

# THE OLD BEDAN

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1989

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## COMMEMORATION: **IMPORTANT NEWS** from Cathedral

Please make a note of these dates in your diary before you begin to read the magazine. In particular — Read page 1!

**FRIDAY Jan. 26th 1990** WINTER RE-UNION hopefully in Needlework Room in School, 7.00 p.m. — 9.30 p.m. Price approx. £2-50

**FRIDAY April 27th 1990** ANNUAL DINNER in the Puffing Billy on the sea front, in the William Hedley Suite (this is on the ground floor, entrance from the car park or, at the south end of building.) Cost approx. £12. Please book a full week in advance.

**TUESDAY June 19th 1990** SUMMER RE-UNION at 7.00 p.m. in the Ramside, Durham.

**FRIDAY Sept. 28th 1990** ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING in School at 7.30 p.m. A plea from the Committee that more Beilans will attend to voice their wishes!

Books for sale: 10 copies each of the booklets by Peter J. Thompson on the work of the School of Music, 1980-1989, £2.00 each, and by John J. P. on the work of the School of Art, 1980-1989, £2.00 each.

For the benefit of those who are new to this work with Cathedral — both before and since the 1980-1989 period — in the summer of 1991, when the magazine will have volume 21, issues 1-4 will also feature a Tutorial College. The Tutorial College students have already shown the best of their talents in the volume of 1990, when I had the pleasure of presenting them to the Cathedral.

So far the Home Schooling group, School of Arts, have started well — and I hope the Tutorial College will work on the Tutorial Tutors' School well too.

The next School Day (Admission Free) will be on the 14th August, 10.00-12.00. The address is 20-41, including the Puffing Billy, from Dr. G. A. Murray, via the National Archive, Wigan.

# Bede School Centenary

1890 — 1990

Commemoration Service, Durham Cathedral

2.30 p.m. Saturday April 28th 1990.

This Celebration and Thankgiving Service in Durham Cathedral is by courtesy of the Dean and Chapter. It will be conducted by the Reverend Canon Dr. G. A. Wheale and Rev. Arnold Wright, (both old Bedars).

There is to be an exhibition in the Sunderland Museum and Art Gallery opening on April 15th 1990.

A Centenary Booklet is being produced and will be available in February 1990. There is a Centenary Plate available by courtesy of Corning, Price £2.00 also Ties and Scarves.

The Ties are woven with full crest and stripes on navy blue £4.00. The Scarves are square with full crest on navy blue with white or gold border £4.00 (Please state coloured border).

Order may be made now on the order form. Cheques to be made payable to Bede School Centenary Fund, and sent to Mr. J. R. Auld at the school or to Miss D. I. Wilkinson G.O.B. Secretary.

For the benefit of those who are not in close touch with Sunderland — Bede School as we knew it will cease to exist in the summer of 1991, when the last scholars will have taken 'O' levels. It will then become a Tertiary College. The Tertiary College students have already started and the full quota will be there by the summer of 1991, when it may be known as Wearside Tertiary College — Bede Centre.

So far the Boys School or upper School has been gutted and re-furnished as a Tertiary College and work on the Girls or Lower School will follow.

The Bede School War Memorials were re-dedicated on Saturday 11th November 1989. The service at 10.45 a.m. was led by the Reverend Canon Dr. G. A. Wheale and the Reverend Arnold Wright.

# GUILD OF OLD BEDANS

Office Bearers and Committee 1988—90

## Vice—Presidents

Mrs. A. A. Y. Carrick, Mrs. E. I. Kirkwood

## Chairman

Lily Richardson (Lawson) 9, Rock Lodge Road, Sunderland.  
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Elsie White (Bailey) Tel. 5484943; Iris Harvey (Bennett) Tel. 5489259;  
Joyce Plemper (Westwick) Tel. 5367225; Margaret Laidlaw Tel. 5227529;  
Marjorie Calvert Tel. 5672739.

New members are joining us — largely as a result of "class" re-unions which have been taking place, but more are welcome. Irene will be ready, willing and able to receive your subscriptions £1 for Annual Subscriptions and £5 for Life Members. Do not forget to use your "school name" and put married name — if applicable in brackets.

Also please remember to notify Joan Hayton if you change your address or we'll lose touch with you and your magazine will not arrive safely.

#### WINTER RE-UNION — January 27th 1989

It was a cold windy night as we picked our way through the chaos of re-building work at our new venue — the Staff Room.

Inside was a different world, bright and warm, a sea of smiling faces and barely room to drop a pin between tables and chairs. There were many new faces and much noisy conversation during which raffle tickets were sold.

Calling for silence our Secretary read out various notices and on stopping to refer to her notes, exclaimed "Don't start talking again" — causing much laughter.

Our Chairman then rose to bid us welcome and announced the first game. Printed sheets were handed round and we struggled to find the names of twelve birds written backwards — easier said than done.

The second game was hilarious, each person receiving a paper cut-out tee shirt front bearing one half of a slogan and then to find one's other half e.g. 'I love my job' — 'It's just the work I hate'. In a mad Scramble in the crowded room the successful pairs then were rewarded at the 'Lucky Dip' with a Presto's Crunchie.

Having talked ourselves almost hoarse, the arrival of supper and a revising "cuppa" were most welcome. Served, miraculously without accident, by a most efficient and sprightly committee, dodging tables and chairs, were sandwiches, single & double mushroom vol-au-vents, quiche and a choice of cream cake — or creamless flan!!

Mention was then made of the forthcoming centenary of Bede School and requests for memorabilia etc. from guests present and absent friends.

Then came the raffle of biscuits, tights, toiletries and even a dish and bookmark from the Nordic Centre in York. One prize in particular raised a laugh at our table when the lucky winner received a pair of knickers.

Finally and all too soon, it was time to depart, back into the dark night that now seemed less forbidding than on arrival — so much for the warmth of Bedeans' friendship.

Many thanks to the committee and all concerned for a most enjoyable and memorable evening.

Joan Marshall (St. Julian)

#### ANNUAL DINNER — April 21st 1989.

The April weather hadn't changed: the Seaburn Hotel ballroom hadn't changed — yet, though this was to be our last meeting in it before massive alterations.

Outside, all was change on the sea-front. The beginnings of a fountain structure at the roadabout, a huge amusement arcade in the making, with a Morrison's Supermarket lined up along Whitburn Road from the hotel onwards.

However, the happy chatter of Old Bedans was the same as ever, when they re-discovered school friends, found seats from the table plans, settled in them for a hearty meal of mushroom soup, poached salmon, apple strudel, coffee & chocolate biscuits — delicious. Alas, our Chairman Jean Koch (Matias) had 'flu' and was too poorly to attend so Lily Richardson (Lawson) our Vice-Chairman presided. The meal over, we stood to sing the School Song, Winnie Scott accompanying on a piano (out of tune and with a sticking note).

How prophetic were the words of Miss M. L. V. Hughes when she wrote "He looked forward, so must we and toil for the ages yet to be and for those who shall take our place". We sang lustily — the song now pitched lower but during the course of the evening there was a request for the key to be lowered further — we'll soon be BASSO PROFUNDO.

Miss Bradbury and Audrey Carrick, Vice-Presidents were present and other ex-members of staff. We were also pleased to see Mrs. Bell; Valeria Northoppe; Betty Coates (Wilkinson); Ethel Forman (Towers); Dorothy Pullan (Hunter); Audrey Hudson (Henderson); Mary Arkless (Robinson).

We stayed 'put' after the meal as the entertainment was a one-man show, literally, Mr Alan Lawson talked of "Aspects of Humour". We chuckled at his examples of school children's howlers, faux pas, double entendres and mal-a-propos. He also knew when to stop — and left us time to chat if we wished. Some folk had to go for taxis and lifts at 10.00 p.m. but others lingered for more talk with friends.

It didn't seem quite so bleak and cold as we left the hotel to go outside. Could it have been the out-going warmth of an Old Bedan gathering that we left feeling better? (I make no apology for repeating the sentiments, expressed by Jean, of the Winter Re-union).

Our thanks as always to Irene Wilkinson and the Committee for arranging another pleasant re-union.

W. Thomas

#### SUMMER RE-UNION — June 6th 1989 at The Ramside, Durham

Someone mentioned EVACUATION and the floodgates of memories opened and Marjorie Calvert and Margaret Laidlaw kept a group of us entranced with their flow of tales.

All of us agreed that it was a most unsettling experience, and I, for one, had no wish to return to the district until recently. There were, of course, kind hostesses and some lighter, happier moments. Many people learned to love country life with its slower pace fitting the natural rhythm of the seasons.

So enthralled were we with our conversation that most of the other groups were saying goodnight and leaving — (we were last and quite late) before some of us had said "Hello".

Another very pleasant gathering where some people had soft drinks or snacks, others a substantial meal — pots of tea or coffee, or something stronger.

Our thanks to Irene for making arrangements once for an increasingly well supported event.

Jean Brewis (Miltons)

#### LOAN & SCHOLARSHIP FUND REPORT 1989

A total of £189 was available. Although there was a much longer list of girls who might have qualified this year (30 as opposed to 20 in 1988) it was agreed by the Committee to limit the awards to those girls who had the best results in their A-levels. Twelve girls were awarded sums ranging from £25 to £25 (168) and a sum of £21 was put aside for next year for girls who came into the highest scoring category but had elected to re-sit A-levels before going on to Higher Education in 1990. This year we had five girls who achieved at least two 'A' grades at A-level and two of them were successful in gaining places at Cambridge. Justine Merton is reading Political Sciences at Christ's College and Lisa Richardson is reading History at Pembroke.

D. Snow, Senior Tutor

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The A.G.M. was held on Friday 29th September 1989 in the Needlework Room, Bede School at 7.30 p.m. and 16 were present. Apologies for absence were received from Win Scott (Thomas); Jessie Plummer (Westwick); Lynn Batey (Forster); Margaret Chapman (Harter); Margaret Laidlaw and Marjorie Calvert.

The Minutes of A.G.M. 1988 were read, adopted and signed. The Secretary gave a report of meetings held during the year.

The Treasurer was pleased to report a credit on the year's workings of £85.31 all due mainly to the many kind donations received.

The retiring Chairman, Jeanne Koch (Maltas) then said that she was honoured to have been Chairman for the last two years. She passed the chain of office to the new Chairman Lily Richardson (Lawson) and wished her happiness for her term of office. Anne Mitchell (Crowe) gave the Social Service report, also the magazine report in which she said that she had received more letters this year. Many of these contain interesting news which will be useful.

Dates for Re-unions for 1990 were discussed and these will be printed in the magazine.

The Centenary of Bede School in 1990 was discussed and details will be printed in the magazine.

The meeting closed with tea and biscuits.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

The membership on 31.8.89 is 465 of which 2 are new annual members, 25 are life members and 4 have become life members.

There have been 3 committee meetings, the A.G.M. and 3 re-unions.

The A.G.M. was held on Friday 10th September 1988 in the Needlework Room in the Home Economics department, Bode School, 14 attended.

The Winter Re-union was also held in Bode School on Friday January 27th 1989. It was in the Staff Room which used to be the Sixth Form Common Room. There were 100 present and although there was not a lot of room we managed to enjoy the games provided by Lily Richardson (Lawson) who did an excellent job all on her own. We were sorry Deacon Staniforth (Stuart) was ill and unable to help Lily with the games. The supper by "Something Special" was once again enjoyed by all.

The raffle raised £51.50 for Social Services Funds. Many thanks to all those who kindly gave raffle prizes.

The Annual Dinner was at the Seaburn Hotel on Friday April 21st 1989 and 102 attended.

The Summer Re-union was at the Ramside Hotel on Tuesday June 6th 1989 and 42 members were present.

The Guild of Old Bedans were represented at the Bode School Prize giving by Joan Hayton and Jeanne Koch (Malta). The Guild of Old Bedans prize was £25.

The Guild of Old Bedans have lost a good friend due to the death of Miss J. E. Bradbury. She was present at the Annual Dinner in April and we were all very sorry when she died so soon after that.

Thanks to Jeanne Koch (Malta) for her kind hospitality for our committee meetings. Thanks too to all the committee who have been ready and willing to help to make meetings a success.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to report a credit on the year's working this year of £85.31. This is mainly due to the generous donations we have received from members amounting to £116.50.

As postages are increased again in October, so this will increase our costs for the magazine.

The balance on 31.8.89 is £1,170.54. The Balance Sheet shows how this is made up.



## GUILD OF OLD BEDANS SOCIAL SERVICE REPORT 1989

— A.G.M. September.

Since the last A.G.M. the Social Service Committee have met three times, — November 1988 and March 1989 and earlier this evening. We have only 4 recipients on our books now — our younger man and her four daughters have now moved to Washington and man has re-married so we feel the need for help from us no longer exists.

We are sorry Elsie Hooker — our longest serving Committee Member — has now had to give up her house and is in a residential home in Thornhill Park. She is fairly well and has been visited by members of the Committee and other Old Bedans.

If anyone knows of someone who would appreciate the small monetary help we can give and a visit — please let us have their names and addresses and we will follow it up.

We would like to thank most sincerely all those who have sent us donations — and in particular the Caratsa players who still provide the greater part of our income.

Anne Cross

### SOCIAL SERVICE

#### STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS SEPTEMBER 1989

Income		Expenditure	
Caratsa Parties	£111.00	Harvest Gifts	£50.00
Donations	£73.50	Christmas Gifts	£50.00
Committee's Coffee Collections	£4.55	Easter Gifts	£75.00
Raffle at Winter Re-union	£51.50		
Collection at Dinner	£34.20		
Interest	£2.84		
Balance from 1988/9.	£58.75	Balance in Hand	£161.32
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	£336.32		£336.32

W. M. Robinson (Hon. Treasurer).

### THE LONDON BRANCH

We met for lunch as usual in October 1988 and May 1989, Nancy and I acting as hostesses.

Kathleen Young (Craggs) told us about her six week caravan tour of France with her husband and this year they toured in Scandinavia.

Liz Keeler (Barton) wrote to say she and her husband were to visit Ecuador, Columbia and Venezuela, as their Peru tour had been such a success. We are expecting to hear all about her experiences in South America when she comes up from Devon to the re-union next May.

Eleanor Wilson (Tilberidge) Was with us for the last time in May as she and her husband were to leave the Darwin Museum, where he was custodian, and retire to Pickering, Yorkshire. We have all promised (threatened?) to visit her in route for Co. Durham! We shall miss her lively conversation very much and wish her and Phillip a long and happy retirement.

Next year, at our May re-union, we will raise our glasses in celebration of Bede School's Centenary — we all have happy memories of our years as Bedes.

Doreen Ward (Marrac).

## STAFF NEWS

It was with much regret that we learned of the death of Miss Bradbury, a matter of weeks after attending the Annual Dinner this year. She will be greatly missed in many circles.

### Miss E. J. Bradbury

In September 1899 Miss Bradbury came to "the Bede" where three distinguished headmistresses had, since its inception in 1890, rendered the school long and devoted service and built up a fine tradition. Though circumstances denied Miss Bradbury the opportunity of matching her predecessors in length of service (she was able to stay but seven years and a term, just long enough to see one generation of girls pass through the school) she proved that she was able to match their high standards in devotion to the school, in the maintenance of traditions and in the encouragement of progressive ideals and practice within its walls.

The School at the moment when Miss Bradbury took over was still in midst of a programme of building expansion. Her equable disposition and quiet calm in the midst of turmoil were pleasingly reassuring and, once the alterations had been completed, were clearly reflected in the even tenor of the life of the school.

Under her the school continued to grow in size yet its organisation remained unobtrusively efficient. The general demand for a broadening of sixth form education was reflected in the ever widening scope of minority time activities. Science became more readily available for all and experiments with unstreamed first forms were begun.

Soon Miss Bradbury not only knew her staff but acquired a surprising acquaintance with and knowledge of most of the girls in the school — not just the very good or very bad! Her interest in the individual together with her friendly and sympathetic understanding earned the respect and affection of both staff and

pupils and contributed largely to the sense of community still fostered in the school despite its growing size.

The riotous concert which marked Miss Bradbury's departure from Bede was, as it were, a mask concealing a genuine sorrow at parting — but all wished her well as she went to face the challenge and adventure of building up the new school at Pennywell — which in turn bade her farewell when she became headmistress of Thornhill.

Miss Bradbury's abilities and achievements in the field of education were recognised beyond the confines of her schools. She was President of the Sunderland Branch of the Headteachers' Association, a member of the Headmistresses' Executive Committee and eventually their elected President, schools representative on the University Grants Committee, a member of the Schools Council as well as the Council of the University of Durham and a governor of Sunderland Polytechnic and the colleges of St. Hild and Venerable Bede. The award of C.B.E. in 1970 was well merited.

Despite all these demanding educational interests and responsibilities, she still found time for other things, being a President of the Sunderland Branch of the Royal College of Nursing, and a member and one time President of the Seropitists Club.

Her hospitality was warm and generous. Many women members of her three Sunderland staffs will recall with delight the New Year coffee mornings at Cliffe Court as well as the wonderful evenings when she provided refreshments (delicious for home baked) followed by a stimulating commentary on the beautiful slides taken during her adventurous holidays in distant lands. The surviving members of Bede Girls' School staff have happy memories of the extra retirement parties which became the excuse for an annual nostalgic get together.

In retirement Miss Bradbury was as energetic and venturesome as ever: she lived life to the full and will now be sadly missed.

A. A. Y. Carrick

When Miss Bradbury first came to Bede as headmistress, the Old Bedes were glad to welcome her to their meetings in her official capacity. She mingled quietly and pleasantly with us all, and seemed to enjoy being there. She chuckled at the antics of the G.O.B.S. when they entertained at our Dinner — led by the late Mary Mackintosh and laughed heartily when they sang "What did you think when you came to Sunderland?"

What did you think when you first saw Bede?  
and then went on to warn her:-

"First ten years are the worst Bradbury".  
Infact in no time at all she became one of us. We will miss seeing her among us at our meetings; we are glad to have known you Miss Joyce Bradbury, Honorary Old Bede.

W.T.

## STAFF NEWS

I was delighted that Miss Peters has sent us some snippets which I'm sure will bring back many memories.

"I mentioned once that I might write a few anecdotes for the Old Bedan and now I have been rung up — "We are short of material — can you help?"

My time on the staff — fifty years ago was very happy. The members of staff were hard-working and helpful and the girls would work and play and do whatever was asked. Even those without much aptitude did their best. Is it daunting to write so often on a report — "Tried Hard"?

I remember — do any of you remember?

1. Among all the excellent games players I can still see three.

Jenny Hey for her excellent centre-half play and the way she held and fed her team. I think Jenny captained Durham County Junior Hockey Team for three seasons.

Dorothy Grierson who could with no effort "chuck" a ball further than anyone else and who had terrific tenacity as a hockey half-back.

Connie Simpson (left handed) who nonchalantly "swiped" a rounders ball and always made enough rounders for us to win the match. Connie was first class at all games.

2. The day the staff played the girls at hockey. With difficulty we raised ten players and Winnie Scott kindly made eleven. Miss Bonnie Smith was in the centre — Miss Arkle was a back; Miss Sirk was a half and Miss Moyal was left wing — I can remember no more. We played 15 minutes each way. It was all good humoured. I have forgotten the result.

3. The time the school gargled.

There was an epidemic and Miss Moyal ordered Gargling. This was to be done in the P.E. lesson! Miss Littlehales had some large jugs and made a brew with salt and water — she also supplied mugs. — We decide 3 mouthfuls would be enough — so before the lesson the girls gargled — in a row by the downstairs basin. The epidemic lessened and the school was left on its honour to gargle at home.

Time passed and one morning from the platform Miss Moyal said 'Stand up any girl who has not gargled today' — the usual hush and then from the body of the hall Joan Tweedie stood up. I admired Joan Tweedie from that day forward. Do you remember Joan?

4. One summer after a terrible juggling of time tables every form went swimming — all the way to High Street Baths. It was, from the girls' and my point of

view, a great success and how kind the staff were, not one complained (to me) about the dripping girls who often returned late to their classes.

5. The Venerable Bede had (I think it was) a Centenary and we all went to Durham for the day. It was a splendid day in every respect except that the reserve seats didn't exist and there were no toilets arrangements.

Over the years I have appreciated many visits and re-visits from Old Bedans, I couldn't always get the names but I recognised their faces — except for one who stood on the doorstep. I couldn't place her and she caused me some embarrassment by just saying "Guess who I am". Now, I don't remember who she was.

P. M. Peters

Miss Carrick celebrated her 90th birthday at the retirement home at Roker where she is now happily settled. She was joined by Miss Carlin and other close friends — this on the day the rest of us were at the Annual Dinner.

Miss Wiggott is now over 90 years old and in a home in Cheltenham.

Miss Laura Millbanke had the honour of lighting a peace candle at a vigil at Bishopwearmouth Church by the Sunderland Branch of the United Nations of which Laura is branch Secretary

## NEWS

Marie Winters (Patterson) with a little persuasion from Lucy Mills (Davidson) wrote from Hexham of their visit on September 2nd to Richmond "to recapture their youth and recall life as evanescens 50 years ago" —

"The nostalgic smell and noise of the railway station were replaced with the rattle of cash tills and the scent of flowers from a garden centre. Lucy, with her new camera, was able to record the changes, showing rather sadly, a boarded up Methodist Church, where we assembled each morning and Lucy learned the School Song.

The Girl's High School, where we received part-time education, was noted as we wended our way to see where Lucy stayed in French Gate. Then towards the river, the castle dominating the vista which embraced the Boys Grammar School, where the other half of our learning was recorded. Continuing round the Castle walk, with views of Billy Banks Wood, we approached my billet, which is now an Opticians and Hairdressing Saloon, overlooking the Market Place which remains unchanged. On our final route, we passed Lennox House, another seat of learning, as we made our pilgrimage to Easby Abbey.

For posterities sake we purchased an aerial photograph of the town, to be treasured with our memories in the years to come."

Marjorie Sparling is now in sheltered accommodation.

During the year a letter from Annie Shield (Hill) from Whitburn recalled that as an old, Old Bede who went to Bede in 1923, there was no regular bus service from Whitburn to Seaburn so she had to stay with an aunt during the week and return home at weekends.

Jane Thompson (Birlison) was invited to a Gala Dinner at the Albert Hall by her son and she met and was photographed with James Lunt, who makes all his records with her son's company.

"The travelling gang" who meet for lunch in the Blue Bell some Tuesdays are hoping to go to Hebington (Kendal) in April. Anyone wishing to join them ring 5483756.

Kathleen Young (Craggs) wrote from Pinner saying that she sees Elsie Lynn (Turner) during the year and how sorry she was to miss the 1937 re-union and hopes there will be a "repeat". Her Ruby Wedding party was a mini — Bede re-union in itself with Elsie Lynn; Dorothy Young (Wheldon) and her daughters; Gillian — now Parker; Pat now Cole; Rita Craggs (Young) and Audrey Smith (Dowley) all attending. Even five Old Bede husbands were there! She has also met Flora Broderick (Allen) for a short visit.

Ellen Whiting (Davison) sent a lovely letter recalling the war years — when she and her husband-to-be did not meet for seven years and each had only a faint memory of what the other looked like. Eventually — at Kings Cross Station Ellen followed an unknown airman who began to look hunted and Max was doing likewise to an equally hunted lady. Still, all was well when they came face to face.

Mary Henderson (Lewis) was a Northern Echo Wordsquare winner and is now quite fascinated with her prize of a satellite dish receiver.

Dorothy Caslaw (Hannay) has been accepted as a champion show judge for dachshunds.

Sheila Snowball (Richardson) has moved to Threkeld in the Lake District.

Beryl Schwan is working as a pharmacist in town. At the re-union of the 1939 'starters' — obviously all now over 80 years of age — they were being persuaded — or maybe co-erced into becoming Life Members of the Guild when one of them queried whether it was worth it at that great age! Eleven of them, however, did become Life Members.

Hazel McCree (Emslie) writes from Cambridge where she has been working at the Medical Research Council Applied Psychology Unit. She is still in regular contact with Betty Howat and Norma Gray.

Marjorie Bailie writes from Saltburn where she is one of a six doctor group based in Skelton. She is in touch with Christine Charlton who teaches at Ripon Grammar School and is head of the Girls boarding house. Elspeth McLoughry (Pincott) is moving from Sheffield to Kerr and Annabella Carr (Acock) emigrated to Australia and is happily settled.

Brenda Cave (Danaher) writes from Beafall-on-Sea and she would love to hear from any of her school friends — particularly any that were in 'Alice in Wonderland'. Marjorie Edwards; Jean Dunnett; Rita Sheriff; Peggy Turner; Margaret West; Mary Wilson; Marjorie Telford. (I met Peggy Turner's sister recently and she told me Peggy had emigrated to Australia some time ago!)

Lillian Hamman (Covey) now lives in Barbary (Oxon.).

Whilst trying to organise the "1939 starters" re-union, Maureen Richardson (Robson) had a call from a very old Bede who lived near her in Northallerton — Stella Lawson (McNaught) who started Bede in 1914 and eventually retired as Headmistress of a local school 25 years ago. Maureen visited Stella and has promised to pass on news of their re-union. Also, at a Townswomen's Guild dinner in Bishop Auckland she was "found" by Joyce Robson (Wollage) who subsequently attended the proposed re-union and brought along Eileen Young. A further phone call from Elizabeth Lax (Manners) enquiring about Brenda Jackson or Elsie Lawson, who were evacuated to Miss Lax — near Richmond. Elizabeth would like to hear from either of them on Darlington 718208.

Doris Henderson (Wilton) won a year's free hairdressing in a Sunderland Echo competition.

Isobel Caldwell has won first prize again for best kept garden in Goswick.

#### NEWS FROM ABROAD

Dorothy Morrison (Peterson) has again spent a short spell in England during the summer and had a few days with Joan Marshall (St. Julian).

(Thank you for the phone message on the day of the dinner, to Joan Marshall — wishing us well.) Elizabeth Rowlinson (Longster) and Louie Solley joined her for lunch and coffee respectively. She sends greetings to all who remember her — from Denmark — not Norway as I said last year. Apologies, Dorothy.

Joan Brookes (Richards) from Durban, South Africa, has written of her long and constantly renewed friendship with Joan Mitchell (Pentolfe) who started Bede with her in Form 1C. She wondered if streams C, B & H were still in existence? Joan and Joan emigrated to Southern Rhodesia in 1952 and eventually married out there living in Harare and Durban respectively. She recalls "hideous black woollen stockings — worn in winter and summer; entertainment programmes arranged for the girls to while away the time in air-raid shelters; the fact that it was forbidden to ride one's bicycle up Bede bank!" Joan recalls her music lessons with Miss Thompson and the songs Miss Orme taught her in Latin to be sung during the performance of "Saramalia" parading round the hall "dressed in mother's best sheets" while the remainder of the school were at lessons. Joan has on occasion confounded friends with her rendering of "There is a tavern in a town" and "Daisy, Daisy" in Latin. She recalls, with affection, her memories of Miss Briggs, Miss Carrick (and her 'obnoxious smells from the lab'), Miss

Shearer, Miss Arkle, Miss Parker, Miss French. She attributes her presence now in 'not-so-dark' Africa to Miss Moul's teaching — "Be a warrior blazing new trails".

Joan Jobling (Kirton) and her husband are still enjoying the way of life in Ibiza and sends her good wishes to all her friends. (I'm still waiting for your chatty letter, Joan).

Susan Melton (Moore) and family are back in Australia — in Brisbane — after a 2 year sojourn in Papua, New Guinea. They had a family and Old Nedan Reunion in December 1987, when Susan and her mother Anne McKenny (Melton) and her sister Liz. (now Pugh) and their families were together for the first time in Harrogate.

Hilary Richardson (Ferguson) writes of life for the past four years in Australia — Brighton, Victoria being her present home.

## MEETINGS

Nona Johnson (Wilson) and Doris Forster (Robinson) with their daughters met in Marks & Spencers in Richmond, Surrey. Non-stop chin wag ensued.

Jean Beavis (Pillans) and several members of the rambling club were delighted to meet Zoe Crowcroft (Waddington) who joined them above Alnham, Northumberland. Zoe was spending a few days with Joyce Townes (Morrison) and her home is now in Lydbury, Shropshire. Zoe and Joyce have kept in touch since they were 5 years old. Jean Beavis and Dorothy Waggott (Alderson) exchanged news of families and friends, including Vera Crowcroft (Deacon) in Washington U.S.A. and Shirley, now widowed and living in Essex.

Shelagh Buchanan (Jones), daughter of Joan Squires wrote of the re-union of those girls who left from Form VII 25 years ago — in July 1964. Incidentally Shelagh phoned the good wishes and love of those attending to Miss Bradbury who died the very next day. How nice that she didn't delay the message.

"When Dorothy Sheald (Stephenson) and I decided to try and organise a re-union, we had only 10 definite names and addresses between us and no idea how receptive our fellow ex VII formers would be. Any fears that they might prefer to forget those 7 blissful years were groundless and on July 15th, 25 of us gathered in the Aidan Room of St. Nicholas Church Hall for the party of the century (well, of the quarter century). 34 girls were contacted but for various reasons only 25 made the venue — between them covering 4,000 miles to get there. (One all the way from Sweden).

We thought a 3 hour stay would suffice, but five hours later, after refreshments by "Something Special" served — appropriately — in the Bede Room, talking still continued. We had tape of 60's pop songs — the words of the eternal top of



of the pops (The School Song) written on the blackboard and an exhibition of photos — a school scarf, still worn to great effect in Bucks. winters; a school hair ribbon and that item of uniform our singularly non-athletic year will never forget — the blue linen games "toga". We wore the last year to wear it and it was always a good excuse for our lack of prowess on the games field.

We had our teachers — Miss Carrick; Mrs. Young; Miss Duns; Miss Heslop and Miss Millbank there too and we were delighted and flattered. We owed them so much and it was a joy to realise they remembered us with such affection. Maybe that has a great deal to do with why Old Bedans enjoy celebrating their years at school".

Shelagh ended with a note that many of them intend to go to the Centenary Service in Durham Cathedral and have a get together in the evening, so if any other form VII leavers in 1964 want to get in touch, please contact Shelagh at 111 Bradenham Maschus, Walters Ash, High Wycombe HP14 4XN. Telephone: NAPHILL 3576

Those who attended were:—

Sheila Batty (Glass)	Marlborough	
Catherine Beaney	London	
Kathleen Boyd (Grainger)	Wirral	
Shelagh Buchanan (Jones)	High Wycombe	
Jean Davis (Rowland)	Farnham	
Diane Davison (Hey)	Windsor	
Elizabeth Goodson (Craghill)	Sheffield	
Vivienne Greener (Lindsay)	Harrogate	
Sheila McCree	Chesterfield	
Lynnda Marshall (Noble)	Leeds	
Marjorie Patterson (Reynolds)	Knarsborough	
Kathleen Stafford (Cox)	Tring	
Elizabeth Stevenson (Rigney)	Sheffield	
Sandra Svenson (?)	Sweden	
Barbara Cleminson (Sharman)	Sunderland Area	
Jennifer Crawford (Urwin)	"	"
Gaynor Jones (Mitchell)	"	"
Ann Louitt (Horn)	"	"
Irene Makel (Earl)	"	"
Marjorie Miller (Harland)	"	"
Judith Parker (Pratt)	"	"
Carol Price (Mokkes)	"	"
Carol Samuelson (Hartley)	"	"
Jean Samuelson (Hartley)	"	"
Dorothy Sheadd (Stephenson)	"	"
Jane Thompson (Kennerley)	"	"

Jean Cook (Roberts) when visiting her brother in Whitburn keeps in touch with Frances Grant (Robson).

Florence Mowbray (Crompton) expresses her pleasure when being recognised as an Old Bodan by Jean Koch at an Inner Wheel meeting.

During a recent visit to Bournemouth, my husband and I had lunch with Elsie Davidson (Kirkwood), who had invited Grace Caldwell (Allinson) to call in for coffee. The chatter never ceased with Elsie recalling so many girls of all ages. She copes with all the problems of growing older — very cheerfully — actively taking part in her Church and charity work whenever a lift is available. Her rose bush is still thriving and her gold watch has never stopped, and her love of Bede and all its associations has never flagged.

Audrey Almond (Beet) and Isabel Kirkwood met and we learn that Audrey teaches at a school nearby.

#### 1931 Starters — Re-union at Grange Hotel 1989

##### Marjorie Bales

Stella Harey

Kathleen Barlow

Stella Buttery

Lilian Campbell

Dorothy Caslaw

Edna Clement

Doreen Dodds

Jean Finquhar

Margery Harris

Pauline Langley

Jean Lawson

Jean Liddle

Rita Manning

Kathleen Miller

Luey Mills

Pat Morgan

Betty Price

Maureen Richardson

Dorothea Robson

Joyce Robson

Beryl Schwan

Edna Sharp

Sheila Snowball

Marisel Staddon

Kathleen Tait

Kathleen Teasdale

Elsie White

Edna Wilson

Eileen Young

##### Apologies

Ruth Kimer — holidays

Rhennette Ellison — holidays

Joyce Townes — holiday

Jean Russell — holiday

Zoe Crosscroft — holiday

Beryl Wilder — New York

Pat Barlow — New Zealand

Sheila Marwood — South Africa

Marjorie Curser — Macleodfield

Edith Brown — poverty

Doreen Lowender — Grimby

Florence Ord — holiday

Florence Shepherd — Fulwell

Doreen Meak — Lincoln

##### Deceased

Betty Wright

Jean Laing

Jean Saffield

Jean Caven

Jean Reed

Helen Garrick

Fonda Tudberry

Ethel M. Bond

Jean Coleman

Daisy Gittings

Barbara Lucas

Frances Sharp

Early in the Spring of 1989 Maureen Richardson received a call from Pat Morgan (now living in Winchester) suggesting that there should be a re-union of all the Girls who started Bede in 1939.

This year, being the 50th Anniversary of the beginning of the Second World War, of seemed to be a special year too for all the girls who 'passed' for Bede 50 years ago. Altho' us had strange memories of starting Bede.

We left our Junior Schools with a feeling of great excitement at starting Bede. I myself had heard stories from my sister of Speech Days and lovely school parties with catering done by Miss Dunn. Little did I, or any of us, realise these events would be missing for a number of years.

Many of us, instead of the exciting journeys to and from school on the trams complete with new satchels, found ourselves standing on Millfield Station with haversacks on our backs, gas masks round our necks, and big name tags tied on our coats ready for evacuation. Some of us went to Richmond, some to Catterick or other villages and some to Northalton. Some children whose parents didn't want them to be evacuated, stayed at home and ended up having lessons in small groups in homes to which some of the Bede School Staff (who had remained behind) visited.

After a while, when evacuees started to return home, the school year of 1939 gradually came together in the school itself. This was the first time they had actually met one another.

When Maureen Richardson passed on the idea from Pat Morgan we thought we would try and contact all the girls of '39. An announcement was made at the 1988 dinner in April and Pat, Lucy Mills, Dorothea Robson, Maureen Richardson and myself started. Maureen put three notices in various newspapers and soon the phones were ringing and letters being written but oh, how difficult it was finding out the names of the married girls! With a great deal of help from our Secretary Ivone Wilkinson, and various messages being passed on from other girls, we managed to contact about forty pupils but some were going on holiday or our suggested re-union date and some were ill.

Joyce Townes and Zoe Crowcroft were going to be away so Dorothea Robson decided we would have a small get together at her farm at Whitburn. Rita Manning and I were there too. What an afternoon! We sat on the porch enjoying a delicious tea but we talked all the time of schooldays. Zoe and Joyce are hoping they will manage to come to the next re-union to meet everyone else.

Rhennette Ellison sent us an apology to be read out at the re-union Doreen Medd and Edith Brown unfortunately were ill at the time of the re-union. We wish them a speedy recovery.

We decided to meet at the Grange Hotel at 7 p.m. on September 8th. Mr. and Mrs. Benfield the managers had agreed that we could hire a room with a bar and they provided us with an excellent buffet and coffee.

Really, I think we were all a bit apprehensive, such thoughts as  
— what will we talk about?  
— who will recognise me?  
— will I recognise anyone else?

all went through our heads.

We need not have worried! Lucy, Stella Buttery, Pat Morgan and Ellen Young brought some old photographs to try and jog our memories. Photographs were rarely taken at Bede during the war because all film was used by the forces. There were no school photographs as such.

Dorothy Caslaw brought a very interesting caricature of her evacuation days. It was drawn and illustrated by her when she was fifteen years old. We all thought it was excellent.

Well, the doors of the Grange opened and in "ones and twos" in came the 1939 girls. The barman stood waiting to serve, but nobody had the time or inclination to drink for a while — there was so much to talk and laugh about.

What with different hair styles and not forgetting the extra inches that some of us had acquired, there were moments when we had to think hard about who the stranger was across the room.

Some of the girls were instantly recognisable, some after a moment — it was mainly the hair — no longer dark but now tinged with grey — there were quite a few more wearing 'specs' too (we didn't check the teeth or wooden legs). What elegant ladies those girls of 1939 turned out to be. (Miss Shearer and Miss Collis would have been proud). Joan Little jogged our memories about the Remedial P.E. classes at lunch time. These classes were mainly to help all those with flat feet or round shoulders. Not a sign of these was here. What a lot of laughs we had remembering so many things.

Lucy came up to me and in truly Ronnie Barker's "Porridge" style muttered "Elsie I think we'll have to put on labels". But, we need not have worried, because as soon as we talked and heard each other's voices and saw the facial expressions — the years rolled away — we were back in Bede School. It was a truly "Do you remember when?" evening.

After the apologies for absence were read, Lucy read out the names of the girls who had died. We stood as the list was read and then to lighten our hearts Lucy asked us all to hold up one arm then we were asked to put our arms down if we had no grand-children, then one, then two etc. until only one hand was left up, Edna Sharp was the winner — ten grand-children! Well done Edna you deserve your prize. What a lot of baby sitting you must have done!

After this it was back to the gossip — then the "photograph taking". Eileen Young, who as school secretary for fifteen years was well qualified to push us into a group and the cameras were clicking away. Mr. Benfield the manager was very patient as 'girls' ran forward to give him their cameras.

We left a sheet out for news but everyone was too busy telling news to be able to write any down.

We have made out a sheet of names and addresses which we hope will help us to get together again more easily and thanks to Stella Butterly who has offered to help with the use of her computer, we should soon all have a copy. Eileen Young has also offered to help with any other paper work.

It really was a tremendous night!

Thank you for starting it all off Pat and thank you everyone who helped with the organising. Thank you all Old Bedans for coming — some of you had travelled so far to meet us. It would not have been the same without you.

Let us hope we meet again soon.

Elsie White & Lucinda Mills.

Anne Pace, Peggy Victory (Simson) were having coffee at Margaret Langhams, when in walked Eunice Bruce (Wood) and her husband George, en route from their home in Falmouth to a holiday in Scotland. Whilst shopping in Falmouth Eunice recognised a girl who had been her "Student helper" on her final school practice almost 50 years ago and even remembered her name, Enid Claxton (Harrison) who lives in Truro. They now meet for strawberry picking and dining out.

Another surprise for Peggy was a birthday phone call after midnight from Edna Bathgate (Tolbert) from Ohio where she has lived for 40 years.

Muriel Slaughter (Edwards) on holiday from her home in Vancouver, stayed with May Teasdale (Cook) they visited Joan Marshall.

Whilst on a visit to Paris for the Eiffel Tower Centenary Joan Marshall was surprised and delighted to find Laura Milbanke in the same party. The loan of our plugs to drown the noise of the traffic was much appreciated.

Beryl Johnson (Forster) now living in Vancouver was met by Hilda Richardson and taken to her home in Grosvenor (Lake District).

## SPORTS NEWS

Someone asked if the Hockey Club was still flourishing. Indeed it is. Although not entirely an Old Bedan team for many years now — there are still many ex-pupils and staff involved. Terry Graham; Norma (Dix) Batty, Judy Stewart are still playing in the 1st XI and were three of the eleven players chosen for the County 1st XI 1985-89 season. The team won the tournament for Clubs of Durham County; the Knock-Out Cup — Durham County; won the League — Durham County and represented Durham at North Territorial level in the Clubs Championship.

They also did extremely well in the Hockey Field Knock-Out Cup — a National Competition — reaching the quarter finals. Several members hold positions on the County Executive. We have Senior County Selectors, Schoolgirl Selectors and Jean Pillans is still a County Under 21 Selector, as well as President of Philadelphia Bowlers, umpire and general supporter, travelling with 1st XI to tournaments at York and matches in Payton, Bradford, Naxton in Cheshire and Gateshead last year. We still enjoy playing on the beautifully prepared pitches at Philadelphia Cricket Club, but increasingly use Silkworth all weather surfaces. Anyone interested in seeing us play will be welcomed at home games, still with traditional teas, or functions at Silkworth, which have coverage in the Sunderland Echo.

Joan Graham (Morrison) has become Lady Captain of Boldon Golf Club

Sports News by Jean Brewis (Pillans)

## DEATHS

Mary Champness (Mrs. Grainger)

Dorothy Short (Mrs. Lee)

Audrey Myers (Mrs. Mead)

Flora Hollingshead (Mrs. Ramshaw)

Margery Wade (Mrs. Smith)

Cecily Dennis (Mrs. Turner)

Wendy (Mrs. Watkins)

died some time ago

Dora Horsman (Mrs. Chappell)

Joan Patterson (Mrs. Greenshade)

died some time ago

Nancy Harrison

Alice Scorer

Jean Wise (Mrs. Crosby)

Lilian Thompson (Moore)

Janet McKerral

Irene Burrell (Mrs. Lord)

## EDITORIAL COMMENTS

This is surely a bumper magazine — so much has been happening and is going to happen in the near future. Thanks to all of you who have answered my plea for letters — I love to get them and so many of you have said how you love the snippets of news about so many, sometimes almost forgotten school friends. The 'class' re-unions too have been a great success.

Thank you too, to those of you who felt compelled to assist us financially. It's not too late — if your intentions were good — but . . . Irene will always be pleased with donations great or small.

Irene and our past and present Chairman and Mrs. Carrick have been very busy on our behalf with all the planning and discussions for the Centenary celebrations and we thank them sincerely for representing us. Thanks are due also to Mr. Scott our auditor for checking our Accounts and to Dorothy Dugdale — who at this moment — will be dreading my call for typing to be done. — In advance, thanks again Dorothy. Also Joan Hayton who 'issues' the magazine must not be forgotten. To the girls who have done reports on our meetings — many thanks also.

If any girls would like to attend the Centenary Celebrations and have lost contact with friends in Sunderland, the committee would try to help you so please contact any of us and we'll do our best to accommodate you.

To all those who need our sympathy, and our prayers for a speedy recovery — God Bless You.

Happy New Year, Anne Crowe.

**BALANCE SHEET — 31st September 1988 — 31st August 1989**

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**RECEIPTS**

Subscriptions: Annual	16.00		
Life	135.00	151.00	
		<hr/>	
Donations		116.50	
Meetings		70.85	
Interest		35.72	
		<hr/>	
		£374.05	
		<hr/> <hr/>	

**EXPENDITURE**

Printing	190.00
Stationery	3.56
Postages & Telephones	66.75
Cards	.60
School Prize	25.00
London Branch Expenses	2.85
Credit on year's Workings	85.31
	<hr/>
	£374.05
	<hr/> <hr/>

**Total Funds on 31.8.89**

Balance on Aug. 31st 1988	1,085.23
Credit on Year's Workings	85.31
	<hr/>
	£1,170.54
	<hr/> <hr/>

**Made up as follows—**

3½% War Stock	£58.36
T.S.B. Investment a/c	702.64
T.S.B. Ordinary a/c	233.99
Barclays Bank	132.39
Cash in Hand	3.16
	<hr/>
	£1,170.54
	<hr/> <hr/>

T. Scott 26.9.89.

1988 CENTENARY - ORDER FORM.

Name: (Block Capitals) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

1. I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ Centenary Plates(s) @ £2.00

P + P 70p

2 a) I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ Ladies' Scarf(ves) White Border @ £4.00

b) " " " " Gold Border @ £4.00

P + P 30p

3 a) I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ Tie(s) woven @ £5.00

" " " " Tie(s) printed @ £4.00

P, P 30p

(Please tick)

I wish to collect at school

I wish to collect at the Cathedral

I have included postage and packing  Please return orders to school



