

THE OLD BEDAN

1991

IMPORTANT NEWS

Once again - Please make a note of these dates in your diary before you begin to read the magazine.

- FRIDAY Jan. 24th 1992** WINTER RE-UNION in Bede Tertiary College (The Boys' School) at 7.00 p.m. in the Students Union.
- FRIDAY April 24th 1992** ANNUAL DINNER - will be at the Swallow (formerly the Seaburn Hotel) in the Castle Suite at 7.00 p.m. Tickets will be no more than £12.00.
- TUESDAY June 16th 1992** SUMMER RE-UNION at 7.00 p.m. in the Riverside, Durham.
- FRIDAY Sept. 25th 1992** ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING in Bede Tertiary College at 7.30 p.m.
A further plea from the Committee for more of you to attend and let your wishes be made known.

GUILD OF OLD BEDANS

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Congratulations to those eager beavers who have organised class re-unions - and reported them to me. (Have you noticed other schools are following our example?) Please make a note of my new address above before you replace the magazine and then have the urge to write to me. My phone number is unchanged however! Irene Wilkinson is eager, as ever, to have your subscriptions - £3 for an Annual Subscription or £5 for Life Membership.

Don't forget to use your maiden name and put your married name - if applicable - in brackets. A reminder, too, to those of you who have moved house - or who do so during the year, to let Jean Hayton have your new address. I know, to my sorrow, that it's the last thing you will be thinking about at such a busy time, but try to remember - please. At the first committee meeting of this school year the cost of the magazine was again a subject of concern, in view of the recent increase in postage. It was then revealed that the magazine actually costs us 95p to produce and issue and with annual subscription only £1. A suggestion was made that even a low postage stamp when you write to Irene would be a very acceptable help to our budget. Meanwhile the committee will have some serious thinking to do.

WINTER RE-UNION — January 25th 1991

A rather sad re-union - as it was the last to be held in OUR school - but a very crowded, noisy and hilarious evening nevertheless. As we got to the door of the Art Room, then the Staff Room - we were met with an array of beautiful raffle prizes - half donated by members to help towards the excessive cost of the magazine - printing and postage - the other half donated by Social Service Committee to help to swell their funds. Almost £90 was collected so both committees were grateful for the wonderful response.

The musical quiz, before everyone became too rowdy - was organised by Joyce Plemper and Lily Lawson. We relaxed and listened to well loved excerpts of classical music, songs or poetry and had to name the piece - or poem - or reader. Lily Lawson remembers "the lovely voice" of Dame Flora Robson reciting "Dafyddis" "It must be years since I heard it spoken so beautifully."

Next we were given a blank map of Sunderland with the main roads marked, 20 "dots" each denoting a well known place. It was surprisingly difficult to name them. "Do you know the site of the Station (1836-58); The Town Moor, or do you know where the highest brick wall in Europe is"; Wearmouth Colliery Shaft; "What has 18 legs and is regularly lit up?" Penrhine Monument.

Our supper was special and enjoyed by all and by 9.30 p.m. we said our farewells to old friends - old school, and departed.

Thank you to Irene and the committee for the hard work put in to make it such an enjoyable evening for all who attended.

ANNUAL DINNER — April 19th 1991

Our new venue was the Roker Hotel and a wonderful time was to await us, as we met on that wet, windy and decidedly wintry evening.

It was a lively, friendly atmosphere in the reception room as we gathered there, and it was nice to see a number of new faces.

We were given a pleasant welcome by our Chairman Lily Richardson (Lawson) together with our Secretary/Treasurer, Irene Wilkinson, as we entered the ballroom for dinner. There was an air of expectancy as we assembled at our tables because this night the meal was to be somewhat "different" from usual.

We started with asparagus soup, followed by a second course from a buffet displaying a tempting array of chicken with rice, chicken in wine sauce, quiche and cold meats and an excellent salad. The food looked so inviting, the staff so helpful and many felt this was a splendid innovation. Following this we were served with peach and brandy galette and then coffee.

An Old Bedan dinner would not be complete without the singing of the School Song and this was accomplished with a great deal of feeling to Winnie's accompaniment on the keyboard.

There was no time for speeches at this stage as our entertainer Mr. Stuart Cameron and his accompanist had a further engagement that evening and must get an early start.

Stuart, who has a most attractive voice and a wonderful sense of humour, delighted us with his varied selection of songs interspersed with many amusing anecdotes. The atmosphere, which had already been happy and relaxed, was even more so as we listened and also participated in choruses. Anne Mitchell (Crowe) gave the vote of thanks and remarked on the excellence of the entertainment.

Irene Wilkinson, in thanking everyone for attending the dinner, said that some had travelled from many different parts of the country to be there, and also that a number of regular attenders could not be present because they were away on holiday.

There was ample time for more mingling and chatter before we came to the end of a very pleasant re-union. Our thanks to our officers and committee for arranging such an enjoyable evening.

Gladys Elliott (Canning)

SUMMER RE-UNION — June 1991

On June 18th we held our Summer re-union in the Ramside Hall Hotel. Thanks to Irene Wilkinson we had reserved tables and these were quickly filled.

The Summer Re-union is always such a good night because the nights are light, and so many people come along who never manage to travel to the Winter re-union.

With no set time for a meal, everyone is so relaxed and the chatter never stops. The night simply flew by and we all caught up on the latest holiday plans and there was time to pass around all the recent wedding and family snaps.

There was a good turn out but I can see we'll need more tables soon. The numbers seem to be increasing.

All too soon the night came to an end. We will look forward to another successful evening next year.

Thank you Irene for all the organisation.

Elric White (Bailey)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The A.G.M. was held on Friday 27th September 1991 in Bode Tertiary College, in the Staff Common Room and 21 were present. There were quite a number of apologies for absence.

The minutes of the last A.G.M. were read, adopted and signed. The Secretary reported on the year's re-unions and also that we could hold our Winter Re-union 1992 in the Tertiary College.

Dates for future re-unions were discussed and these will be printed in the magazine. Please do make a note of these dates and obtain your tickets from one of the committee. Please, if possible, pay for your ticket in advance.

The Treasurer's report showed a loss on the year's working of £114.00.

The new Chairman, Jean Brewis (Pillars) then took over from the retiring Chairman Lily Richardson (Lawson) who had completed her 2 years of office.

The Social Services report was given by Anne Mitchell (Crows) and the London Branch report was read by Jeanne Koch (Malta).

The Editor, Anne Mitchell (Crows) reported on the progress of the magazine and Jean Hayton, Assistant Secretary asked members to keep her informed of changes of address.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m. with tea and biscuits.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The membership on 31.8.91 is 508 members. 2 are new Annual members, 13 are new Life members and 4 have become Life members.

There have been 3 committee meetings and 4 re-unions. The A.G.M. was held on 28th September 1990 in the Needlework Room and 12 attended.

The Winter Re-union was held on January 25th 1991 in the Staff Room in Bede School. It used to be the old Art Room. Something Special did the catering and the games were organised by Joyce Plemper (Westwick) and Lily Richardson (Lawson). There was also a very good raffle which the Guild shared with the Social Services. Thanks to all who generously gave prizes.

The Annual Dinner was at the Roker Hotel on April 19th 1991 and was partly waitress service and partly buffet which proved quite popular. The entertainment was by Mr. Stuart Cameron.

The usual informal meeting was held at the Riverside Hotel on June 18th and a good chatter was enjoyed by 46 members. It was nice to welcome some new members.

We gave £25 for the School prize in November 1990 and the Guild was represented at the last prize giving ceremony.

Thanks are due to our Chairman Lily for her help and to her daughter Elizabeth for her kind hospitality for committee meetings. The committee have been very co-operative and hard working during the year.

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am sorry to report a loss of £114.00 on the year's workings.

The printing of the magazine cost £296 as in the previous year but of course the price of postage had increased. We have not had so many donations in 1990-91, £42 as compared to £140.50 in 1989-90.

The Balance Sheet explains fully our financial position.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Ann Steel (White)
May Kinch (Spendley)
Valerie Wall (Nottingham)
Eileen Graham (Hubbard)
Doreen Walker (Lomas)
Betty Miller
Jean Branskill (Richardson)

Dorothy Sutton
Mary Tulip (Saunders)
Sheila Taylor (Moore)
Audrey Stocks (Wadhvan)
Joyce Spoons (Strutt)
Moira Spoons (Hodgson)

HAVE BECOME LIFE MEMBERS:

Elizabeth Rowlandson (Longster)
Joan Marshall (St. Julian)
Eid Noble
Margaret Dockroy (Stewart)

NEW SUBSCRIBERS:

Pamela Winter
Jennifer Crawford (Unwin)

SOCIAL SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT - September 1991

Since the last A.G.M. we have had our usual meetings before Christmas, before Easter and earlier this evening, attended by our little band on the Social Service Committee.

We had only 4 people on our books this year and sadly one of those has died. One couple moved from their little bungalow into Thompson Park Nursing Home because the lady was no longer able to look after her husband. They are very happy there and have meals provided and laundry done and plenty of company, and can remain in their bed-sit if they choose. They were very grateful indeed to be still on our visiting list.

We were sorry to learn of the death of Elsie Hooker during the year - she was a long serving and faithful member of the committee until she went into a home where she was visited by some of us.

We are, as always, greatly indebted to our Canasta players who produce the lion's share of our money for distribution. Also we'd like to thank all who give so generously when we have a raffle at our Guild Meetings.

If any of you know an elderly person who would appreciate an occasional visit and a little financial help, please let us know.

Anne Crowe - Social Service.

STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS SEPTEMBER 1991

Income		Expenditure	
Canasta Parties	£95.00	Harvest Gifts	£80.00
Donations	£25.00	Christmas Gifts	£40.00
Coffee Collections from Committee Meetings	£9.50	Easter Gifts	£80.00
Raffle at Winter Re-Union	£43.70		£100.00
Interest	£4.40		
Balance from 1990	£97.98	Balance in Hand	£111.58
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£271.58		£271.58
	<hr/>		<hr/>

Mary Arkless (Robinson).

THE LONDON BRANCH

The number of our "regulars" has been sadly reduced by the sudden deaths of Helen Reed (Perry) and Doreen Stoddart's husband Syd Bayfield. We will all miss them very much.

Thanks to a surprise phone call from Gwen Marley (Cheesman), who was visiting her daughter in London, I was able to join her, Isabel Dodd (Smith) and Barty Wilson (Robson) in August, for lunch at "The Vintage" Scotch Corner!

We had not met for over sixty years but that did not prevent instant "support" and non-stop conversation - what else would one expect from Old Bedlans?

I am very grateful to Gwen for arranging one of their regular meetings during the week that I was in Weardale. The "get-together" was great fun and I hope it will be repeated next year.

Doreen Macrae
38 Birch Grove,
LONDON W3 8SD
Tel: 081 992 3907

STAFF NEWS

A very nice tribute to Miss Waggott appeared in the Sunderland Echo - sent by Kathleen Tigg (Wolfe) who now lives in Alwoodley, Leeds.

"I felt I would like to write in appreciation of a splendid and inspired teacher.

I was a pupil at Bede from 1949-57 and have every reason to be one of the many girls who will remember Miss Waggott with warmth and gratitude.

She was a teacher of the old school in that hard work, good manners, and a high standard in everything she, and we, tackled mattered.

At first, as a youngster starting Bede, I was very much in awe of her, but as the years went by and I became a member of the "scholarship seventh" (the sixth form), I saw the kindness behind the firmness of purpose.

I would not like Miss Waggott to leave us without some small recognition of what she did for many, many pupils all those years ago."

Laura Milburnie "hit the headlines" in the Sunderland Echo when she answered an appeal by the Seaburn Hotel for memorabilia of earlier days. Laura was able to produce a 1937 menu from a dinner party to celebrate her father's 70th birthday. Together with 30 or so people who had responded to the appeal - Laura was invited to have afternoon tea and a tour of the new-look hotel.

Once again Laura has organised the Annual gathering at the War Memorial in Mowbray Park for Human Rights in December.

NEWS

Mary Arkless (Robinson) has kept in touch through the years with Beatrice Humman (Selhoield) who has lived and taught in Exeter for many years. Like so many Old Bedians she's as busy as ever in retirement with Civic Society, Devon Craftsmen's Guild, Victim Support etc.

Betty Rough (Hagburn) frequently visits Margaret Chastrey (Butter) whose home is at Gannarside. Margaret - now a retired farmer's wife, is also busy as secretary of Maker Shore.

- Not strictly G.O.B. news - but it might have been but for Second World War! My neighbour in our new retirement flat actually "passed for Bede" - or whatever happened during the war years - whilst evacuated to Gannarside so she attended Richmond Grammar School and had left before the war ended but she has always wished she was "An Old Bedian".

Betty also keeps in touch with Audrey Jordan who lets nothing deter her from leading a very active life. After obtaining an Open University degree she has gained a Methodist Ministry Diploma and is in great demand as a lay preacher. Audrey would welcome a visit from any old Bedians who find themselves in the Allendale area - Woodbine Cottage, Cutton, nr. Allendale.

Dois Forster (Robinson) and Peggy Victory (Simson) have had a holiday in Zug, Switzerland, staying with Peggy's son - another old Bedian.

Can anyone beat this record! Mary Arkless is still in contact with her Danish friend whom she met during a school trip in 1936.

1991 has been a busy year for Golden Weddings - these include Dorothy Metcalf (Hirst); Dorothy Middlemas (Sagden) and Joan Boswell (Rough).

Marion Powley (Munday) followed May Teasdale (Cook) as Chairman of Seaburn Ladies Probus Club.

Marjell Woodruff (Henson) was one of the "HERONS" invited to Washington Wild Fowl Park one evening to visit the flourishing heronry there.

Eva Bell (Allison) won a music quiz and was a guest of honour at a concert by the London Symphony Orchestra at Sunderland Empire.

Eva McCrick (Millican) has moved to Dere, Sheffield to be nearer her family and is visiting the beauty spots in Derbyshire.

Dr. M. Baillie has moved from Saltburn to Gosforth.

No "Bedan" is complete without news of Elsie Davidson (Kirkwood) - our well loved Vice-President. Knowing that in February Elsie was recovering from a slight stroke and many of the weaknesses which accompany the ageing years - I decided to ring her. She sounds just the same - full of interest in everyone and still managing to stay in her bungalow with lots of help from family, friends and carers. Grace Cakwell (Allison) and Audrey Almond (Best) are very kind to her. She sends her regards to all who know her and wishes us well in our efforts to keep the Guild of Old Bedans together.

Flo Mowbray (Crompton) in a letter to Irene recalls Miss Charlton who taught Geography and was sorry no one had mentioned her in all the centenary news. She was delighted to hear from Gladys Bowman during the Centenary weekend. Unfortunately she has since died at the age of 83 years.

MEETINGS AND RE-UNIONS

Nota Johnson (Wilson) writes from Hartlepool of a visit to Doreen Stoddart (Bayfield) at Heywood, Wiltshire, where Doreen had been headmistress of the village school. Doreen is still very active - swimming, skiing and playing badminton, but I think "chatting" would be the order of the day after a 40 year gap in the friendship.

Nota in one week's holiday in Blair Athol had a visit by Emily Durnan (Lawson) - unexpected meetings with Robina Forster (Lawson) - no relation - a brother of Marguerite Roberts (Smithwhite) and also Mollie Kirby (Devitt). Finally at a dinner to celebrate Hartlepool Ladies' Circle 40th Birthday, she found herself at the same table as Hilda Andrews (Moore) and during a lull in proceedings they entertained (?) their surprised neighbours with a verse of the school song.

THIRTY NINERS MINI REUNION

Following on from the annual reunion of the "Thirtyniners" (1939-44) in Sunderland in August, eleven of our group staged a mini reunion at Melsonby, near Richmond, N. Yorks, in September where Marjorie Harris was "house sitting" for friends who were on holiday. Dory Robson, Joan Russell, Joyce Townes, Lilian Campbell, Rita Manning, Doreen Dodds, Marjorie Bailes and Muriel Staddon drove from Sunderland, Joyce Robson came from Darlington and Eileen Young from Romaldkirk. Marjorie had prepared a sumptuous lunch to which we all did justice; in fact after lunch some felt the need to explore Melsonby village to walk off the effect of their over-indulgence!

We had a further treat in store: Marjorie Harris had invited to tea a lady living further along the High Row who had Miss J. Harris (MaMa) and Miss Collins (P.E.) billeted at her house in 1939. Miss Green Martin arrived and the conversation buzzed round with stories of the evacuation. Miss Martin related a wonderful story: Miss Harris and Miss Collins decided they should have Miss Moul to tea one Saturday afternoon. The invitation was issued and accepted before it suddenly dawned on them that the only "facility" available at the house was a two-seater earth closet at the bottom of the garden. Miss Moul arrived on the appointed day and enjoyed her tea, at the end of which Miss Harris enquired if Miss Moul needed the toilet. Miss Moul said yes and she was escorted down the garden by Miss Harris who pointed out the small building and withdrew. Within seconds Miss Moul was outside again asking "Which one do I use?"

Melsonby also hosted Hilda Hope, Moira Scott and Dorothy Taylor as evancess.

Eileen Young

THIRTYNINERS - Those present were:-

Lucinda Mills (Davison)	Joyce Robson (Wollage)
Elsie White (Bailey)	Sheila Snowball (Richardson)
Joan Liddle	Betty Scott (Glancy)
Joan Russell (Row)	Kathleen Berlace (Letham)
Joyce Townes (Morrison)	Marjorie Bailes (Webb)
Zoe Crowcroft (Waddington)	Edna Wilson (Derrell)
Eileen Young (Oliver)	Rhennette Elison (Lothhouse)
Marjorie Harris (Stothard)	Doreen Dodds (Emmerson)
Dorothea Robson (Turner)	Muriel Staddon
Rita Manning (Dix)	Doreen Dobson (Allan)
Kathleen Tait (Hoschkin)	Joyce Spoons (Strait)
Margaret Richardson (Robson)	

For the third year running these Old Bedans who started school in 1939 met at the Grange Hotel on Friday 30th August.

We have now overcome the amusement at meeting for the first time again after 50 years. "It is truly incredible that although we are in our early 80's the years roll away and we see the schoolgirls once again". I don't know who said this but it was very true the other evening. The atmosphere was marvellous and the chat non-stop.

Zoe Crowcroft (Waddington) made it this year and looks just the same - its maddening! It would be a good idea if one year we all met in school tunics! Zoe would be no different from school-days.

It was the first time for Doreen Dobson (Allan) - mind you she went into the front bar by mistake and almost collected a toy boy - common sense prevailed and she eventually found us (by the noise?) in the back room. Welcome Doreen!

Pat Morgan (Smith) couldn't come this year as her cousin Enid Bell (Carter) was visiting from U.S.A. Pat now has 10 grand children (Look out Edna Sharp!) and her youngest son has just completed A Levels - the adopted Romanian baby is thriving despite Hepatitis and keeps them all on their toes.

In the meantime Enid Bell (Carter) dashed from Winchester to Sheffield by B.R. to visit Kathleen Borkace (Lofham). Train arrived 50 mins. late - hunch ready - lots of chat and Enid was back on the train after 1 1/4 hours.

We all knew Kathleen Borkace came to the reunion and she was really, really excited. She parked the car at the Grange, switched off, jumped out, dashed the door too late!! The keys were still in the ignition. However, towards the end of the evening when the yellow light flashed outside and the A.A. man arrived, we all cheered and more applause 2 mins. later when Kathleen returned with the keys in her hand (Well done the A.A.)

Never mind Kathleen, I'm sure all of us would put you up for the night.

Another Kathleen was there too, Kathleen Tait (Houshie) made it this time, not only to Sunderland but to the Grange. Last year she only got as far as the Roker Hotel, tripped over a step and sprained her ankle. (Well, that was her excuse). Lovely to see you Kathleen.

'Spuggy' aka Joyce Spoons (Strutt) never moved all night and never stopped talking! But she had a marvellous time and I quote her:
"I've bored everyone with my photographs of my son's wedding two weeks ago".
They were lovely photographs and she made a very smart bridegroom's mother.

Eileen Young (Oliver) and Joyce Robson (Wollage) were there from Romaldkirk and Darlington respectively and Maureen Richardson (Robson) wanted to know when they would make the promised visit to her in Northallerton - (Come on you three get your diaries and sort this out, it was mentioned last year and even the year before!).

Talking of visits - on July 26th, a few of the girls visited Eileen Young at Romaldkirk to view the Flower Festival in the Church there. They called at Melsonby to pick up Marjorie Harris (Stothard) and after coffee left for Romaldkirk and the Flower Festival. The day was rounded off with tea in Eileen's lovely walled garden.

After the Old Bedlams Summer reunion the Werys were invited to round off the evening at Betty Scott's (Glancey) home in Belmont where they continued their chat and enjoyed excellent refreshments. There's an open invitation for everyone and Betty said on Friday "It was so lovely to see everyone looking so fit and young! Come again Betty - you look young too."

Of course we had to choose supper time for a photo-call a real "flashy" affair as the only camera between us belonged to Edna Wilson (Dorrell). The result will either be hilarious or breath-taking but it will be interesting as we were all rather stunned by the flashes. Thanks Edna!

23 of us were there - it was a really splendid night and we missed those who couldn't make it particularly Kathleen Miller (Pherson). Where were you? The Grange Hotel was just right for us and the buffet meal was excellent as usual. Elsie White (Bailey) scolded the bill rather earlier than previous years and we all wished her well as she was to leave for U.S.A. with Edna her sister at 5 a.m. the next morning.

Well done Elsie and many thanks.

Lucinda Mills.

P.S. Marjorie Bailes (Webb) recalls returning to school after a summer holiday to find that Marjorie Harris (Stothard) had developed a bust! Marjorie B. was really curious. - Happy Days.

On Friday, 8th November - Audrey Stocks (Wadhams), Marie Winter (Patterson), Lucinda Mills (Davidson), Hilda Dawsey (Bagley), Sheila Bagley (Coates), Audrey Hall (Price) met at the home of Joyce Robson (Bagley) for coffee, followed by an enjoyable lunch at Wearside Golf Club, where Joyce and Hilda are members. As usual the chatter was non-stop as they exchanged news of families and other old Bedlams not present. A very happy day ended at Audrey Hall's home where they had coffee before Marie and Lucy returned to Hesham.

They plan to meet again in the new year in Hesham.

A SALUTARY TALE FOR CHRISTMAS

Just before Christmas last year, I invited Marie Winter (Patterson) and Margaret Fowder (Hunter) and respective husbands for drinks and chat, as they are both friends of ours but hadn't seen each other for 7 years anyway, since they worked together in the Tax Office after leaving school! And what a night it was . . . certainly no fall in the conversation, indeed hardly time to take breath, and, of course, all this encouraged by the men-folk, all very exciting and the evening went all too quickly!

Like the good, thrifty, war-time-raised Old Bedlams that we are, we exchanged Christmas cards that evening rather than post them to each other, and in all the excitement I put ours from Marie on the end of the mantelpiece to be opened on the morrow.

Marie 'phoned next morning to thank me for our card. "Very well chosen, she said and so it had been, for the "Happy Christmas" on the front looked as though it were worked in cross-stitch, very appropriate since Marie is an excellent needlewoman. "Thank you, too, for yours", I replied. "It can be made into a paper-weight afterwards if you would like to", suggested Marie; furiously I'm thinking . . . I didn't open it last night! So, "Oh, I'll think about that", I threw out in a very off-hand manner.

Five seconds later, back in the living room, I hurriedly tore open Marie's envelope; imagine my mortification, shock, surprise and delight to find that our card from Marie and Keith was a beautifully worked, to scale, mini-Bede badge, in true colours and detail with "Post Tenebras Lux 1890-1990" below . . . and all in minute and meticulous cross-stitch. It is absolutely lovely; how clever she is!

Earlier in the year, of course, we had had a marvellous day at Durham and the Centenary Service in the Cathedral (and what a gathering of old friends that was!) and so the card's inscription reads "May this memorable year be completed with a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year".

"Thank you" didn't really express how thrilled and delighted we are to have it.
Thanks again, Marie.

Lucy Mills (Dronson)

Lucy showed me the badge at a reunion and how I envy her possessing such an exquisite copy of our badge - it brought tears to my eyes!

At the time when Bede School - the Girl's School has finally closed and is - at this moment - a mass of scaffolding and rubble - Jean Brews (Pillans) felt impelled to write the following:-

Memories of Bede School

Mainly in the beginning — No ties - but blue square necked blouses;
No boys, except next door;
No Male teachers, except next door,

but gradually coming to terms with a school far removed from my own, Gateshead Secondary School, Sunderland, which I did not know existed, until we arrived ready for the Easter term, seemed alien in every respect. So did Bede golden yellow senecio bushes in full flower outside the gym.

Beautiful borders and well-kept pitches. Lovely trees. Calm, Order, Space. Impressive wooden doors and panelling in the hall and corridors. The gym - swimming which I loved. The joy of climbing wall bars and walking on high beams.

Miss Collis who made me so welcome.

The library - a haven over the years.

The thrill of wearing the lovely saxe-blue tunics and white blouses of the 1st XI. Hockey, which filled my life.

Miss Abbot, a wonderful teacher who set standards which I still appreciate.

Greek frieze patterns, demonstrated so gracefully by Miss Dunbar in the Hall.

Racing a rounders ball down Bede Bank. It was grooved in the tram line.

Harvest Camp at Binchester with Miss Harding and Miss Dunbar.

Bede Guides, stacking sheaves of corn all day.

The smell of burnt egg greeting tired workers. Eating it, as nothing else was available.

Snowball fights with the boys at lunch time.

Hot pies bought on the way back from swimming in High Street Baths.

School Dinners - hot beetroot with white sauce.

Rosa Carter, our form prefect, entertaining us each day at table.

Miss Littlehales, hurling damp dish-clothes the full length of the kitchen with unerring aim, at tardy cooks.

The state of Pam Hall's face, covered with cocoa and sugar, as she came from behind the desk lid to answer a question.

Reading the lesson 'The Prodigal Son' and playing 'Now Thank We All Our God' in morning assembly.

Watching a visiting speaker at Speech Day unbutton and button his waistcoat incessantly.

A glamorous actress - was it Coral Browne?

Miss Seddon in her smart tweeds, and matching coloured stockings.

Miss Waggott, trying to turn her Upper Sixth pupils into cultured ladies appreciative of beauty - rather difficult in our room in a transformed basement cloakroom, continually smelling of burnt milk.

Miss Moul, in full flow, with 'Passing Cloud' or 'Spanish Share' cigarettes on her desk, talking of social responsibilities, and possible careers. Her enthusiasm and vitality made a great impression on us all. Her bewilderment at the strange noise above her head. The cause - chuck stones, played in the bay window of our form room.

Friends who have lasted a lifetime.

Jean Brewis (Pilans) 1991

SPORTS NEWS

Win Scott (Thomas) was delighted to spot the results of Sunderland Bedlars' Matches in the Daily Telegraph - albeit in "Sports in Brief" or "Other Matches".

Golf News: Joyce Young (Allen) has enjoyed her years as Ladies Captain at Boldon Golf Club. Other Old Bedlars who meet on competition days are Ethel Lethe (Lockonby); Dorothy Grierson (Kennedy); Jenny Hoy (Smith); Winnie Scott (Thomas); Olga Wright (Stewart); Pauline Vetch (Crozier); Joan Grabham (Morrison); Greta Beadle (Pyburn); Marie Scott (Little); Pam Maccallo (Wilson) ex-staff.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

We were delighted to have a visit to the North East by Joyce Galton (Hodgson). She spent a few days with Joan Brewis; Joan Ball (Turpin) and Margaret Nicholson (Gracey) and managed to fit in a Canasta Party while she was here.

Another letter from Durban, South Africa, telling of a meeting between the writer - Joan Brookes (Richards) and Jean Mitchell (Pentolle) on the Lesotho border. This was followed by a letter from Jean from Hanare saying she had had a flying visit from Joan who was on her way to Sunderland to visit her mother.

A very moving account of the plight of children and adults in Romanian hospitals, was sent to us by Edith Galley (Phillips) whose daughter Christine (now Hogg) had spent some time working there.

DEATHS

Alice Rogers
Helen Reed (Mrs. Perry)
Millicent Richardson
Ivy Parker (Mrs. Gibson)
Kitty Brunton (Mrs. Little)

Florence Mowbray (Mrs. Crompton)
Amy Waggott
Joan Stirling
Eileen Henderson (Mrs. Pennock)

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

Many thanks to those of you who have written to me with news - that makes my job easy. I would like though, to ask those of you who tell me news at meetings to write it down for me. By the time I get home, all I am sure of is that somebody told me news of someone else and I don't attempt to print it in case I got it wrong. So - it's up to you!

Thanks are due, as always, to Dorothy Cookburn (Dagdale) for typing this ready for the printers; to the Committee for the hard work they do to make our meetings enjoyable; to Joan Hayton who actually sends you your magazine and to Mr. Scott who so faithfully audits our Accounts. Lastly - by no means least - I don't think any of us really appreciate the hard graft put in by Irene Wilkinson during all the changes at "Hede". We are delighted to have got "recognition" at the Tertiary College and to be able to meet there. Many, many thanks here from us all.

To those who have been ill - a speedy recovery, and to all who have been bereaved - our prayers are with you.

Happy New Year and God Bless You.

Ann Crowe.

BALANCE SHEET — 1st September 1990 — 31st August 1991

RECEIPTS

Subscriptions:	Annual	16.00	
	Life	85.00	101.00
			<hr/>
Donations:			42.00
Meetings:			122.35
Interest:			53.41
Loss on Year's Working			114.44
			<hr/>
			643.20
			<hr/> <hr/>

EXPENDITURE

Printing	286.00
Stationery	15.40
Postages & Telephones	90.90
Cards	.40
Gift to Auditor	5.50
School Prize	25.00
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	643.20
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Total Funds on August 31st 1991

Balance on Aug. 31st 1990	1,349.23
Loss on Year's Workings	114.44
	<hr/>
	£1,234.79
	<hr/> <hr/>

Made up as follows—

3½% War Stock	98.36
T.S.B. Investment a/c	757.53
T.S.B. Savings a/c	177.24
Barclays Bank	168.26
Cash in Hand	33.40
	<hr/>
	£1,234.79
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T. Scott 22.10.91

