

THE OLD BEDAN

1995

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 1996

- FRIDAY Jan. 26th 1996** WINTER RE-UNION in the Students' Common Room, Wearside College, Bede Centre (Boys' School) at 7.00 p.m. (Tickets approx. £4.00)
- FRIDAY April 26th 1996** ANNUAL DINNER in the Castle Suite, Swallow Hotel at 7.00 p.m.
(Tickets approximately £15 - £16).
- TUESDAY June 18th 1996** SUMMER RE-UNION at the Ramside Hotel, Durham, at 7.00 p.m.
PLEASE NOTE - TUESDAY NOT FRIDAY.
- FRIDAY Sept. 27th 1996** ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING in the Wearside College, Bede Centre at 7.30 p.m.

Please make a note of these dates - before you "lose" your magazine and if you intend to attend any of the above, please pay for your ticket in advance, to the Committee member who supplied it. You will earn the grateful thanks of our secretary and the committee who will then be free to enjoy the events too.

GUILD OF OLD BEDANS

Office Bearers and Committee 1995-96.

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A few years ago we feared the Guild was to slowly fade out of existence! How wrong we were. Once again, as a result of the "Class" re-unions and enthusiastic members we have lots of new members mainly life members.

Irene Wilkinson will be pleased to have your subscription - £2 for an Annual Subscription; £10 for Life Membership. Please remember to use your MAIDEN name and put your married name, if applicable, in brackets. Also - please let Joan Hayton have any change of address so that your magazine doesn't go astray.

Thank you to all who report on our gatherings I know its not easy - but your effort is much appreciated.

Anne Mitchell (Crose).

WINTER RE-UNION 27th January 1995.

One could be forgiven for assuming that atrocious weather conditions would reduce the numbers of Old Bodians attending the Winter re-union on 27th January, but one should never underestimate the determination and resilience of such stalwarts.

In excess of 80 members turned up to enjoy the challenge of Lily's games.(Where does she get them from and are there really so many London Underground Stations ? Many had to resort to the back page of the diary to resolve that puzzle!). Joan and Bob's delicious delicacies were as tempting as ever, and of course the chance to enjoy a good natter with friends old and new was seized.

Some brave souls were even prepared to bear the wrath of Innes by chattering at an inappropriate time, leaving early or in fact doing anything else which is considered unbecomingly by O.B. standards! All given and taken with good heart, I hasten to add.

A splendid evening was had by all. Evenings such as this don't just happen - they are the result of hard work and good planning by many. I speak for all present when I say "Thank you and well done" to all concerned.

Marjorie Snowball (Cuddlesford).

ANNUAL DINNER April 21st 1995.

Eighty-five Old Bodians gathered at the Swallow Hotel to attend the Annual Dinner - slightly fewer than usual, probably because some were still enjoying their Easter holidays. The noise level in the foyer was as high as ever as old friends greeted each other and news was exchanged.

Chairman Iris Bennett welcomed us all warmly and asked us to pause a moment before grace, to remember those who had passed on, or could not be with us because of illness etc.

Then the meal - the well-liked formula of waitress served starter - delicious hot soup, serve yourself buffet of hot and cold meats with a splendid array of salads and new potatoes. Finally waitress served delicious sweets and unlimited coffee. All this enjoyed with plenty of chatter and laughter and the tables much admired with their 'Bodie' blue napkins and candles and lovely menu cards.

Everyone was feeling happy and replete when Chairman Iris announced the school song. This had been transposed (again!) to suit our "er" more mature voices, and it worked! Even I managed some of the higher notes, and the accompaniment was no problem this year with the aid of Anne Crowe's keyboard thank you Anne. We heard later that the song had been taped for someone who was unable to be present so hope we didn't sound too bad.

Chairman Iris thanked everyone for attending and the committee for all their hard work and co-operation throughout her year of office, also the staff of the Swallow Hotel for looking after us so well.

Musical entertainment followed with the "Lingfield Singers". First a selection from Gilbert and Sullivan, well-known and enjoyable. Then some new (well to me anyway) George songs. A splendid song by Eric Boswell, the Sunderland song-writer - he wrote

"Little Donkey" - about a miner's love for his whippet. The lovely ballad "The waters of Tyne" and a rousing chorus concluded the entertainment.

All too soon it was time to face the cold but dry sea air for taxis and cars, but feeling warm with friendship, good food and a very happy evening.

Our grateful thanks are due to Chairman Iris and the committee for all their hard work in arranging such a successful occasion.

Rhettie Ellison (Lofthouse).

SUMMER RE-UNION 26th June 1995.

The weather was very kind to us for our re-union at the Riverside.

Once again it was a case of "Faery Towers" in respect of our printed reserved cards on the tables in the Pemberton Suite. Despite Irene's careful booking, it was no more spelling mistake this time BUT elevation to the sainthood - Saint Bede - no less !!! Obviously they don't know us!! As we broke with tradition and held the reunion on a Tuesday, we can only hope that another "mini" reunion did not take place on the usual Friday.

Approximately 64 Old Bedams attended, everyone was so busy chattering and showing photographs that time just flew by and unfortunately some ladies left without signing the book. I must add, that not all of the time was devoted to using our vocal chords!! In spite of the usual complaints that we are putting on too much weight in the wrong places, there is an ever increasing number of ladies visiting the Cafeteria and returning to their tables bearing plates of sandwiches, salads etc. Some even make a second excursion to choose from a delicious selection of mouth watering sweets. Who can resist such temptation??

The beauty of this summer reunion is, that it is a wonderfully relaxing evening, when in the company of old and new friends, you can please yourself as to whether you eat or drink. The important thing is to enjoy the company and catch up on news of absent Old Bedams - so please - give yourselves a treat, and come along to our next one!! You will be very welcome. A reunion is an excellent time not only to catch up on news of other Old Bedams, but to make a note of it and pass it on to Anne Currie for inclusion in the magazine. No matter how trivial these items of news may be to you, they do add up and make interesting reading.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting was held on Friday 29th September 1995 in Wearside College, Bede Centre at 7.30 p.m.

Iris Harvey (Bennett) welcomed 14 members. There were many apologies for absence.

The minutes of the last A.B.M. were read, approved and signed. The secretary reported on the year's reunions and thanked the Wearside College for the continued use of rooms for the A.B.M. and the Winter Reunion.

The secretary also reported a drop in numbers at the Dinner at the Swallow Hotel in April owing to the way the Easter holidays fell.

Deaths were reported by the Secretary, especially that of Elsie Kirkwood (Davidson). She commented on Elsie's work for the G.O.B. over the years.

Dates for the coming year were discussed and approved and these will be printed on the inside cover of "The Bedan". Please make a note of them and obtain tickets from committee members and pay in advance if possible.

Chairman, Iris Harvey (Bennett) then passed the chairman's chain of office to Irene Wilkinson who is the chairman for the next two years.

A suggestion was made that the Summer reunion be held somewhere other than the Riverside Hotel in 1997. If a suitable venue can be found we will require bar facilities and food for those who want to eat. The 1996 Summer reunion will still be at the Riverside Hotel.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.00 pm. with tea and biscuits.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The membership on 31st August 1995 stood at 579 members and of these 35 are new life members; 14 paid before the increase and 21 paid the new fee of £10 after January 1st 1995. Many of these are younger members which is very heartening.

There have been 3 committee meetings at the home of the chairman Iris Harvey (Bennett) and 3 reunions and the Annual Business Meeting.

The Winter reunion was as usual in the Waterside College, Bode Centre, and was well attended. The games, which were organised and presented by Lily Richardson (Lawson), kept everyone busy. The supper supplied by "Something Special" was, as ever, very tasty and quite adequate.

The Dinner at the Swallow Hotel was on 31st April 1995. The numbers were down slightly owing to that Friday being the end of the Easter holiday and some people were still away on holiday. Those present enjoyed a pleasant meal which was partly waitress and partly buffet. The entertainment was by the Lingfield Singers. A group of males and females who presented a varied programme.

The Riverside reunion on Tuesday June 20th 1995 was well attended. It is a happy occasion with time to eat, drink and chatter.

I am sorry to have some sad news this year. There have been quite a few deaths during the year but two I feel I must mention. First in January Kitty Hepinstall (Wilton) died (1915 - 79 years at Bode). For many years the Social Services Committee gave her gifts. Usually Clair Clark (Oftednes) got and delivered these gifts. Kitty was bed-ridden and had a possum machine which enabled her to answer the phone, play cassettes and many other things. Her son expressed his most sincere thanks for our care and attention shown to his mother over the years.

The next death was in August and was Elsie Davidson (Kirkwood) whom I don't need to tell you was secretary of the G.O.B. for many years. Her work and enthusiasm for the Guild was known and appreciated by many members. She has been a sick lady for at least 5 years and spent quite a lot of time in hospital. Her brain and mind remained active and she always wanted to hear all the news of the Guild. We sent a donation of £25 to the Rheumatism & Arthritis Council and I also wrote, on behalf of the G.O.B., to label her daughter.

I'd like to thank the committee for all their help during the year, especially selling tickets for reunions and encouraging new members to join the Association.

TREASURERS REPORT.

I am pleased to, once again, report a credit on the year's workings of £91.86. We made a profit on both the Winter Reunion and the Dinner. The raffle at the Winter reunion realised £87.50 and thanks to all those who kindly donated prizes.

The printing of the magazine was £410 and, of course, postage had again increased. However, we are keeping our head above water thanks to profits made on reunions and generous donations.

NEW LIFEMEMBERS

Dorcas Dobson (Allen)
Anita Hunter (McKellar)
Hazel M. Oliver (Richards)
Margaret Walker Horsley
Bernda Watson (Smith)
Ethel Beddingfield (Luthe)
Ann Adair (Callaghan)
Eve Richardson (Jones)
Eileen Swan Patricia Swan (Blaylock)
Ann Stephenson (Palliser)
Emily Williams (Lowrie)
Sylvia Hunter (Smith)
Margaret Longville (Beck)
Marion Smith (Hartley)
Anita Percod (Emerson)
Patricia Stirling (Dicks)
Carole Kemp (Andrews)
Carol Smith (Walklate)
Carole Smith (Sweetnam)
Diane Birdman
Christina Johnson (Cook)
Wendy Oliver (Lewis)
Ann Ramsley (Hammott)
Liz Stirling (Gibson)
Margaret Dye (Watson)
Linda Keeble (Stettin)
Bernda Youngblood (Laidler)
Pat Osd (Ludman)
Jean Taylor (Collie)
Margaret Nichol (Fowler)
Helen Nichol (Scott)
P.R.C. Swan (Pittae)
Hazel Watson (Holdsworth)
Lydia Wood.

CHARITY FUND.

This year, our Chairman Iris Harvey (Bennett) has been able to give £60 to her two chosen charities: "Together" - the Sunderland Mental Health Users' Group and Alzheimer's Disease Society at Havelock Hospital. Both charities have written and expressed their gratitude. We were sorry to hear of the death of Kitty Hepinstall during the year - she was the only remaining name of those helped by the Social Service Club.

LONDON BRANCH

We are getting fewer! Joyce Hebron (Ayles), who has hardly missed a Reunion for over 40 years, is now unable to come due to family commitments. We shall miss her.

Marion Woodruffe (Heron) was visiting her daughter in London and joined me at Nancy's for the Reunion.

Nancy and I found Marion a most enthusiastic listener to our duets so we scamped through some of our favourites.

In October, like last year an "Indian Summer", Nancy, Edith Broderick (Burge), Dorcen Stockland and a friend met at my house for the usual chat.

Marion had written to say how disappointed she was to be unable to join us and we were sorry that Isabel, Lucy (Munro) was prevented at the last minute from making the long journey from Cambridge.

After lunch - (indoors because of wasps!) Nancy and I played a few duets to our captive audience.

Edith and Dorcen had long journeys to make and Nancy a dog to exercise, so the party soon broke up with promises to meet in May.

Dorcen Ward (Macrae),
Tel. 0081 992 3907

Jessie Ridley (Pickard) writes "I have been tied to a wheel chair and oxygen concentration for 24 hours a day for the past 12 years - but reading about Old Babylon reminds me of the time I used to attend meetings at Dorcen Macrae's home. It was quite a journey then, but I wish I could do it now".

NEWS

Ethel Foreman (Towers) sent me this tale of her "Round the World in 40 days"

For some years now we have been looking forward to visiting relatives in Australia and plans were well ahead to visit in March and April of this year, when our eldest son announced that his wedding was to take place in Tel Aviv in late March.

My husband, youngest son John and I left Sunderland in mid March for our trip of a lifetime. We had a week in Tel Aviv before the wedding of Brian and Ruth a Jewess. We'd never been to a Jewish wedding before. It was a beautiful wedding, and we can recapture all the excitement on the video we took; need I say more.

The next highlight, was 4 days in Bangkok, and while there we celebrated our Ruby wedding and also my 70th birthday. One day we spent 11 hours in sight seeing, in blistering heat 97 degrees F., but the air conditioned mini bus was a godsend. There was plenty to see & do, dancers, elephant shows, crocodile wrestling, floating markets, we even had a trip in a canoe, to name but a few. The Thai are so polite and generous.

It was some trip from Melbourne via Auckland and Los Angeles to Calgary in Canada, crossing 16 time zones, so giving us a 40 hour day. Calgary is at the foot of the Rockies. When we visited Lake Louise, it was all frozen over, and just a sea of dazzling white since 28 inches of snow had fallen there just two days previously. While in Calgary we stayed with a friend lately gone there from Sunderland, her son remarked that once while I was teaching at Bede, I had done a 'sit-with' and he had been in the class.

At the end of April, back in Sunderland, we realised we had been exactly "Round the world in 40 days".

Ethel Forman (Towers)

Laura Milbank took part in St. Michael's Bishopwearmouth celebration for 60 years since its re-dedication because she had been present - as a schoolgirl - at the original dedication. How pleased she was to read the history of the church which began with the word "BEDE" - a good omen indeed. Bede wrote that our churches are made of wood and our priests of Gold.

I also saw in the "Echo" a photo of Laura and others connected with the local United Nations group - planting an oak tree at Washington Wildfowl Park to commemorate the founding of the United Nations 50 years ago. In December - several groups of people will gather in Mowbray Park to honour those who have died and to pray for peace in all nations. Bedans are represented there - with Audrey Betty Sayers for Oxford; Anne Crane for the Catholic "Womens" League and Laura herself chief organizer of the group.

Those of you who still live locally and take the 'Echo' may have read Frank Estlin's article during the year - recalling his early Boy Scout days, when he dreamt of Jean Mitchell in her blue gym tunic alighting from the train in Gladstone Street. He doesn't speak to her but in his imagination she would come to him dressed like Dorothy Lansour in the Road to Morocco to the tune of "Moonlight becomes you".

There was also a full page in the Daily Mail about Denis Broderick (Robberson) now a T.V. personality. Unfortunately the article didn't mention "Bede" as one of the schools she attended. Pity!

Another snippet from Frank entwined in the 'Echo' The Barwell Girls - "goddesses in gymslips" - we thought they were rich because they had their own deck chairs which they carried to the beach "

In July - Mary Arkless, Doris Foster and Peggy Victory made their annual visit to Miss Thompson and Miss Peers in Ambleside, (Lena & Pats affectionately). In spite of each having some health problems, they are looking wonderfully well, and as usual the welcome was warm and the talk non-stop, catching up on all the news and recalling the past - lots of laughs, especially when trying to remember names (obviously a common failing).

The weather was superb and "home time" came all too quickly. It was a really lovely visit.

An Annual Memorial Prize for a Graduate Student at the Northern Royal College of Music, in memory of Clifford Hanley, has been set up by the Sunderland & District Organist's Society.

Maurel Stawther (Edwards) paid a flying visit to Sunderland at the end of May. She had walked from St. Bees, Cumbria to Robin Hood's Bay, Yorkshire, -the Coast to Coast walk - along with her husband, taking 3 weeks. While visiting her brother Sidney, she met up with May Teasdale (Cook) one morning visiting the new University Campus at St. Peter's. Explored the 'Red house' sculpture along St. Peter's Way, visited the sculptor's work-shop on the North Dock before viewing the "Pathways of Knowledge" which were unveiled by her Majesty.

Lunch was enjoyed at the Rolak Hotel where we met Sheila Anderson (Bath) and her husband also enjoying lunch and a sea-view.

In June Peggy Watson (Arncliffe) died suddenly at her home in Brigg near Scunthorpe.

During the war she served with the Queen Alexandra Nurses in Burma, receiving the Burma Star. While in Burma she met her future husband.

After the war she became a Theatre Sister, then an industrial nurse at a sugar beet factory.

Margaret Robinson (Dixon) saw Jennifer Crawford (Urwin) in July when they found that Margaret had been on holiday in Switzerland and Jennifer to the Grand Canyon.

Eileen Robinson (Temple) is now teaching at Waltham High School.

May Teasdale (Cook) & Margaret Robinson are in a Townswomen's Guild Quiz at Rolak and Fulwell, Jennifer Crawford, Carol Price (Middles), Pat Webb (Deans) & Vera Russell meet up for a chat - and a drink - at the Rosebuds. Margaret Munday (Baron) has now lived in Canada for almost 20 years.

Joyce Gullen (Hodgson) spent some time in this country during the year and was warmly welcomed to a coffee morning at Jean Boswell's, whilst staying with Margaret Nicholson (Kinsey). She also managed to join us at the Riverside in June during her visit.

Brenda Allison () visited Sunderland from New Zealand where she still teaches - she sends regards to all old friends.

REUNIONS.

From North, South, East & West, once again the '30ers' gathered in the Pemberton suite of Riverside Hall on Friday 1st September 1995. Rita Manning travelled from Inverness, Kathie Tait and Edna Wilson from Buckinghamshire, Doreen Dobson from Liverpool, Sheila Snowball and Lilian Campbell from Cumbria, Eileen Young from Romaldkirk and Joyce Robson from Darlington. The rest of us were from Durham &, of course, Sunderland. Lucy Mills was on holiday in Germany with John & her daughter Vicky. We missed Elsie White & Joan Russell who are both not well, we sent them both our good wishes. Doreen Dreyer happily managed her second reunion & it was good to see Rhonette Ellison. Betty Scott left her husband decorating their new house so she left early to help him, after doing a David Bailey with her camera.

Kathy Barlace (she of the keys left in her car) & Beryl Schwam were sorry to miss the meeting, as was Marjorie Harris. We were sorry to miss Marjorie both this time &

earlier in the summer when she could not have her Melisbry Meeting because of her daughter-in-law's illness. Stella Bunterley from Portland made her usual record of my new address.

There were twenty of us altogether and we were joined by a '37er' who heard us mention The Old Bedon and told us "I'm a Bedon too". It was Margaret Capon, who married Marjorie Edwards' brother (see an enquiry in the 1993 magazine). Here's to meeting you all again the first Friday in September 1996, Ramside Hall 12.00 - 1.00 p.m.

Manson Richardson in Northallerton.

Elis White (Bailey) rang and asked me to thank you for the beautiful flowers you sent her and to say how much she appreciated your kind thoughts. (Anne Crowe).

Five Old Bedons, all 1940s Vintage, met for a Summer Get-together at the home of Poppy Gould (Crafer) in Alton, Hampshire.

Guest of honour at the all-day party was Kathleen Robson (Mundy) "Tome" to mark her recent retirement as Musical Director of her very successful Church Choir in Napa (California).

First staying in Sunderland with Sheila Bagley (Coates), Kathleen was able to renew acquaintance with many old friends, including her cousin Joyce Robson (Bagley).

Poppy and Sheila were able to surprise Kathleen, first by producing Sheila's sister Patty Pearson (?) from Cheltenham, followed by Vera Duffell (Wood) from Lincoln.

The weather, surroundings and hospitality were splendid, and the conversation as witty as it had ever been almost 50 years earlier. It was a wonderful occasion for all of us.

REUNION '40 - 45ers'.

Date - Monday 15th May 1995; time 11.30 a.m.; Venue: The Rosebery.

After seeming endless wandering if we could, and talking about the how, where and when, 17 'old girls' were gathered for a reunion. A short period of "I'd know you anywhere" or "I'm sorry, I can't remember your name", and we were off - Gossiping and reminiscing. So much so that we all qualified for "late marks" when we should have been ordering lunch.

Those present were Audrey Anderson, Jean Brewis, Eileen Gosham, Joyce Haldon, Iris Harvey, Jeanne Koch, Betty Miller, Moira Ormon, Joyce Plemper, Jean Rossmartin, Marion Smith, Pat Swan, Fay Twitchett, Dorothy "Waggot", Dorcen Walker, Hilda Wharton and Dorothy Young. Several others through illness or holidays were unable to be with us and sent messages of support and regret.

The organising genius and driving force who brought us to this point was Iris, to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude.

It was a very happy day and we now regard ourselves as a nucleus and we will spread our tentacles to reach more friends and expand our group for future reunions.

Jeanne Koch (Milton).

P.S. I've just been wondering about Iris's telephone bill. In popular parlance WOW! would be appropriate I think.

TO 1997 STARTERS:- Anyone interested in a reunion in 1996 - mainly to organise a larger one to celebrate "40 years on" please contact Margaret Dixon (Robinson) 0191 320 2899

Olwyn Spensley
Anne Archer
Sheila Elliott
Mirvis Ludke

Glenda Lawson
Jennifer Crawford
Irene Makal
Margaret Munday

Ann Lewis
Julith Parker
Margaret Miller

NEWS 1998 - 65

In 1990, at the time of the Bode Centenary, two Old Bodes from 1958-65 decided to organise a reunion incorporating the Cathedral service with a visit to the School and a social evening at Websters.

Anita Pascood (Emerson) and Carole Kemp (Andrews) set about the immense task of contacting as many of their year as possible. Anita, through her business (Pascood's Interiors) was in touch with quite a few already and many others were found by sifting through school photographs and guessing where parents and friends were located. Advertisements were placed in local and distant newspapers and the response was terrific.

75 were contacted and 57 actually attended the get together, one coming all the way from Australia. A marvellous evening was enjoyed by all, with laughter as Lorna Cook arrived in her old school uniform, and tears as we sang the School Song to an accompaniment by Miss Bernard. The room buzzed all night as we caught up on 25 years apart.

The response was so good and everyone enjoyed themselves so much that Carole and Anita promised to organise a reunion every five years!

Thus, on the 6th May this year, we did it all again and met in the Residence. As expected, the response was not quite as good, so we invited a few people from the years 1961-68 and we were thrilled when some members of staff came along too. They were Mrs. Carrick (Miss Hayton), Miss Bishop, Mrs. Bell, Miss Milbanks, Mr. Snel, Mrs. Watson and Miss Thompson, who popped in for a few minutes.

Many letters and good wishes were sent by those who were unable to attend. (Mr. Snel now allows us to call him Bert as we are nearly as old as he is!)

The evening was much more relaxed than our first reunion but was just as enjoyable and the great achievement was that we managed to recruit 17 new members to the Guild of Old Bodes Association. This means that smaller groups will be able to attend meetings between the five year gaps. Girls come from as far apart as Norway and Plymouth and one - Lynne Luccock (Symonds) is deeply involved in education work in Ghana and brought along a bottle of champagne to raffle. This meant that the evening went off with a pop!

We now have quite a detailed list of information about the girls of 1958-65 but there still remain a few whom we have been unable to trace. If you have any information about any of the following, could you please contact Anita on 0191 367 3030 or Carole on 0191 322 7143. Any snippet would be appreciated.

Jarvis Arnold
Elizabeth Anderson
Aeriil Anderson
Mavis Bamfrough
Wendy Bell
Stephanie Bergson
Sandra Bergson
Natalie Bohman
Mary Berriman
Judith Borg
Heather Crampton
Lorna Cook
Mary Beaman
Sara Casanova
Sandra Davies
Heather Dackott
Yolande Duggan
Barbara Dent
Linda Dale

Mary Francis
Patricia Powell
Jackie Grantham
Ann Godfrey
Joyce Henderson
Jackie Hensell
Valerie Holman
Marjorie Houston
Margaret Hay
Florence Hamilton
Sandra Hardy
Jean Johnson
Kathleen Johnson
Valerie Maddison
Anthea Mincham
Denise McKenna
Christine Murray
Jean McKenzie
Linda Margatroyd

Audrey MacDonald
Christine Moor
Allison Oat
Jean Pickeringill
Edith Robson
Marjorie Rowntree
Gillian Russell
Pat Smith
Diane Stankler
Susan Smith
Janet Thompson
Vivien Thompson
Pat Usher
Jean Watson
Audrey Robinson
Heather Warfle
Jean Watson

A reunion takes a lot of organising but we have enjoyed every minute of it and when we see the photographs and receive the letters of thanks, we know that the preparation was all worthwhile.

We look forward to seeing as many of our year at the Old Bedian meetings as possible.

Regards Carole Kemp (Andrews)
Anita Powell (Emerson).

Rita Robertson (Byham) lives in New Zealand and sends her regards to all who remember her.

I understand 1937-42 girls had a Reunion in June in the Roker Hotel - but the "news letter" has not yet appeared Do let us know if you meet again!

Likewise 52/59ers were to meet in the Ramside - did you ? - and what was your news?

Joyce Prince (Bell) had an exhibition of paintings with her sister - in Hereford. Beth Jacobs (Webber) who lives in London spent a week with Jean Rowntree (Turpin). Pat Swan (Fellow) sends regards to all. Jean Rowntree is in contact with Edna Brown who lives in Rickmansworth and also Greta Gibson, Marcelle Goodall and Pat Kendall (Gilbertson) whose home is now in Pamplona, Spain.

Lilian Dawson (Dodds) at Bede in 1927 enjoys all reunions but would love to meet up with someone of her own year.

Two Old Bedians have been in the "spotlight" - as mannequins at Seaburn Ladies Probosc Club when Books Fashions gave a demonstration on one of the hottest days of the year. "Dorothy Middlemass (Staples) and May Tansdale (Cook) now know the less exciting aspects of the modelling business".

When Zoe Crawcroft visited Joyce Trews it led to a reunion of 14 70ers who came from Darlington, Romakirk & Thirkield. Zoe & Joyce have been friends since starting school at 5 years old.

ELSIE DAVIDSON (KIRKWOOD)

We were so sad to hear of the death of Elsie Kirkwood and grateful to Grace Caldwell who phoned us on the day of Elsie's death. I feel I've lost a very dear friend who was a source of great encouragement to me - particularly after I became EDITOR. Her's was always the first letter in the year to say she'd read the magazine "from cover to cover". It was a privilege to visit her in her home in Bournemouth a few years ago and latterly two years ago. She was a very sick lady on both occasions but so welcoming & pleased to hear any news I could impart.

Wm Scott (Thomas) has kindly written the following for us :

"It seemed very strange recently at the Guild of Old Bedans dinner that a 'Get Well' card passed round the tables was not signed by some diners because they had not known Elsie Kirkwood. For hundreds of Old Bedans Elsie's name was a household word. Her long, full and busy life was a background to her contacts with Old Bedans everywhere. As secretary of the Guild from 1948 - 1967 she steered it through all kinds of changing situations - always helpful, cheerful and very efficient. Her friendly approach, whatever the subject, brought her correspondence from Bedans at home & abroad. For years many enjoyable committee meetings were held at "Michaelford" where members enjoyed Elsie's generous hospitality. We appreciated the cookery demonstrations in the former Gas Board showroom in Forecott Street, by the kind permission of her husband, Oliver.

She conscientiously attended all Speech Days & School functions because she was interested in ALL BEDANS young and old. A devout churchgoer, she made many friends in her new home in Broadstone, Dorset, when they moved there for health reasons. Two faithful Old Bedan contacts there were Grace Caldwell (Allinson) and Audrey Best and several other Old Bedans visited her when she became too ill. Audrey Hayton (Carrick), our remaining Vice-President, recalls Elsie as a helpful, kindly, very busy person. Lara Thompson remembers their friendship through the years from school days at Barnes School.

She will be remembered always with affection by all Old Bedans who knew her - her letters remained treasy to the very end; a Memorable Old Bedan."

Miss Carlin

We are sorry, too, to report the death of Miss Carlin and thank Audrey Hayton for the following :

Miss E. E. Carlin

May of this year brought the sad news of the death, at the age of eighty-nine of Miss E.E.Carlin. She was herself a product of 'the Bede'; indeed she was initially a product of the old preparatory department before moving into the main school. After training as a teacher and gaining experience at Redby P.T. Centre and Monkwearmouth School she eventually returned to Bede.

A prim, diminutive figure in a stiffly starched white overall, with a neat and attractive (if old fashioned) hair style, little Miss Carlin soon proved her worth as a firm and effective teacher. Her work in the Science Department commanded the respect and affection of her pupils and earned her a place among the dedicated staff stalwarts who contributed so much to the excellent tone and scholarship of Bede Girls' School.

Active and energetic, she was always ready to help in other activities such as the Science Society. Especially notable were her achievements as wardrobe mistress and costumer for many school plays. Those who remembered the famous production of *Dido and Aeneas* which featured in the School's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, always delighted in recalling Miss Carlin's success in clothing the cast in white uncut sheets, skillfully draped and tacked, material ready for the costumes of plays yet to come. In addition producers of many plays found Miss Carlin's eye for colour harmonisation contributed notably to the beauty of the stage presentation.

On retirement Miss Carlin's days were filled with good works. She continued to devote herself to the care of her beloved old mother. A keen member of the Sunderland Floral Art Club, for many years she organised the purchase and arrangement of flowers for the Fulwell Methodist Church. She was also secretary of the Sisterhood and her talks, whether on spiritual matters or floral arrangements, were much appreciated.

At home she took great pride in her garden where she often entertained small parties of youngsters who were usually most interested in the pool with its frogspawn or tadpoles. In addition, she was always ready to provide coaching for young friends in need of a little help with school work. Furthermore, her Sunday night after chapel 'at homes' gave much pleasure to the young folk who attended them.

Miss Carlin also kept herself occupied with reading, knitting (usually bed-jackets and socks), making her dainty sweet smelling so-called lavender 'bottles' or her neat little jars of jam or marmalade. Most of her products found their way to friends or to the organisers of many good causes. Miss Carlin led a full, busy and independent life almost to the very end.

Andry A. T. Hayton (Carrick)

EDYTHE BROWN HOUSE

On Tuesday, 31st October 1995 four Mrs, Dorrie Robson, Kathleen Miller, Joyce Morrison and Joan Russell met together to attend the unveiling of a commemorative plaque to Edythe Brown. Edythe was a 79er who, after a long stay in hospital, sadly died in January 1990.

In 1976 Edythe became involved with Ingham Hospital Radio and then with the League of Friends for whom she was a hard-working committee member. As a token of appreciation for the hospital care she herself received and also for the work done by the League of Friends Edythe left a legacy of £75,000 to be used to provide for patient care in South Tyneside Hospitals. The legacy was to be entrusted to the League of Friends of South Tyneside Hospitals. They, together with the Trust Board and other Health Service professionals, agreed to establish a development near the Nurses' Home, on the District Hospital site, providing an outreach facility.

In 1991 the League agreed to the building of a house to be name the Edythe Brown House. Meanwhile Edythe's legacy grew to £85,000. To this was added £21,000 from the League, £15,000 from the Diabetic Society and £42,000 from the Trust Board. Finally, on 13th January 1995, Joan Howes, Chairman of the League of Friends of South Tyneside Hospitals, cut the first turf on the site.

The house has an interesting external design with an attractive and welcoming inner layout. The upper floor is mainly for use by the Diabetic Service which offers a wide area of support to a great variety of patients. Other rooms are also available for use by patient support groups such as the Diabetic Society, Coping with Cancer Group, Health

Promotion Service etc. There is also a retraining room/workshop for computer assisted learning for stroke patients and those with similar disabilities, to help them cope at home. The League provided the computers and Reynolds donated pictures for all the rooms. The House was officially opened on 31st October 1995 by Trust Chairman Dorothy Hinkinsop and League Chairman Joan Horvat.

The House will be a lasting Memorial to the generosity of Elythe and all those who gave so unstintingly of their time and finance.

Joan Russell (Ross)

I'm sure many Bedans will appreciate the following from Iris Harvey (Bennett) recently retired as Chairman of the Guild:

I have just completed 2 years as Chairman of the Guild. Despite early trepidation, it proved to be an enjoyable experience and one which I feel privileged to have had. Many thanks to all who supported and guided me during this time.

It was my first opportunity to scrutinise the chain of office in any detail and I was interested to learn from the inscription on the back that the medallion which forms the crestpiece was presented to the Guild in 1928 by Miss Shearer in remembrance of Miss Lily Hutchinson, a former teacher at Bede.

Curious to know about this lady, I borrowed some back numbers of *The Bedan* and other publications and set to work. I must admit that it made fascinating reading. Did you know that *The Bedan* was first published in 1898 and that it was in 1905 that Bede Collegiate School was so named, having previously been known as Bede Higher Grade School? However I digress...

I discovered that "Cruch" as Miss Hutchinson was affectionately known, taught at Bede from 1900 - 1938. She seems to have been much loved during this time, as is testified in "Portrait of a School" published in 1990. This nickname, we are told, was very apt for one who was the prop of the School's every enterprise, on whom everyone depended. No Bedan, mistress or headmistress who went to her with problems to solve, from hockey to morals failed to receive her sympathetic hearing and advice.

When she first arrived at Bede, the practice was for one teacher to teach all subjects to one class. When inevitably this system was replaced by specialists, Miss Hutchinson at first taught Mathematics and Music, later turning to English and English Literature. No one could recall her picking and choosing her classes, she took a pride in seeing what she could do with the material she was given, the mark of a true and dedicated professional.

She also did some pioneering work on the school's hockey at the time when girls had to be "transported to Whitburn to play" on a corrugated pitch. The "Singing Club" ceased to exist without the much loved "Cruch". I could go on a lot more about this "special" lady, but I feel that her personality and philosophy are best captured in her own words.

"... the things that really count in one's life are not to be measured by what is commonly known as success - they are the intangible things, the happy memories, the friendships, the shared joys and sorrows, in short, the human contacts that one makes".

I hope that her spirit will live on amongst Old Bedans for ever.

Iris Harvey (Bennett).

HOCKEY NOTES, 1994-95.

The most exciting series of National League Matches unfolded the season, with results depending on the last match, the year ended with promotion of our 1st team squad to the 1st Division for the season 1995-96.

With great support from within the club the 2nd squad continued to represent Sunderland Ladies in the 1st Division of the Durham League, and our very young 3rd squad played well in the 2nd Division of the Durham League, winning some of their last games and getting goals against much more experienced teams.

We have had representation in schoolgirl under 21 and senior levels at County, North and International level, and the standard of playing is high.

Although still playing at Silksworth Sports Complex, the club is moving as a Ladies' Hockey Group to become part of Ashbrooke Sports Club.

Christine Jackson (Pillars) is our new Chairman and will playing for 2nd XI Caroline Nandy is still playing with the 1st XI on occasions, (and the 2nd XI at times) as well as acting as manager and physiotherapist to the 1st squad.

Nora Batty (Dix) ex-staff at Bede, is retiring as a player of the National League squad. She has been a tremendous example on the field, as an experienced International, and as an extremely capable Club Captain. We hope she may play with the Indoor squad and take an administrative role in the future.

I am still enjoying occasionally going to the National League matches (to Exmouth, Canterbury, Southampton, Wimbledon and Bradford next season, and standing in for Carolyn at times as manager. (Also still continuing with Art and other courses at Durham University - Enchirion and Sculpture being tackled at the moment.)

Great pleasure as always in being involved.

Jean Brewis (Pillars)

DEATHS

Cathy McCree
Constance A. Holmes (Mrs. Johnsons)
Kitty Hopkinson (Mrs. Watson)
Winnie Lathan (Mrs. Tweddle)
Audrey Hall (Mrs. Price)
Mary Priestman (Mrs. Panton)
Marjorie Cottam (Mrs.)
Dorothy Edmondson (Mrs. Roland)
Vera Shorston.
Miss Ellen Carlin
Marjorie Collins (Mrs. Piper)
Dorothy Goodie

Elsie Neilson (Mrs. McBain)
Elsie Kay
Joan Chapman (Mrs. Rendall - in 1994)
Peggy Watson (Mrs. Astell)
Marion Blunt (Mrs. Carlidge)
Mary Buddles
Lilian Chalk (Mrs. Gaskell)
Mollie Anderson (Mrs. Hawkes)
Mary Baker
Mary Hayton (Mrs. Buddles)
Mary Smith (Mrs. Cox)
Kathleen Muir

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

My thanks to all who have enabled me to produce the "Bulletin" once again. I enjoy hearing from you and please keep on writing or phoning. Special thanks to Dorothy Cockburn (Dugdale) for being willing to get her typewriter "out of storage" to type this for me. Secretly she enjoys being first to read the magazine, I'm sure. Thanks to those and the committee for all the work they do to make our meetings so enjoyable - to Joan Hayton for her part in keeping your addresses up to date and dispatching the magazine to you all. Thanks also to D. Wild for auditing our accounts.

Our sympathy to those who have been bereaved during the year and our best wishes to all members for a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

God Bless you all - everywhere. - Anne

BALANCE SHEET FOR SEPTEMBER 1st 1994 - AUGUST 31st 1995.

RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURE	
Subs.		Printing Magazines	£410.00
Annual 8 @ £2	£16.00	Stationery	£15.46
1 @ £1	£1.00	Postages & Telephones	£113.88
arrear	—	Gift to Auditor	£10.00
Life 14 @ £5	£70.00	London Branch Expenses	£6.72
21 @ £10	£210.00	Credit on year's workings	£91.86
	—		
	£280.00		
Donations	£92.00		
Meetings	£253.70		
Interest	£35.22		
	£647.92		£647.92
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>

Total Funds on August 31st 1995 made up as follows:-

Balance August 31st		3 1/2% War Stock	£95.36
1994.....	£1,551.58	T.S.B. Savings A/c.	£1,388.47
		Barclays Bank	£251.79
Credit on year's workings	£91.86	Cash in Hand	£4.62
	£1,643.24		£1,643.24
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>

Audited and found correct
D. Wild
15.9.95

