Scripture, which is truly inspiring. Our day of pilgrimage ended with a Mass celebrated by Monsignor Dick Mohan from Clogher Diocese and well known to many Sisters. We were reminded that, during the Eucharistic Congress, the Papal Legate and the Papal Nuncio visited this island as pilgrims. The Healing Stone, which was unveiled at the start of the Congress, has now been placed permanently at Lough Derg.

After Mass we hastened to the boats and in the long queue we had some time to once more admire the island. Lough Derg is a wonderful gift from our ancestors in the faith. A very special thank you to our Animation and Spirituality Group.

Mary O’Connor
What was it about that last Saturday in September? A day of pure magic! We had all been on a journey and had stopped off just to be at this place and this day 34 years after the last of us left Balla in the Summer of 1978, and here we were 120 wonderful people coming back to share our stories, to find each other and to remember. And among those wonderful people four special SSL's Marion McGreal, Anne Jordan, Margaret M Joyce agus me fein, Gabrielle, and we thought of all those who would love to have been there but who couldn't make it on the day. Another key guest was Pat Sheridan who was the link between the past and the future. Pat was the last vice principal in Louis times. He became the first principal of the new coed Balla school and served it for the next 30 years until his retirement a few years ago. Well done Pat! The gathering began appropriately in the little oratory which had been designated a sacred space from the day the first St Louis Srs arrived here in 1919 and had remained so ever since. All our lives had been touched in this place. We all had memories of popping in and out here as children with our youthful concerns, to pray, to pause, to celebrate, and now we were back to remember with affection and to say thanks for all that had been done.

Connections were made and friendships were reborn of our time in Balla on that special Saturday. Each of us had been touched in some unique way by this place. We came back with friends or met friends of long ago, people we had not met since those long ago days of the 70’s, 60’s, 50’s and 40’s, for all those years were represented that day. The sense of joy was palpable. The texture of the day was rich and diffuse. Here is where it all started. At the lunch the decibels rose and the cameras clicked and later we wandered round the familiar rooms.

And outside through the trees we saw the old remembered school buildings bathed afresh in the evening sunlight. It was as if nothing had changed and yet everything seemed new.

Finally as evening fell and the cars departed, the place became quiet again, enriched by our presence. The last image captured as we looked back from the gates was the beautiful tree lined avenue, still and peaceful, with a single figure in the far distance walking a dog in the evening sun.

Gabrielle OConnell

Our Recently Deceased

Sr Eileen Nolan

Born: 6 Dec 1924
Died: 27 June 2012
Dear Sisters, Denis (Phil's husband) and family, Bernie & Julie, my sisters, join with me in thanking you for your messages of sympathy & support, expressed by the many letters, phone calls, prayers and Masses offered for Phil who died in January 27th ...may she rest in peace. Your kindness and concern has been a source of great comfort to me and all the family at this sad and lonely time. Again sincere thanks. Holy Mass will be offered for your intentions. Mairead Conole

My dear Sisters, my brother, Michael, his children and I can never thank you enough for your prayers and support during Mary’s long illness. At the time of her death your prayers, Masses, letters and phone calls were deeply appreciated. A very special thank you to those who made the long journey to attend the funeral and to others who offered support and comfort in special ways. We were deeply touched and helped at this very sad time. Mass has been offered for your intentions. Mary O’Connor

Nuala Doherty and family sends send their thanks and gratitude to all who remembered her dear sister, Marie Watters. Your prayers were a great source of comfort to us.

We, Sisters Felicity, Claudine, Ethna and all the McEnnis Family, wish to thank very sincerely everyone who lovingly supported us, when our beloved brother Father Tom died. We are deeply grateful for all your Masses offered, your comforting letters and phone calls. Holy Mass has been offered for all of you.

Once more, on the death of a family member, I have been truly touched by your support and sensitivity. Though I have lost my last blood sister with Milann’s death, I have really been warmed and encouraged by the care of my St. Louis Sisters. Thank you so much for your presence at her funeral, your many letters, phone messages and Mass cards. May each of you be blessed in your own cares and concerns. Margaret Mary

Thank you, Sisters, for your kind expressions of sympathy on the death of my sister, Peg Ryan. Her family and I are deeply grateful for all the Masses and prayers offered for the happy repose of her soul. Your care and concern are deeply appreciated. Mary Hayes

Acknowledgements

Dear Sisters and Associates

Welcome to our Autumn Issue of ‘Seo Agus Siud’. We hope you had a relaxing summer in spite of all the rain! The Jubilarians will have their own special memories. Our warmest congratulations to them and also to the groups of Associates who made their First Commitment.

We pray that the recent meetings in Carrickmacross and Dublin and our ongoing discernment may be a source of new life for each one of us.

Our sisters on the England Mission are celebrating their Centenary. Our heartfelt congratulations to them, their colleagues and friends and also to all the Sisters who have ministered in England over the years.

We are now on our journey through Autumn when temperatures drop and light lessens. May all of us be uplifted by the presence and prayer of each other, especially all who are ill or vulnerable or have lost family members or friends. We remember with love and gratitude Sister Eileen Nolan who died in recent months.

Thank you so much for your articles, snippets and photos. A Winter approaches, we take heart when we remember that into a dark world a snowdrop comes.

With our warmest good wishes.

Barbara, Dympna, Mary, Méabh

Editorial

Two images from the Contradictions Workshop
Half a dozen St Louis sisters were among the 140 delegates from across Ireland and Britain who attended the first ever inter-church conference on the environment to take place on this island.

The theme of Eco-Congregation Ireland (ECI)’s inaugural conference, which took place in Dromantine Retreat and Conference Centre, in Sept, was “God’s Creation – Our Responsibility?”

ECI is an ecumenical initiative that encourages churches and communities to adopt an eco approach to worship, lifestyle, property and finance management, children’s and youth work, community outreach and contact with the developing world. The Roman Catholic, Church of Ireland, Methodist and Presbyterian churches are involved and the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Catherine Brennan SSL is chairperson and Catholic representative.

The other St Louis who attended the two-day event were Anne Kavanagh, Nuala Cole, Mary O’Connor, Ann Concannon, Breda O’Hanrahan and Una Agnew. A special thank to the regional team for their support. Margot Carty an associate from Dundalk, enjoyed the experience with us. Mary Connellan did a wonderful job of looking after everybody.

In his address, “Is the Bible Green? Reading Scripture Ecologically”, Prof David Horrell, Professor of New Testament Studies at the University of Exeter, suggested that, while the Bible did not offer a blueprint for creation or environmental ethics, passages like Psalms 19, 104 and Job 38 helped generate a positive vision of the value, beauty and ultimate worth of the whole earth.

"Our contemporary context, with its pressing environmental challenges, suggests the need for a fresh reading of the Bible, and a reconfiguration of the Christian tradition," he said. "Instead of focussing on humanity's importance and future salvation, we might draw on certain biblical texts to stress how God has entered into covenant with the whole earth, calls the whole universe in all its diversity to praise, and promises to liberate the whole creation from suffering and decay."

The other speakers were Dr Anne Primavesi, Fellow of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Study of Religion, Birkbeck College, University of London; Dr Alastair McIntosh, Fellow of the Centre for Human Ecology, Glasgow; Prof Stephen Williams, Professor of Systematic Theology at Union Theological College, Belfast; and Rev Peter-Owen Jones, Anglican vicar, author and television presenter.

Nineteen workshops were offered during the weekend, with topics ranging from ‘Ecology and the Economy’ and ‘Ecology and the Eucharist’ to ‘The Destruction of Biodiversity’, ‘God’s Creation and Poetry’ facilitated by Una Agnew SSL and ‘Awakening to the Spirituality of a New Earth Consciousness’.

An open, joyful and focussed atmosphere prevailed throughout, as a wide representation from across the island and beyond, all with common interests concerns and aims, worshipped, talked, ate and networked together—creating an almost tangible buzz in the most beautiful setting of Dromantine.

For further info and scripts of talks see www.ecocongregationireland.com. Catherine Brennan
Golden Jubilee Celebrations

The Golden Jubilee set of 2012 gathered in Dublin on August 10th, to celebrate our 50th Anniversary in St Louis. We had a wonderful day together, joyful and sunny. The eight of us - Barbara McArdle, Blathnaid McCauley, Brid Long, Dorothy McMahon, Eithne Woulfe, Fionnuala Cole, Pauline Johnson and Zelie Campbell - met in the morning in No 7 Grosvenor Road, to greet, ‘catch up’ with each others lives, and enjoy refreshments offered by the very welcoming Wakefield Community. Later in the morning we prayed together and renewed our commitment in a beautiful prayer service. In the late afternoon we set off for the Shelbourne Hotel. There we had a gala lunch, over which we lingered long, exchanging a lifetime of stories and experiences. Our celebration was greatly enriched by the greetings, good wishes, and prayers of our sisters and friends. We would like to thank all of you who sent cards, letters, masses, gifts and greetings, and to let you know how very much we appreciated your generosity and support on our special day.

“For all that has been - thanks. For all that will be – yes!” (Dag Hammarskjold )

Nuala Cole

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

The Diamond Jubilarians chose to celebrate their milestone in St. Louis House Monaghan where their journey began sixty years ago. It was a happy occasion summed up for us in the words of Anne Kavanagh who delivered the homily “ I think back in gratitude on you as young women who came with such a mixture of emotions to the steps of St Louis Monaghan or St Louis Ramsgrange”.

It was a time when the old order was changing and yielding place to the new. Aggiornamento was waiting on the wing. “If coping with change is what maketh one wise. Then our generation could compete for first Prize” (‘set ‘Poet!) Some who chose a different direction post Vatican II pondered on the question “What is the bond that has linked us together”? “Ut unum sint . Does that answer the question”? ( one who chose a different direction.)

Team work ensured that we had food for body and soul. The thought provoking liturgy was celebrated for us by the local parish Priest---reminiscent of Fr. Mc Gloin officiating at our Reception and Profession!

A highlight of the day was the presence of the sisters from the Monaghan Campus and some from Middletown as we enjoyed a light hearted trip down memory lane. We were very appreciative of the hospitality and support shown to us by the Motherhouse and other communities in Monaghan.

We remembered Margaret, Eilis and Lucy whom “God called home to himself at the time of his choosing” (homily). Marie planned to share the day with us but ill health prevented her from travelling. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope she will be with us as we live fully the next decade and meet again for our Platinum.

We left Monaghan enriched with happy memories and mementos of a special day. The Pansies “a pot for each” and the inspirational Plaques are yet further reminders of the meaning of real friendship which knows no barriers,

Teresa Clancy

It was 1952. And I hadn’t a clue
What about you….?
I hadn’t a clue about where I was going
Yet somehow I knew, yes I knew without knowing
That this was for me: I wanted to be
A Saint Louis nun. A Saint Louis nun that was ME.
Did even one of us know, as we came through that door
(Was it 30 or more of us?) What was for us in store?
We were shy and self-conscious; felt butterflies…..fears?
There were stars in our eyes. We were holding back tears.

And look at us now, so sedate, so MATURE.
No “Hands up your sleeves, please!” No looking demure.
What is the bond that has linked us together?
Since no two among us has had the same weather.
There’ve been ups and downs; there’ve been ins and outs
There’ve been moments of rootedness; moments of doubt.
Yet here we are gathered, a right motley group
With each one, we hope, feeling still in the look.
And this despite years of living apart,
Oceans between us; different interests at heart.

After Professions…..what next, you may say?
But the 15 of August, what Dread Changes Day!
We were exported, mere fledglings! Without consultation!
Expected to greet this with youthful elation.
Be it L.A……U.K……Ireland……Africa……France
You packed up your trunk and went off in a trance.
You landed in worlds quite beyond what you’d reckoned,
‘Cos that was the way of it. “Dieu le Veult” beckoned!

We started off warily, learning the ropes.
Superiors…? Some of them thought they were POPES
But work kept you busy and sane….Sometimes stressed,
Pretending to know what was what (more or less)!
Thank god there were Visitors, Parlour and Letters
And kindly advice from our elders and betters.
With the passage of time your self confidence grew
So you ploughed your own furrow; maybe tried something new
There were laughs; there were tears. And ALLsorts in between.
You weren’t alone. You were part of a team.
(excepts from epic composed for the Jubilee by Kitty Fitzsimons)