

# THE OLD BEDAN

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1993

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## IMPORTANT DATES FOR 1994

Once again - Please put these dates in your diaries before you begin to read any further.

**FRIDAY Jan. 28th 1994** WINTER RE-UNION in the Students' Common Room, Wearside College, Bede Centre (Boys School) at 7.00 p.m. (Tickets £4.00)

**FRIDAY April 22nd 1994** ANNUAL DINNER in the Castle Suite, Swallow Hotel at 7.00 p.m. (Tickets approximately £15.00).

**TUESDAY June 14th 1994** SUMMER RE-UNION at the Riverside Hotel, Durham, at 7.00 p.m.  
PLEASE NOTE - Tuesday not Friday.

**FRIDAY Sept. 30th 1994** ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING in the Wearside College, Bede Centre at 7.30 p.m.

**SPECIAL REQUEST** - If you mean to attend any of the above, please pay for your ticket in advance to the Committee Member who supplied it. This will make life easier for Irene and the Committee and enable them to enjoy the Social Gatherings too.

Thanks

# GUILD OF OLD BEDANS

Office Bearers and Committee 1993-94.

## Vice-President.

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

## Chairman

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Telephone 5489259.

## Vice-Chairman

D. Irene Wilkinson, 62 Charter Drive,  
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## Secretary/Treasurer.

D. Irene Wilkinson.

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## Magazine Editor.

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## Committee.

Eald Noble Tel. 5226600; Anne Farnhley Tel. 5283663; Jean Bowles (Pillans);  
Jeanne Koch (Maltas) Tel. 5282280; Marjorie Calvert Tel. 5672759; Lily  
Richardson (Lawson) Tel. 5482147; Jean Boswell (Rough) Tel. 5484910; Margaret  
Nicholson (Gracey) Tel. 5484953.

Thank you to all who have written with news. I must, however, apologise for my blunder in  
last year's magazine when I reported - incorrectly - the death of JEAN BRUNSKILL,  
(Richardson). My first letter was from JEAN assuring me that she was alive and well and a  
phone call to her in Middleton restored peace between us. I am sorry for any distress I caused  
her friends and relatives.

Another apology - I should have acknowledged the fact that the photos of the Honorary Board  
which were reproduced in last year's magazine were taken by Mr. A. Small who taught at Bede  
Girls' School from 1964 - 1975. We do appreciate all the hard work which this entailed and  
thank him most sincerely.

Your subscriptions are always welcomed by Irene Wilkinson - £1 for Annual Subscriptions  
and £5 for Life Membership. Your receipts will be included with your next magazine. Don't  
forget to use your maiden name and put your married name - if applicable - in brackets. Also -  
please let Jean Hayton have any change of address in good time so that your copy of the  
magazine does not go astray.

Once again, many thanks to those of you who agree to report on our social events - I  
appreciate your co-operation.

Anne Mitchell (Crows).

## WINTER RE-UNION.

A well attended Winter Reunion was held on the 29th January, 1993, once again seemingly "down below" in the (now) Students' Common Room - more familiar to Old Bodans as the environs of the old boiler house! However, we still have somewhere to go in our Old School.

As usual, it was warm, light and noisy with chatter, as we found tables for ourselves and friends, bought our raffle tickets and then began THE GAMES.

Late party-givers always do well after a G.O.B. Winter Reunion, getting new ideas for their own late winter parties. This year we had to discover names of football teams missing on a typed story sheet, e.g. "The sun shone" (Brighton) the day of ...etc. This was easy compared with the next game - a kind of multiple choice of "DATES", - squares to tick gave us options of years of specific events, e.g. Virginia Wade winning Wimbledon, Kennedy's assassination, Queen's Silver Wedding etc. Much argument and discussion among the teams, it was difficult - not only "the oldies" among us but comparative youngsters didn't fare too well. (If they did - we didn't believe them). A third game we had time for was the 'money' game - "your uncle"? (BOB), old bicycle (Penny farthing), Leather worker? (tanner), Animal? (Guinea pig) etc. Anyway, the result came to £17.3.9/d (we think) - we never agree totally with the answers supplied.

We *did* agree, however, about the excellence of the supper, supplied by "Something Special". We were waited on by our hard-working committee members - 'No milk?' - right - 'Weak Tea?' O.K., 'sugar?' Any more quiche? another sandwich? "Happy Eaters" all and large, too.

A good raffle caused its usual squeals of excitement and delight (or otherwise) till the raffle table was cleared. We helped Joan Hayton with requests for missing addresses - re magazines, Irene reminded us about our Dinner Reunion in April and then we went out into the January night at 9.30 p.m. feeling a little younger - perhaps? - after our simple fun in the Students' Common Room.

## ANNUAL DINNER, April 25th 1993

It was raining in torrents when we made our way to the Swallow Hotel to attend the Old Bodans' Annual Dinner. However, it was evident that our spirits had not been dampened, judging by the animated chatter as we assembled in the foyer. As we went through to the dining room (about 100 of us) we were very impressed by the colourful, and attractive table arrangements, the predominant colour being the shade of our blue school blouses. Whether the choice was by accident or design is uncertain.

I was surprised to find I was at the same table as Joan Borwell (Brough). We were classmates in the early thirties and had not met since 1936 but, incredibly, we recognised each other immediately. To misquote Shakespeare "Hath age not withered us" surely?

The Chairman, Jean Brewis (Pillans) welcomed us before the meal was served. The menu was similar to that of last year, except that we started with delicious, hot soup - most welcome on such a cold night - and ended with an unlimited supply of coffee.

The School song was then sung with great gusto before the entertainers were introduced. Mr. Stuart Cameron (Nephew of Lily Richardson (Lawson)), accompanied by Mr. Malcolm, sang a selection of well-loved ballads interspersed with amusing anecdotes. His voice is so rich and powerful that I agree with the person who likened him to Howard Keel.

After a well-merited vote of thanks by Committee Member, Betty Miller, the chairman ended proceedings by making presentations to Mary Arkless (Robinson) and Anne Mitchell (Crawe) in recognition of many years of valuable service on the Social Services Committee.

The title of Mr. Cameron's first song sums up my sentiments in a nutshell - "This is a lovely way to spend an evening". The Chairman and the Committee deserve our thanks and appreciation for their time and effort in making such an occasion possible.

Elsie Robinson.

#### **Annual Dinner April 23rd - extra report by Wm Scott (Thomas).**

##### **The Story behind the Song:**

"It is a truth universally acknowledged that:- Our School Song needs an accompaniment.

As last year's keyboard was not available, we had to find a replacement. Our venue - The Swallow Hotel, Seaburn, I thought wistfully about the baby grand piano in the restaurant; I quite fancied playing that inviting instrument, but in the restaurant it had to stay. We were in the Castles Suite, Lily Richardson (Lawson) had kindly found another keyboard and brought it to my home for a try out before the dinner date. The two of us struggled to get it "set up with all its parts in place" - we grovelled on the floor with struts, screws, metal bars etc. to get "it" playing - but all to no avail. The keys were tiny and the keyboard about 2 octaves short of a grand piano. Thought to myself "They think I'm approaching second childhood, so they're giving me a toy to play with" (very small keyboard - very big hands were not an ideal combination). Several phone calls later Lily discovered another keyboard. Its owner - (not even an Old Bodan) kindly brought "it" for me to try - "early evening" quoth Lily, "Winnie goes to bed early" Obligingly our benefactors arrived - this was better - bigger keys, no fancy stands, put on a table and play! But the plug wouldn't fit, so we (owner and I) hunted around for a suitable power point and found one and placed "it" on the kitchen bench. Instructions read "Switch power on, then on/off switch, for piano effect press Nos. 1 and 4 and Enter". Great! it worked, but not quite what we needed for our revered School Song - starting with a 'Boom diddy-boom-diddy-boom.' Try again - where? relief - success. And so to the dinner - Halfway through the excellent meal, enter two men examining plugs, points, keyboard etc. Leaping up in panic I approached them saying "DON'T TOUCH!". Hasty explanations followed. It was all a false alarm - they were the singer and his accompanist and they had their own keyboard - its owner very familiar with it and his gentle, tuneful music provided a pleasant background for the chatter of Bodans during dinner.

Already transposed from its first key of E flat to C major some ageing Old Bedlams said the School Song was still too high (Any further down the scale and it will be a tenor solo). Song sang quite well actually and the male keyboard player agreed "it" wasn't the ideal instrument on which to accompany our song. In any case - added the singer - he liked Monkwearmouth School Song better. (Bob's mid out calls but we parted friends).

Safely wrapped up in its carton and ready to return to its owner I heaved a sigh of relief. **BTJ** - In the early morning following our try-out, I realised I had forgotten to take bread from the freezer. To my dismay I discovered I had switched off the freezer in our frantic search for power points. However, "early to bed and early to rise" has its own rewards and all was not lost! So, till next year...

Winnic Scott (Thomas).

### **SUMMER REUNION - 15th JUNE 1993**

The evening of June 15th was wet and windy and may have accounted for the reduced number of members attending the summer gathering at the Riverside. The weather, however, did not in any way dampen the spirits (nor appetites) of the 40 + Old Bedlams present.

The "reserved" tables were soon occupied by Bedlams exchanging news and views as if they had not met for years rather than at the last reunion. The only event allowed to penetrate through the gossip, was attendance at the canteen, where succulent food was devoured with gay abandon - who counts calories anyway? Several left space for enormous cream-laden bready snags and meringues and after consumption, continued with the discussion on how difficult it is to keep weight under control "at our age"!

The relaxed and comfortable surroundings and happy atmosphere encouraged all to enjoy a very pleasant evening of self indulgence amongst friends.

Marjorie Snowball (Culdeford).

### **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING - 24th September 1993.**

The Chairman, Jean Brewis (Pillans) welcomed 20 members to the Annual Business Meeting held in a staff room at Wearside College, Belle Centre on Friday 24th September 1993 at 7.30 p.m.

Apologies for absence were received from: Betty Miller; Pat Crabbles (Snell); Iris Harvey (Bennett); Eaid Noble; Dorothy Cookburn (Dagdale); Dorothy Middlemass (Staples); Win Scott (Thomas) and several others.

The Minutes of the last Annual Business Meeting were read, approved, and signed.

The Secretary reported on last year's reunions thanked the Wearside College for the continued use of the rooms for the A.B.M. and Winter Reunion.

The dinner at the Swallow Hotel was a success and enjoyed by 102 members.

The Treasurer reported a loss on the year's workings largely due to the increased costs of printing and postage.

The new Chairman should have received the chain of office from Jean Rowis (Pillans) but as Iris Harvey (Bennett) the new Chairman could not be present, owing to illness, Jean agreed to continue to chair the meeting. Iris will receive the chain of office at the first committee meeting.

Dates for the coming year were discussed and were agreed as follows :- Winter Reunion, January 28th 1994 Wearside College; Annual Dinner, April 22nd at the Swallow Hotel; Summer Reunion at The Ramside Hotel on June 1-8th and Annual Business Meeting, September 30th. These dates to be printed on the inside cover of "The Bedian" magazine. Please make a note of them and obtain tickets from members of the committee.

The stamps for the magazine are to be purchased in advance of the price increase.

The Inkstand presented to the Guild of Old Bedians by Miss Mowl when she retired to be taken to the Winter Reunion and the Dinner for members to see and if so desired to make an offer of £100 or more.

Anne Mitchell (Crowe) then took over and spoke about the Social Services and its work. The Social Services has discontinued and as most of the money is given by the Canasta group, Anne proposed and Doris Forster (Robinson) seconded, that the money be given to a local charity chosen by the Guild Chairman. She will look after this charity fund and administer it. A proviso was made that Catherine Hoptinstall (Waters) be given her three gifts per year as previously.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT.**

The membership on 31st August 1993 is 490 members of which 36 are new Life Members.

There have been 3 committee meetings and three Reunions during the year.

The Annual Business Meeting and the Winter Reunion were held in Wearside College, Beale Centre, and the Secretary thanks Wearside College for their continued hospitality.

The Dinner was at the Swallow Hotel and it was partly waitress service and partly buffet. The entertainment was singing and stories by Stuart Cameron accompanied by Paul.

The Ramside Summer reunion was most enjoyable and friendly. Although some usual people were missing, there were a few new members. Do come along as it is very informal and pleasant.

The Infostand, presented to the Guild of Old Bedans by Miss Mowl and which many members did not know about, has been valued. Elsie Kirkwood wondered if its sale might help our funds. It is valued at £100 + and we would like some offers from Old Bedans by the end of May 1994.

Thanks to Jean Brewis (Pillans) for all her help and support during her 2 years of office. Also thanks to the committee for their willing work - selling tickets and collecting money.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

I am sorry to report a loss of £253.13 on the year's workings. This is mainly due to the increased cost of the magazine, £423 this year as against £380 last year and the postage expense.

We did not have so many donations either.

The interest for the year from the Trustee Savings Bank Flexible Saving Account (first full year of this account) is £47.11.

The Balance Sheet explains the financial position.

## NEW MEMBERS.

### LIFE:

Margaret Munday	(Barron)	Isabel Dodd	(Smith)
Anne Corcoran	(Harper)	Valerie Owen	(Whitaker)
Dorothy Sharp	(Husier)	Dorothy Jobling	(Singleton)
Barbara Hopper	(Goldhammer)	Doreen Close	(Stair)
Clare Masterman	(Masley)	Sheila Donaldson	
Wendy Parr-Barham	(Arales)	Anne Masterman	(McLachlan)
Maris Benjamin	(Jackson)	Elizabeth Pillans	(Freeman)
Andrey Applegarth	(Handcock)	Anne Conley	(McNab)
Jacqueline Pearce	(Woodley)		

## SOCIAL SERVICES - September 1993.

Our last meeting was on November 30th 1992 when we gave £20 as a Christmas gift to our two remaining recipients and the three possible ways that the Social Service work could continue were mentioned:-

- 1) To subsidise the magazine printing and postage.
- 2) Christmas boxes of biscuits to 85 year old Old Bedans.
- 3) To give to local charities.

At this juncture, Mary expressed the desire to resign through difficulty to attend meetings other than in her own home. I, too, expressed similar difficulties, and had no wish to be involved in attending meetings to discuss charities to be helped as it was left to the Canasta crowd to make a final decision - as they provide the bulk of the funds available - approximately £100 per year.



During the year, however, - flowers and/or cards have been sent to sick or grieving Old Bedans and while this is laudable, I feel very strongly that hurt can so easily be felt by those whose predicament never reaches the ears of the Committees. I did have a chat with Elsie Kirkwood during the year and she, too, felt this was not a good idea and for the same reason.

I would therefore like to propose that the money should be given annually to the charity chosen by the current Chairman of the Guild. (I understand this is done by other groups) and that way - no one would feel hurt or left out if they were overlooked.

At the Annual Business Meeting held in "school" the majority present agreed with this proposal so, for as long as the Canasta parties continue - money raised will be given to the current Chairman of the Guild to give to her chosen local charity while she is in office.

Mary Adless (Robinson) and I thank the Guild for our unexpected presentations at the dinner - we each received printed notepaper and a glass - and apologise for being "younge-tied" - or as I rather badly put it "jolt-unacked". A later comment by a "friendly" old Bedan was that neither of us were noted for our "lack of words" in the past. Put it down to shock.

Anna.

## THE LONDON BRANCH.

A few of the members have lunched together during 1993 - in May at the home of Nancy Lawther (Hubicka) and in October at mine.

Joyce Bebbon (Ayles), who has been to almost every reunion for over thirty years, regrettably decided that another three-hour journey (each way) was more than she could face. Once the Channel Tunnel's new rail-link is completed, a normal Saturday journey from Tunbridge, Kent, will be possible!

Doris Miller (Cuthbertson), a friend of Nancy's at school from 1922 - 1925 and then at University, was staying with Nancy and was a welcome guest. Doris lives in Newcastle and had not been to an Old Bedan function for many years, so the exchange of school memories was a new and enjoyable experience for her.

We hope to see her again soon!

There are no "young" Old Bedans in our Branch and presumably any in the London area are working and even busier than we "oldies" are!

Dorcas Ward (Macrae)  
38 Birch Grove,  
LONDON, W3 9SP  
Tel. 081 992 3907.

## NEWS

Doris Septans (Crighton) has had published a book of stories called "The Magic of Upper Teesdale". Doris still lives in Newbiggin-in-Teesdale.

Overheard - a group talking of old Bedan Staff - Miss Carlin, Miss Carrick and Miss Heslop - were they still alive ?

Sadly Miss Carrick died in 1990 but Miss Carlin and Miss Heslop are still with us. Win Thomas in fact met Miss Heslop doing her shopping. The latter looked very smart - though frail - in autumn tweeds of fern and brown. She has recently had a successful cataract operation.

Two Old Bedans - Mavis Brown (Hutton) and Winnie Scott (Thomas) were two of a team of three who were on turn to "do" the flowers in Durham Cathedral for "Highway" Television broadcast. Winnie was asked to do a small arrangement on the Bede tomb in the Galilee chapel, which seemed very fitting for an old Old Bedan, who enjoyed the task.

Marjorie Rowntree (Jessup) lives in Northwood and is an Occupational Therapist in a Hospital. On her day off she runs a Group for those recovering from a stroke. There is a flourishing local Children's Theatre and Marjorie is its secretary in her spare time.

Doreen Ward (Macrae) is obviously much appreciated by those who have and still do, enjoy her hospitality at the London reunions. It's just a pity that years gradually take their toll and make journeys - once tackled without a thought - become a nightmare and impossible to contemplate. Thanks from us all Doreen for keeping us all in the picture and I hope you'll still 'cycle' for many years yet.

Yet another contender for the longest standing correspondence which passed from Mary Arkless (1916) to Mervyn Stuckdale (Ronnie) 1935 to Elizabeth Henderson - Elizabeth met her correspondent 62 years ago at a University Camp for Schoolgirls. Miss Van Zanten, and she corresponded all during the war through the Red Cross. They met again when they were both young Mums and celebrated 50 years of friendship by visiting each other and there's a permanent "room" for Elizabeth any time she wants to go to Holland.

Maril Anderson (Kenworthy) had a particularly special 70th birthday when she retired from "active participation" in St. Christopher Sports Club in Saffron Walden which benefits hundreds of local mentally and physically disabled people. She was presented with an engraved silver tray and cut glass decanter on behalf of the Club. Although now officially "too old" because she is no longer insurable to instruct swimming over 70 years of age - I'm sure Maril will continue her great interest and caring for those who are no longer fit and mobile.

Jean Marshall (St. Julica) recently had Dorothy Morrison (Peterson) staying with her from Denmark. Elizabeth Rowlandson joined them for a mini-session.

Elsie Garrick paid a brief visit to Sunderland and had coffee with Dorothy Middleton (Sugden) and Winnie Scott (Thomas).

At the Guild of Old Bedans dinner in April - Joan Russell (Koss) and Joyce Wilson (Craig) were sitting at the same table. Since both had been members of West Southwick School Staff, Joyce asked Joan if she ever heard anything about Lena Thompson. Imagine her surprise to hear that, since Lena retired in 1967 West Southwick Staff have been enjoying reunions every year since.

Joyce was delighted to attend the May reunion at Ambleside and an Autumn meeting in Sunderland.

Now Joyce wonders if any Old Bedan knows the whereabouts of Joan Sangster (Urgihart) whom Joyce last met in 1965 - somewhere in Uganda!

## REUNIONS

### "THIRTY-NINERS" REUNION 1993.

This year 20 girls gathered for the annual reunion at the Grange Hotel in Newcastle Road on Friday, 3rd September ("The day war broke out" as the comedian Rob Wilton used to recall - that confirms our era!)

Before the evening got under way we all stood for one minute in silent tribute to Pat Morgan (Smith) who died in June. It was Pat who initially floated the idea of a Reunion 50 years after we entered the portals of Bede School as 1st Year Grammar School girls (albeit some of us came via Richmond, N. Yorks, as evacuees, in 1938). Pat had made a conscious decision to live life to the full despite a heart condition which suggested many restrictions on her daily activities. Indeed she was playing tennis the day before she died. Maurine Richardson (Robson) and her husband attended Pat's funeral at the Church of St. Cross in Winchester, which in reality was a Service of Thanksgiving to honour all she had done in the community. Also in the congregation was Pat's cousin Enid Bell who had travelled from America. Lucy Mills (Davison) read a letter from Pat's family which they had all signed individually thanking us for our letter of condolence. To all her school chums Pat's memorial will always be the "39ers" annual reunions.

Also included in our silent tribute was Pat Barlow who had been living in New Zealand and word reached us of her passing. It seemed fitting that we should be assembled in the Grange Hotel exactly opposite the house where Pat lived during her time at Bede.

Elsie White (Bailey) then read letters from those who could not make it this year but sent news and best wishes for a happy evening: these included Kathleen Trusdale (Williams), Sheila Snowball (Richardson), Kathleen Tait (Hoschier), Zoe Crowcroft (Waddington) Rene Ellison (Loffhouse), Florence Ord (Goodison), and Edna Wilson (Durrell) who asked the intriguing question "Can anyone remember the quotation in the Entrance Hall of the Girls School?" Quick as a flash Joan Liddle, who must have a mind like a filing cabinet, quoted it. Out of interest to others here it is:

The world is my country  
All men are my brothers  
To do good is my religion.

Joan could not supply where the quotation came from, but subsequent research reveals a quotation by Thomas Paine 1757-1809 in *The Rights of Man*, Part II, Chapter 5 "My country is the world and my religion is to do good".

Thanks were expressed by all to Elsie White and Lucy Mills for making the arrangements for yet another very successful reunion of good companionship, good food and above all reviving so many memories. Stella Butcherley (Chambers) was kept busy updating any change of address and how many grandchildren; it seems that our year produced some very fertile children judging by the increase in numbers of grandchildren since last year.

A poll was taken about next year's reunion and it was decided to change to a luncheon at Rainside Hall on Friday, 2nd September, 1994 at noon. All you "39ers" out there, please note date and join us.

Eileen Young (Oliver).

### "THIRTY-NINERS" MINI REUNION.

On Thursday, 8th July, 1993 a mini reunion of the "39ers" was held at Melsonby, near Scotch Corner, where Marjorie Harris was enjoying her regular stint of house-sitting for friends. A truly gargantuan lunch was awaiting Dory Robson, Joyce Robson, Lucy Mills, Joan Little, Elsie White, Joan Russell, Marjorie Bailey, Joyce Thomas, Marial Staddon, Dorson Dodd, Rita Manning, Eileen Young (you, they remembered who was designated to invite me this year!) and Maureen Richardson who came for the first time.

Maureen arrived in the village realising the directions to the house were inadequate to locate it. She went to the village shop (near Post Office) and said "You must think I'm an absolute fool but I'm looking for a friend who is house-sitting, and I don't know the name of the house or the name of the road". Straight away a customer in the shop said "I know who you mean" and Maureen was given all the information to direct her to where Joyce Robson was anxiously hanging over the five-bar gate of the house having given the wrong colour for the said gate in the directions!

Another wonderful opportunity to meet and exchange news of families and recall past memories. Thank you Marjorie for this invitation; it would be impossible to find greater hospitality and here's to the next time.

Eileen Young (Oliver)

Did you start Bode in 1936? Do you know Margery Edwards (she was clever), Olga Palmer, Edith Gardner or Olive Jeffries ?

This all stems from a "phone call recently from an old Bode boy Dick Orley.

"You must tell them about Olive Jeffries who is doing such marvellous work in India", says he. A "phone call to Olive in Colchester where she has a flat when not working in India" - Yes, she was born in India, came to England when 2½ years old and started Bode in 1936. She was evacuated to Richmond and then worked at Bridgewater in R.O.F. Laboratories with Edith Gardner but has lost touch with her since then. Subsequently she became a nurse, midwife and health visitor.

During a holiday in South India in 1979 Olive was deeply moved by the poverty and ignorance she witnessed. So - after taking early retirement she went back to Madurai district Tamilnadu to use her experience as a health visitor and fieldwork teacher to implement community health education and self-help development schemes.

Olive had started the Good Foundation Charity aiming for the people themselves to improve their own health and their environment, to root poverty and improve the quality of their own lives.

By 1984 two projects had been set up, one rural and one in the grim area of Madurai city. Services include mother & child health, literacy classes, health education, treatment and home visiting. Six years ago a cottage industry was started to combat malnutrition in babies by allowing mothers to bring their young children to work with them. There is a creche and this also releases an older child to go to school now that he/she is not needed for child minding. In the ground floor clinic there is free treatment, ante and post-natal care. A weekly under-fives clinic is held in the workroom as well as education and health teaching. Uptake of immunisations is high.

It is easy to see that Olive and her helpers have a full time job.

Olive spends some time in England though and still keeps contact with family in the North and visits cousins in both Newcastle and Sunderland regularly.

She would love to meet Margery, Olga, Edith or any girls from that year or around that time and catch up on the news, families and lives. I think she is planning to come North next May. In the meantime she keeps a flat in Colchester.

As Dick Ouley said "Having met Olive and heard her talk you can be very proud of this Old Bedou."

Lacy Mills (Divison).

P.S. We have an address for Olive if anyone wants to get in touch with her!

## **NEWS FROM ABROAD.**

Olga Phang (Sinclair) wrote from Mount Eliza in Victoria where she lives only 40 kilometres from Joyce Galton (Hodgson). Both are busy folk but they manage to keep in touch. Olga asks for news of Elsie Corwell or Eileen Dooxford - Can anyone help? It is interesting to read that Olga's "Bedou" was sent on to Marjorie in Cheltenham and then on to Carrie Smith in Durham, who, although in her 80's, still found news of familiar names from her schooldays.

We were delighted to welcome Joan Brooks (Richards) to the dinner this year, she could not believe her luck when she found that the dinner was the day after she arrived from South Africa. She was overwhelmed by the warmth of the welcome she received from old friends after such a long absence. She had a few hours with Jean Mitchell (Pintoff) in Johannesburg in March and they managed to catch up on news during lunch. Jean sent her best wishes to all who remember her.

## SPORT.

Olga Wright (Stewart) was delighted to have a hole-in-one at Boldon Golf Club this summer. She was even more delighted when she was awarded an inscribed letter by "Sunday Post" newspaper for her achievement. Recently she was runner-up in the Ex. Captain's Cup. Joan Graham (Morrison) won the Vet's Trophy donated some years ago by Ethel Leibe (Locksby) and a friend. At the ex-captain's lunch were Old Bedlans Jan Hey (Smith), Dorothy Grierson (Kennedy), Joyce Young (Allen), Joan Graham (Morrison), Olga Wright (Stewart) and Winnie Scott (Thomas).

## "REQUESTS"

### "1968" REUNION.

Were you a first former in 1955 ? If you were and you have not yet received details of our Reunion in 1994, please get in touch with one of us:

Ann Duffield (Wright) 091 528 7947

Eileen Culvert (Potts) 091 534 4016.

### SEPTEMBER 1954 - JULY 1994 REUNION.

We are hoping to organise a reunion of "Girls" who were at Bede during the above years and those who subsequently joined the year group. We have made a provisional booking for a Buffet Supper at the Riverside, Queen Alexandra Road, Sunderland, on Saturday, September 4th 1994 - about 40 years to the day since we started Bede! For more information, please ring Joyce or Judith and if you know of anyone else who might be interested, please pass on the message.

Joyce Hindmarch 091 528 4333

Judith Hirstock (Thatcher) 0835 690201.

## THOSE WERE THE DAYS

Considering today's inflationary prices and sometimes bizarre mode of dress it is interesting to compare with those given in the Prospectus for Bede Girls' School in 1959. I quote from this Prospectus loaned to me by ex-Bedlan Dorothy Wager (Howe).

### School Uniform

Girls **MUST** wear a navy blue tunic to within four inches of the knee, a lighter blue blouse with square neck, navy blue knickers, long black stockings, house shoes with low heels for indoor wear, a school cap (price 3/6d) and preferably a navy blue coat. For special functions e.g. Speech Day, a simple all-white frock must be worn.

Girls **MAY** wear:

1. School Blazer from 17/6d.
2. School Jersey from 10/-.

3. School Scarf 4/11d.

4. School Tie 2/6d.

5. Plain straw hat with school hat band.

6. Summer frock of same material as school blouse, with elbow sleeves, plain white collar and cuffs.

An excellent two-course dinner is provided in the School Dining Hall at a cost of 8d.

Happy Days !!! Joan Marshall (St. Julian's)

## DEATHS.

Ethel Greig (Mrs. Lindsay)

Kathleen Bellamy (Mrs. Ditchburn)

Ivy Lockey

Eleanor Garraway (Mrs. Brockles)

Maisie Curry (Mrs. Ramsay)

Doris Robson (Mrs. O'Connor)

Winifred Talbot

Kathleen Scott (Mrs. Bolton)

Bessie Prake (Mrs. Green)

Rosalie Gillow

Kathleen Simpson

Elaine Clayburn (Mrs. Oliver)

Elizabeth Kenlyside (Mrs. Arnold)

Pat Morgan (Mrs. Smith)

Pat Barlow (Mrs. Armstrong)

Nancy Wright (Mrs. Suggers)

Mary Pretty (Mrs. Metcalf)

Eva Carney (Mrs. James)

I had great pleasure in visiting Elsie Kirkwood whilst in Bournemouth in October. At that time, she was still in her lovely bungalow - enjoying her flowers from the Guild - sent when we heard she was ill and facing a possible operation. It was nice to be able to tell Elsie what we hoped to do with the silver inkstand and exchange news with her. She was so cheerful but, now, utterly dependent on several carers who see to her daily needs. She has since had her operation and we wish her a speedy recovery. Grace Caldwell (Allinson) has been a willing and gracious contact - taking me from my hotel to Elsie's and back again and keeping us informed since my return home.

Anne Crowe

The inkstand, mentioned earlier, is to go to the "highest bidder". At the last committee meeting it was decided that offers of £300 or over should reach Irene Wilkinson by the end of May 1994 - in a sealed envelope marked "INKSTAND". These will be opened by the committee (dis-interested members only) and should there be more than one "highest bidder", those people will be approached and given the chance to increase their offer - until the highest bid is received.

## EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

This year we are once again indebted to Bert Snell for the excellent photographs he took of the silver inkwell - one of which is printed in the magazine. Thanks to all who have written during the year and given us their news and forgive me for not writing back to you individually. Thanks to Dorothy Cockburn (Dugdale) who types all this for me - no mean feat and much appreciated. Thanks, too, to Irene Wilkinson, who has held us all together for many years now and to the Committee who have supported her in all our undertakings during the year. Every gathering is enjoyed to the utmost by all who attend and long may we continue to meet. Thanks to Joan Hayton, who is responsible for the distribution of the magazine. Thanks, too, to Mr. Scott who once again has audited our Accounts.

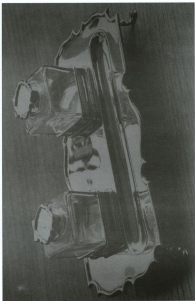
Several of you have been saddened by the loss of loved ones during the year and we send our deepest sympathy.

Keep sending your news - we love to hear.

Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Healthy New Year and God Bless you all.

Ann Crowe.





**BALANCE SHEET FOR SEPTEMBER 1st 1992 - AUGUST 31st 1993.**

**RECEIPTS**

Subs. 11 Annual	£11.00	
16 Life	£80.00	
	<u>          </u>	£91.00
Donations		£81.50
Meetings		£89.34
Interest		£50.55
Loss on Year's Working	£253.13	
	<u>          </u>	<u>£565.52</u>
		<u>          </u>

**EXPENDITURE**

Printing	£423.00
Stationery	£9.50
Postages & Telephones	£99.64
Cards - Christmas	.60
Gift to Auditor	£6.90
Social Services -	
Secretary & Treasurer	
(Retirement Gifts)	£25.88
	<u>          </u>
	<u>£565.52</u>
	<u>          </u>

**Total Funds on August 31st 1993 made up as follows:-**

Balance August 31st		3 1/2% War Stock	£98.36
1992.....	£1,334.04	Savings A/c. (T.S.B.)	£956.06
		Barclays Bank	£7.32
Loss on year's working	£253.13	Cash in Hand	£19.17
	<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
	<u>£1,080.91</u>		<u>£1,080.91</u>
			<u>          </u>

*Audited and found correct*

T. Scott  
1.10.93

