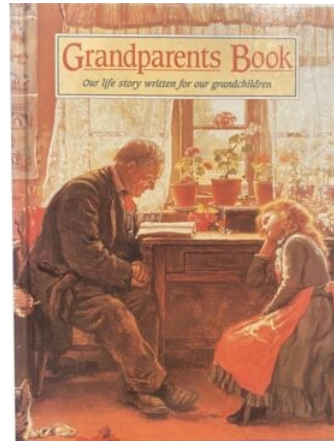


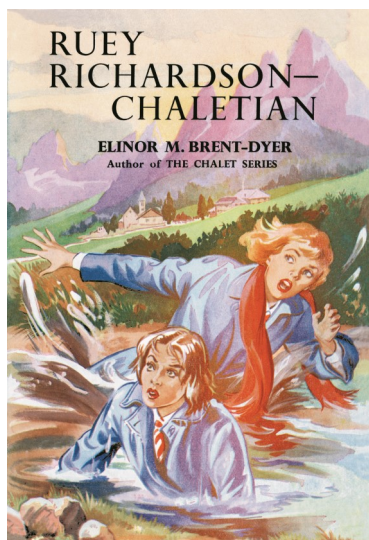
easy. When my sister and I were children, we would have a warm comforting bath in a large tin bath in front of the kitchen fire during our winter stays there. What my parents and grandparents did for winter washing I never did know! Although there was a bathroom upstairs it was freezing and icy and made one shiver; the house had no central heating, and with the winds blowing straight off the North Sea, any room without a fire burning was bitterly cold.”



Lockdown Reading and Writing

Jessie Collins “Reading about the ‘journal of a lifetime’ reminded me of a similar book which our daughter-in-law gave to us, when my husband and I were about to make our first visit to our daughter and family after their move to the USA. It was called *The Grandparents’ Book* and it contained lots of prompts about various times in our lives, from schooldays onwards, with space to write about each prompt, space to record names of friends and family members, and pages for photographs. It was quite a big book, and we had enough space for each of us to record our own memories. We spent time preparing it, and putting in the photographs before our journey, and our three grandsons loved it when we showed it to them. The oldest boy found a special place for it, where it could be found and perused when they wished. Sadly, that was the only visit which both of us made because I lost my dear husband shortly afterwards, but there was a special joy for me in visits I made alone. My oldest grandson would always bring out that book at some point and sit with me, saying ‘Lets look at this and talk about Granddad’.”





Colleen at the Staff Evening. Using her artistic skills, Clare fashioned the costume out of green and scarlet crepe paper, and daringly discarded her shoes and stockings for greater authenticity. Rather surprisingly there is no record of Matey exploding with wrath at Clare's barefoot appearance! (*Ruey*)

Friendship between Josette Russell and Clare develops in the closing days at school. Suggesting Clare will be a worthwhile member of the Tennis Six, Josette cites her friend's "demon twist" serve, and says the pair had stayed together over the holidays to perfect their playing style. (*Trick*)

Joining her peers at St Mildred's, Clare was allocated the role of Adeliza in the pantomime Beauty and the Beast. This being the panto when Con Maynard was drafted in at a

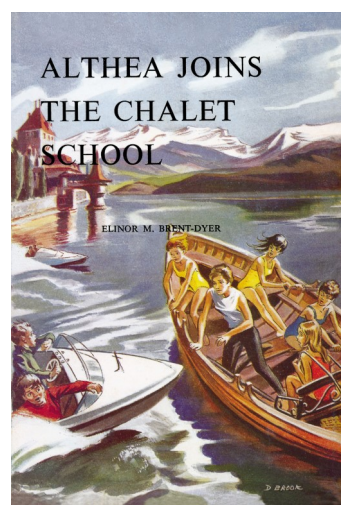
moment's notice, to undertake the title role. (*Triplets*)

With her schooldays having ended we would seem we have heard the last of Clare. But, no! In the penultimate book of the series, (*Althea*) mention of Clare saves the day!

Clare had been "very happy" at the Chalet School says her cousin Dr Dermot Kennedy, before he suggests Althea Glenyon, be enrolled as a pupil. Althea's parents are set to embark on a year- long voyage, having intended to leave the girl with her aunt, this would have delayed her wedding to Dr Kennedy! Dermot Kennedy says Clare was sent to the Chalet School because her sister was at the Görnetz Platz Sanatorium. Of course, Clare had attended the school during its English sojourn but that's EBD!

Clare, now worked in London, as a Personal Secretary, but there is no further mention of her in the remaining Chalet School books.

Despite being overshadowed by Mary-Lou and her cohorts, Clare Kennedy managed to be an attractive character, and she added background colour and charm to the Chalet School stories.



I am aware Clare is sometimes spelt "Claire" but in the majority of references to Clare Kennedy, it's without the "i". I have therefore chosen not to include useless information about the difference spellings.



Frieda to bring her paper, blotchy and her fountain pen. Jem noticed Joey's ink stained fingers, because she would not bother to fill the fountain pen, when she was busy writing. Later on, Jem, noticing her ink stained fingers when writing, gave Joey a fountain pen. In *Jo Returns*, she went into Innsbruck shopping for Matron and came back with another fountain pen, paper and ink, to do more writing. Much later on in the series, Tessa de Bersac (Simone's daughter) was seen going to see Matron to get a clean dress, as she had spilled ink

all over hers. In a short story competition, Sybil inherits Joey's old school blazer and hates it, because not only was it too large but it was all ink stained.

No, I do not think that the Chalet school used ball pens - they are now cheap and often given away by firms. When I graduated in 1956, we were instructed on the exam papers to write with pens fitted with nibs. I do not know when that rule changed.

Moreton House School, Dunstable by Susan French



I was interested to read Jilly Day's article on noted women of Dunstable, which included Elinor M. Brent-Dyer. It seems her profile is not great in the town. I have been looking on a website called:

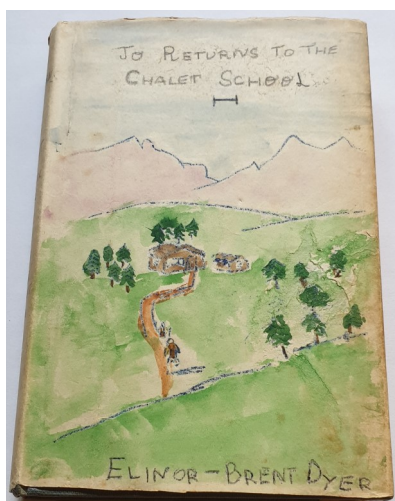
dunstablehistory.co.uk which has some information on Moreton

House School. From the 'Home' page, click the tab 'Archives,' select 'Newsletters', 'index MNO', and there is a one-line entry: "Moreton House School, connection with Elinor Brent-Dyer, author of books for children."

This leads to a newsletter of the *Dunstable & District Local History Society* No. 46 August 2016, and in the final paragraph of the newsletter we read:

"ELINOR BRENT-DYER wrote around 100 books for children, and was particularly famous for the Chalet School series for girls, which has been constantly in print from 1925 until the present. She died in 1969 aged 75. We now learn that she once worked as a

much was it?) because I can't relate to the cover picture of the Chalet! Ridiculous I know because, as the old saying goes, you can't judge a book by its cover. However, to me the proper cover is Jo on a blue background burning her manuscript. This is also for ever Jo's proper hairstyle in my mind, even though I know she wore her hair in earphones and not in a short slightly bouffant 1960s style. I could have solved the problem simply by buying a hardback copy without a dust jacket at all but for the



most part I am trying, where I do buy hardback Chalet books, to get them with dust jackets. So far, I have just one without because it was a bargain in my favourite second hand bookshop, and I couldn't resist.

In the end I got round this problem of the cover for *Jo Returns* quite neatly when on eBay I stumbled across a 1955 hardback reprint. It didn't have the original dust jacket, but it did have a rather charming hand drawn dust jacket by a previous child owner that appealed to me greatly. It was still a picture of a chalet but not trying to copy the original, just a child's visualisation of a generic sort of chalet nestling below the mountains. At the end of the day, I am collecting for my own pleasure, and I want to smile when I see a book – it's eye candy as well as brain fodder

and a comfort blanket. Since then, I have also seen that another hardback edition of the book, not sure whether it was from the 50s or 60s, has a dust jacket picturing Jo in her bedroom with her hair in long plaits. That also would have done the job very well. Maybe I need to get a copy of that one someday too. Oh dear.

This leads me on to another question: is it acceptable to take the dust jacket off one book and place it on a different copy of the same book (so that one might end up with a better condition – or even signed – copy but in an original dust jacket rather than without one)? How much would it matter if they were from different publication years, as long as the cover picture would have been the same? How do you feel about photocopied dust jackets? A good way to replace a missing one or somehow not “pure” enough?

Some books are beautiful without a dust jacket because they have decorated boards, for example *Judy the Guide* and *A Thrilling Term at Janeways*. It seems to me from my - admittedly limited - research at this point that the earlier a book was first published the more likely the first edition is to have decorated boards, but no dust wrapper as far as I can make out. If anybody has early examples of a book with both decorated boards and a dust jacket, I would be interested to hear about them.

