

# **THE OLD BEDAN**

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**2001**

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**IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2002**

**FRIDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2002**

WINTER REUNION IN HIDE CENTRE TO RIGHT OF GIRLS SCHOOL.

From 7pm to 9.30pm

Tickets £5

DINNER TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THIS EVENING.

**FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2002**

ANNUAL DINNER IN THE MARRIOTT HOTEL, SEABURN.

7pm for 7.30pm until 10.30pm

TICKETS APPROX. £19

**TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2002**

SUMMER REUNION AT THE RAMSIDE HOTEL, DURHAM.

At 7pm.

**FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2002**

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AT CHAIRMAN'S HOME

8, WHITBURN BENTS ROAD, WHITBURN. AT 7pm.

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE ABOVE DATES, AND WILL YOU ENSURE YOU PAY FOR YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE, SO COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND TREASURER ARE NOT CONCERNED WITH COLLECTING MONEY ON THE NIGHT.

THANK YOU.

**GUILD OF OLD BEDANS**

**Office Bearers and Committee 2001 – 2002**

**Vice President**

Miss Irene Wilkinson

**Chairman**

Pat Craddas (Snell)

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**Vice Chairman**

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Barbara Swift (Broderick) Tel: 5511443

Doris Henderson (Wilton) Ex.Officio Tel: 5489429

Lily Richardson (Lawson) Tel: 5482147



## EDITORS COMMENTS

Bedan time is here again! Thanks once more to all who contribute in so many different ways to the successful production of the magazine. Remember always give your maiden name, with the married name in brackets, if applicable, and also give any new address. Thanks to those who reported on our meetings. It may be a chore but it is much appreciated.

## MESSAGE FROM THE RETIRING CHAIRMAN

I am at the end of my two years as Chairman and I have enjoyed the honour very much. I felt very nervous at first, especially when I read on the chain of office, all the names of those who had gone before me. All our functions, throughout the two years, have been successful and most enjoyable, and it has been a pleasure to welcome so many new members. Well done everyone. Sadly some of our members have died during my term of office and they will be greatly missed. Our Vice President, Audrey Hayton (Carrick) died in March 2001. Audrey had been Deputy Head at the school, for many years. Unfortunately she had to go into a nursing home recently. The good news is, we are getting new members all the time. Our magazine goes from strength to strength, and we always enjoy getting our news from local as well as far away places.

Every success to our new Chairman.

## DORIS HENDERSON (WILTON)

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Some of you may be wondering why we changed the day to Thursday for our Annual Business meeting, this year. The reason is that since our, friendly caring, caretaker retired, there is no longer an official on site. Bede Centre now closes at 5pm on Friday. In future the A.B.M. will be held in the Chairman's home on Friday. It is a great honour for me, to accept the Chain of Office from Doris Henderson (Wilton), especially after having read the names that are listed on the Chain of Office. I will, with the help of our very hard working committee, both past and present, do my best.

I welcome to the committee, this year, Lynn Batey (Forster), Marjorie Snowball (Caddelford) and Barbara Swift (Broderick).

Lynn has agreed to be our new Vice Chairman. We hope to build on past experience and further the interests of Bedans in future, and would appreciate your support.

## PAT CRUDDAS (SNELL)

## WINTER RE-UNION 26th January 2001

An excellent evening was enjoyed by the 62 Girls/Ladies' members (choose your description please), who made it to the Old School on the last Friday of January. So nice to see Kathleen Young there with "young" sister Dorothy, and welcome to any others we have not seen for a long time but unknown to me. After the usual difficulty in "shutting us up" our Chairman welcomed us so kindly and then battle was joined as we commenced two excellent games provided once more by Lily Richardson (Lawson). Strangely all 12 on our table ended with identical scores for each game – but then co-incidences do happen don't they? (Ha-ha). A tasty and calorific supper was again supplied by 'Something Special'. There was a wonderful raffle (did anyone go home without a prize??) and then 9.30 approached too soon, and we Cinderella's reluctantly departed, many to be on the phone next morning saying "I forgot to ask you" or "I forgot to tell you" – we can't be getting older can we?

Thank you Committee from us all.

## MARGARET LAIDLAW

### OLD BEDANS ANNUAL DINNER APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup> 2001

About 70 Old Bedans attended this years dinner at the Marriot Hotel, usual venue, if different name, everyone reflecting the fine sunny day, with happy smiling faces, and the usual cheerful greetings to be heard all around. When we were all seated, according to the table plan. We were welcomed by our Chairman, Doris Henderson (Wilton), who then told us of the death of Mrs Carrick, our Vice President, and we all stood for one minute's silence in her memory.

After grace was said we were served with our first course. A spicy chickpea and broccoli soup, which definitely woke up the taste buds. The main course was Salmon. with a champagne and olive sauce accompanied by a selection of tasty vegetables, dessert was a delicious lemon and lime delicie with mandarin caramel sauce, and we rounded off an enjoyable meal with coffee and mints. After dinner we stood and sang the school song, accompanied by Joyce Robson (Bagley), on a keyboard provided by Joan Rosenstein (Turpin), for the occasion -I sometimes wonder whether the high notes would be easier .to reach before dinner, perhaps not.

Doris Henderson (Wilton) apologised for the absence of Stuart Cameron, who was to have sung for our entertainment. He had just returned home, from hospital that day, after lengthy treatment, following a fall from a ladder. He valiantly offered to come nevertheless, but was persuaded it was not very wise to attempt it so soon. We were asked to look at the display of school photographs, to see if we could identify any. They had been discovered in an old desk, in the school, and were passed on to Moira Cuddeford (Dixon) by the caretaker. I hope other bedans were better equipped for that task than I was. I had forgotten my glasses. As usual the evening passed far too quickly, and most of us went home not managing to speak to everyone we hoped to, but everyone enjoyed the occasion and there is always next time.

### LINDA BATEY (FORSTER)

### SUMMER RE-UNION 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2001

As usual the Guild of Old Bedans held their annual Summer Re-union at the Ramside Hall Hotel. Although it was a cloudy and damp evening, it did not deter 36 Old Bedans from coming. We were soon seated at the tables (roughly in year groups) enjoying chat and exchanging news. Several people had not seen each other since the previous year, so it was an added enjoyment to meet and talk together again. For example Audrey Applegarth, on a visit to Sunderland, found it coincided with the date of the re-union, as it had last year, so once again she came with Maureen Thompson, to meet old school friends, before leaving early next morning for her home in Tonbridge.

Last year Olwyn Marshall and Mariel Heptinstall came to the summer re-union for the first time. They too soon found old friends to talk to. They must have enjoyed the evening because they came again this year. It was nice also to see Gwen Grace and Joyce White. It was their first visit, and I glimpsed them talking with Pat Cruddas, Dorothy Marshall and Erid Bell. It was a first visit too for Connie Matingley. She thought there would not be anyone present who she would know, so she was delighted to find two or three of her former schoolmates. For several years we have come to Ramside Hall, and it continues to be a good venue. We also find it very convenient to buy refreshments at any time of the evening, at the buffet counter. So whether you want a large meal or just a cup of tea, the choice is yours and the bar for all other drinks is just behind our chairs. If this sounds like a pleasant relaxing evening – it is. If you have not been to a G.O.B. Summer Re-union why not come and give it a whirl next year. You do not have to pre-book or give any advance notification that you would like to come. Nor is it necessary to 'dress up' –

be as casual as you like – and come along. We'll be very pleased to see you indeed.



You will notice I have omitted to give married names as some present said they always think of their pals with their maiden name and it was not easy for me to get married names at short notice. We enjoyed looking at photographs brought in by Brenda Johnson (Juler) but memories were failing and we were unable to put names to all the faces

#### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Was held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2001, at Bede Centre.

There were difficulties, both with venue and date, which were not resolved until we arrived in groups, and tramped around the school. Eventually a kindly soul took pity on this collection of damped and drizzled ladies, who were becoming increasingly exasperated.

The new system of booking, along with a new caretaker system, of day and night man, meant that our original booking became lost between the two. ('Day' takes the booking, but ('Night') has to arrange them, apparently). Our friendly caretaker, Tom Mills, of many years standing, was recently retired, and our Chairman Doris, was confronted, at the last moment, with no venue, as 'Fridays were impossible now!'

PAT BITTLESTONE

Hastily organised changes to Thursday, and notice in 'The Echo', produced results, however, as Doris' last major trial was successful, and we met, eventually in the room originally designated, but an evening earlier than intended.

Of the various reports, the most significant was that of the Treasurer, who reported a healthy balance, due in no small way, to the efforts of Pat Marley (Binding), whose advantageous purchase of paper. And one-woman printing marathon saved a great deal of expense.

Our Chairman, Doris, had enjoyed her period of office, and thanked all on the committee for their various efforts.

She then handed the Chain of Office to the incoming Chairman, Pat Cruddas (Snell). Pat welcomed incoming committee members and thanked those retiring.

The new Chairman proposed Lynn Batey (Forster) as Vice Chairman. This was approved unanimously, as was the next proposal, that we request Irene Wilkinson to be Vice President, replacing the late Audrey Hayton (Carrick). This appointment is in an honorary capacity, to show appreciation for all her years of work, in time gone by. The secretary agreed to contact Irene directly.

The dates and venues for next years meeting were discussed and agreed, and these dates are listed on the magazine cover.

## DOROTHY STEPHINSON (THOMPSON)

### TREASURERS REPORT

I am pleased to report that our accounts are in good order. Producing and assembling the magazine ourselves continues to save us money.

Thank you very much to all members who have sent donations during the year. Your continued support is much appreciated. We have £190.94 in the current account and £1819.49 in TSB Savings Account.

## JUDITH ROSENSTEIN

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

My first item is to report the efforts and success of our magazine editor in producing such a successful magazine, and to remind everyone to send information to her in good time for the next issue, which hopefully may include our first photographic effort. When the issue went out before Christmas every magazine included a millennium memento for each member and it should be noted that the excellent design is attributed to Tom Bennett (Iris Harvey's husband) whose efforts are much appreciated.



The Winter Reunion was as popular as ever and the excellent raffle raised £77.30p towards funds, the food was, as always, delicious and the games enjoyable (indeed we have been requested to include a third game, should time allow).

The dinner at the Seaburn Marriott had a couple of minor 'hitches'. The first was that, sadly, Stewart Cameron was unable to entertain due to an unfortunate accident. A card was sent to cheer him, and we look forward to another occasion when he can join us. The second was of a more mixed nature. Shortly after the soup course, there was a deal of panting and wafting of napkins, accompanied by a great demand for refills of cold water. The spiced bean soup was the culprit, which must have contained every hot spice known to mankind in generous quantity. After a brief recovery, this incident had no effect on the jollity and chatter, which is always the prevalent factor to an Old Bedans' occasion. The spring reunion at Ramside was not quite so well supported as usual, but the food and conversation were as excellent as ever!

I cannot conclude my report without a vote of thanks to the committee, especially those who are retiring, and a note of welcome to the newcomers. A special thanks to Doris Henderson (Wilton) our excellent chairman and president, whose very successful term of office concludes tonight. I hope she enjoyed herself as much as we enjoyed having her preside over us.

**DOROTHY STEPHINSON (THOMPSON)**

## 39ers REUNION 2001

Our reunion reminds me of "Brigadoon", a moment of time that stays forever the same. It is as though one finishes a sentence that was started a minute ago. Everyone arrives searching for familiar faces. Eyes light up, smiles appear and we are engulfed in the warmth, humour and bonhomie of the occasion. Perhaps there is an extra laughter line or two but our minds are still razor sharp. I mix-up names. There is quite a bit of 'Oh what is the name of that place? It'll come in a minute'.

The group is very active, taking care of family and friends, travelling the world, America, Australia, Far East, Norway and Hawaii, of course Joan Liddle is starting a computer course, soon she will be able to net the surf (I told you!).

Lastly it was time for the 'photo call'. Budgie in the forefront as usual, so that's all right!

We travelled from far and near. Edna and myself from Buckinghamshire, Doreen from Merseyside, Sheila from the lakes, Lucy from Hesham, Maureen from Northallerton, Eileen and Joyce from Ronaldskirk and Darlington.

We were saddened by the news of Kathleen Humphrey's sudden death. Kathleen was a newcomer to the 39er's, having attended the last two meetings only.

Those present were: -

Marjorie Harris	Lucy Mills	Maureen Richardson
Sheila Snowball	Edna Clements	Doreen Dobson
Muriel Staddon	Joyce Robson	Eileen Young
Stella Butterley	Joyce Spoons	Joan Liddle
Joyce Towns	Betty Scott	Edna Wilson
Marjorie Bailes	and honorary guest Joyce Wilson	

Apologies from: - Rita Manning, absence due to Archie's illness. Rennie Ellison had car trouble. Missed you. Doreen Dreyer, engrossed in daughter's nuptials. Her daughter will be going up in the world when she marries. The wedding takes place on the London Eye.

Next reunion - 30<sup>th</sup> August 2002. 12 noon. Riverside Hotel.

## JOYCE SPOORS

## YET ANOTHER REUNION

On Friday January 12<sup>th</sup> seven Old Bedans gathered at Pat Cruddas (Snell)'s home to meet Brenda Allison, a fellow Old Bedan, from year 1946. Brenda was here on holiday from New Zealand, visiting relations and friends. She had been staying with her sister June, in Weardale and arrived with her cousin Mary, both of who are Old Bedans. Brenda has lived in New Zealand for about 40 years, where she is still teaching, and obviously enjoys it. As we had not seen her for so many years, there was a lot to talk about and catching up to do. Pat gave us a splendid buffet lunch and some of her favourite white wine, which was much appreciated. As several of our number had recently undergone surgery, it made the occasion a double celebration, as we had a lot to give thanks for. Our thanks must go to Pat and Bert Snell, for giving us the opportunity to meet, and for their wonderful hospitality, making it a memorable morning.

## LYNDA BATEY (FORSTER)

## MORE ON THE SAME REUNION

Sometime in October, Pat Cruddas (Snell) received a telephone call from Brenda Allison (Withell), from New Zealand informing her that Brenda was coming to the U.K. for about four weeks holiday over Christmas 2000 and New Year 2001. Brenda spent Christmas down south with her husband John's family, and then came north for the rest of the holiday, staying in Weardale with her sister June Allison (Groen). Brenda said she would love to come and see me, so I suggested that she should give me a ring when she was settled with June. A date was suggested, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 11am. I immediately started to contact some of our Old Bedans, and it ended up with ten of us for coffee, a light lunch and wine. Brenda met some of her old classmates for the first time since leaving school.



They were -

Brenda Allison (Widhall) Dorcen Applegarth(Oliphant)

Mary Allison (Thompson) Brenda's Cousin

Lynda Batey (Forster) Enid Bell (Lister)

Shirley Coates (Lowes) Audrey Knight

Jean Patch (Annan) Marjorie Snowball (Cuddeford)

The tongues never stopped wagging and we had a wonderful four or five hours together.

### PAT CRUDDAS (SNELL)

When the 39er's met at Ramside in August, I took along some photographs taken in 1946, when Miss Goshawk came to Bede to talk about Historical Costume, Crinolins, Bustle and 'hour glass' dresses were included in her collection, and girls from the sixth form were her mannequins. I can identify the girls from the upper sixth, but not the lower. Can anyone remember this event and help with identification?

### MURIEL STADDON

Telephone 5283390



### 1940 REUNION

On September 13<sup>th</sup> fourteen old girls met for lunch in the Barnes Hotel, for what has become our annual lunch. Pauline Humphries, Pat Swan, Greta Gibson, Jean Rosenstein, Iris Harvey, Fay Twitchett, Moira Owston, Clare Clarke, Jean Koch, Doris Henderson, Sheila Triggs, Betty Millar, Joyce Haddon and Jean Plemper were present. . Sheila had come from Stockton and Pauline from York. Greta was paying her first visit to a reunion and had come from Shropshire. We were all glad to see her and hope that this is the first visit of many. We exchanged family news and gossip and news of our contemporaries. It was, as usual, a very noisy get together. Many thanks to Iris, who is the organiser of these functions.

### JEAN ROSENSTEIN (TURPIN)

#### 45ERS REUNION

How time flies!!

It is now 18 months since we had our second reunion for the 45ers, and what a day we had – recalling old times with 'old' friends. When I put a letter in last years Old Bedan, I omitted to say how pleased we were to see Maureen Wallis (Hilton) in our midst. She was on holiday from Australia and abroad

her itinerary so as to be able to come and join us. Thank you Maureen. Can I also take this opportunity to let everyone know that we are planning our next reunion for Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2003. I know it's a while away yet, but I am hoping that all who read this will do their best to keep this day free, and maybe we can get in touch with more of our old form –mates. All are welcome, the more the merrier. As before we plan on having an afternoon get together as well as the dinner on the evening. So please keep in touch.

AUDREY SKINNER ( SANDERSON)  
MARGARET SKIPSEY (EASDOWN)

### IRENE MAYIS BEHRIMAN (JACKMAN)

You cannot possibly know how much pleasure your photograph, Old Bedan and bookmark, gave me. I keep going back to have a look at the happy faces in the picture. My grey cells had to work, so thanks for the names! My husband said 'they are a great looking bunch' of course, they are Old Bedans. My copies of the Old Bedan are read from cover to cover as soon as they arrive. It is always a thrill to recognise a name from the past. What interesting experiences and lives some 'Old Bedans' have.

It was with sorrow that I learnt of Eileen Graham's death. She was a special friend all through school. I was one of her bridesmaids. Miss Moul asked each morning 'Have you gargled today?' Miss Littlehailes showed us how to cook a rice pudding in a hay box. How many other Bedans were given a collecting tin and spent part of Saturday collecting pennies for; 'Aid to Russia', 'Aid to Greece' and so on? Do you remember the lecture on Esperanto? The bamboo recorder made in art class actually came overseas with us and lasted until a few years ago, when the dog thought it was time he had it for a toy.

Very Best Wishes to all Old Bedans everywhere and a special thanks to magazine staff.

MAYIS

## DEATHS

UNA BROADLEY	AUDREYWINTER(COLLING)
EILEEN WALKER (MORRELL)	ELIZABETH CARR (HORSMAN)
DORIS FORSTER (ROBINSON)	KATHLEEN HESLOP (STAFF)
CELIA SOLLEY (DEVITT)	MARGARET GARRICK
KATHLEEN HUMPHREY (HUDSPETH)	IVY WHARLTON (BALL)
MURIEL SLAWTHER (EDWARDS)	LAURA MILBANKE
DORIS BEATTIE	RITA CRAGGS (YOUNG)
JOYCE GALLON (HODGSON)	
BETTY (ELIZABETH) CAWS (MEARNS)	
KATHLEEN NEWBRICK (SORENSEN)	
AUDREY HAYTON (CARRICK) STAFF	

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

LINDA MADDISON (MOORE)	SYLVIA PRATT (HILL)
JENNY GARRETT (CHESTERS)	BRENDA ALLISON (WITHELL)
DENISE BRODERICK (ROBERTSON-THURBON)	
MARY ROBSON (FORSTER)	ANNE WILMOT (THOMPSON)
SHEILA CHAMBERS (MASON)	MARGARET BROWN (ELLIS)
ELIZABETH HEDINBURGH (BOWMAN)	
MARGARET CAPPER (JONES)	JOYCE ATKINSON (HODGSON)
CONNIE MATTINGLEY (WALTON)	JEAN ROWELL (WALL)
NORA JOHNSON (FENTON)	GRETA GIBSON (THOMAS)
KATHLEEN WILSON (WOODRUFF)	

## OBITUARY

### A TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN HUMPHREY (HUDSPETH)

Kay's tragic death, last December (2000), shocked us all, a moment's aberration crossing the road outside her house, brought to a sudden end a very full and interesting life. Her classmates remember her as a brilliant artist, but although she gained a B.A.Hons.Degree in Art, saw painting as a hobby rather than a career, and was really very modest about her talent. She met her future husband Eddie, while they were students at King's College, Newcastle. Eventually they moved to Brampton near Carlisle, where they lived for over 40 years. Here she led a busy life. In addition to looking after their two sons, Bryan and Peter, of whom she was so proud, she worked for a number of years as Private Secretary to a local solicitor, and in her spare time helped with the local scouts, became secretary for the Lamercoast W.I., was a voluntary warden for the Woodlands Trust, where she and Eddie could combine a love of walking with a passion for keeping the countryside free of litter, and served on several committees concerned with swimming.

Indeed swimming became her favourite pastime, and it's comforting to know she was looking forward to a good swim, in the baths in Carlisle, when her sudden end came. It is ironic, that after so many years, I only discovered in 1998, that Kay lived in Brampton. We were so glad to meet up again, and she enjoyed coming with me to the 30er's reunion lunch at the Riverside Hotel, where she renewed many friendships, some going back to her infant school days.

Sadly this happened only twice, but I for one am grateful for the opportunity I had, to spend, all too short a time with Kay.

### SHEILA SNOWBALL (RICHARDSON)



## MURIEL SLAWTHER (EDWARDS) 17<sup>th</sup> February 1937-3<sup>rd</sup> October 2000

Muriel died last year in Vancouver Canada.

She attended Bede from 1948 – 1953 and then trained as S.R.N. at Sunderland Royal Infirmary.

She later travelled Europe for some time; working on Rhine cruises in Germany and spending six months in Morocco. Whilst there she lived in the family 'women's quarters' of Ahmed Yacoubi, a leading painter, and some assumed she was lost to the 'white slave trade'! Next she immigrated to Canada, working in hospitals from Toronto, westwards to Vancouver, where she eventually settled. There she met Ray Edwards, an English High School teacher. She and Ray were married in Bermuda, where she had earlier worked for a while. In Vancouver she had two children, Claudia and Guy. Sometime later the family moved to New Zealand, to follow Ray's career and settled on the idyllic shores of the Bay of Plenty, North Island. There they had a citrus orchard and some sheep! Muriel became 'truly rural' and learnt to spin dye and weave her own wool. The family later returned to Canada and Vancouver and resettled. Muriel worked in a busy operating theatre at Vancouver Children's Hospital.

Last year Muriel was about to retire and was looking forward to some leisure time, for ski-ing, sailing, cycling and other hobbies. She was planning to visit Sunderland, when she became very ill, and never recovered.

Many of Muriel's friends and colleagues from Vancouver hospitals celebrated her life in a special church service in October.

She certainly lived life to the full.

## S. SLAWTHER

## K.T.HESLOP

I had the honour and privilege of teaching under the guidance and leadership of Miss Heslop, in the Geography Department of Bede School, in the early days of my teaching. I carefully observed her methods and adopted her approach in several important respects. I owe a tremendous debt to her example and work ethic.

Kate (or K.T.), whichever version you use to refer to the inimitable Kathleen Theresa Heslop, was one of the long serving members of Bede, who dedicated her life to the school. Countless pupils experienced her teaching style and gained from her thoroughness and care. She had the remarkable gift of never forgetting a pupil's name. Years after leaving school, former pupils would be encountered in the street, and greeted with an instant declaration of their name. This revealed a personal touch, which she carefully hid away under her formidable presence, when faced with a class of potential miscreants.

Her teaching style was, simple, honest and forthright. A no nonsense philosophy prevailed and everyone was there for the serious business of working. Basic values were observed, and she insisted upon an orderly class, and a display of good manners. As an organiser and Head of Department she was first class and everyone was well aware of what was expected of them. She set an active example to others and punctuality was her trademark.

She was a kind and caring person who respected others and expected the same in return. She personified the 'Old Fashioned Virtues' that appear to be sadly lacking in a minority of circles in this more liberal age. She was fiercely independent, and managed on her own, in a dignified manner, serving as a good example to others, with the strength of her spirit.

## ALBERT E. SNELL

**AUDREY HAYTON (CARRICK)** was a pupil at Bede Collegiate School for Girls, transferring with it to the New Durham Road site – thus her involvement was of long standing and her loyalties ran deep. She read for her degree at Armstrong College (Newcastle University). Her first teaching post was at West Southwick Secondary School. During the early part of the war, she took a position in Callington, Cornwall, which she found different and enjoyable, but North East ties, thankfully, brought her back to our region. She took a post at Bishop Auckland Grammar School, for a few years, finally settling into her ‘Alma Mater’ – by then, Bede Grammar School. Initially teaching History, she progressed to becoming Deputy Head Teacher, taking over the position from her future sister-in-law, Kathleen Carrick. She then married John Carrick, a Durham University lecturer, in the mid-fifties, and had many happy years with him, until sadly widowed in 1974.

Shortly before she retired, she became acting Head Teacher of Bede. My principal contact with her was during the years of her retirement. She was charming and alert, keeping in touch with former staff friends and ex-pupils, from whom she was always delighted to receive their news and views.

I was indebted to Eileen Brass and Valerie Northorpe for their personal contribution to this eulogy. Eileen (former A level pupil) remembers especially the high standards Mrs. Carrick set for herself, and expected no less from all pupils. This was always tempered with generous assistance to assure that they achieved their aims.

Valerie, also a former pupil, but later a staff colleague (at Bede) quoted her as an inspirational teacher and dedicated historian.

Nothing was left to chance, her preparation being such that she gave out ‘hand outs’, in those pre-computer days, when hand-outs were hand made! She remembers the impeccable organisational skills, but most of all, the caring interest in each pupil’s welfare.

An accidental fall. Caused Audrey to move into a nursing home. The broken bones healed, but the great shock took its toll and her brightness gently faded. She died a very few days before her 84<sup>th</sup> birthday, in March 2001, having dedicated the major part of her life to her beloved school.

**DOROTHY STEPHINSON (THOMPSON)**



**KATHERINE T. HESLOP** was a brilliant teacher of Geography, but she was also the archetypal child psychologist, knowing precisely who to encourage, and who to provoke into producing the level of attainment she expected.

Working without text books (in 1946 only elderly atlases were available) but with her verbal skills and blackboard expertise second to none, she slip-tested, on a weekly basis, until her gems of wisdom were firmly implanted.

I recall two of the many such gems, emerging in later years.

Learning geographical terms 'Industrial inertia' came up in 1947. Miss Heslop quoted 'Consett Iron Company' as a perfect example, explaining that of the three ingredients necessary, only limestone flux (the cheapest) was available locally now. The iron ore and coking coal were worked out and had to be transported at vast expense. Thus the company was non-viable and uneconomic, and should be relocated to a port or coalfield. Successive governments failed to acknowledge this, until the surprise closure, some 33 years later in 1980, but our astute Miss Heslop had focused on this need all those years before.

A second gem was incorporated in lessons on Volcanicity. In 1948 she explained the 'Ten Great Plagues of Egypt' in Geographical Scientific terms, stemming from volcanic eruptions. At the head of the Nile – thus the lava coloured river of blood, the sulphurous poisoning of the fish, the frogs leaping out to save themselves, the plague of boils due to drinking the sulphurous water etc. We all said 'So it was not miracle at all!' 'Oh yes it was' she said, 'It was the timing that was the miracle, when Moses struck the ground with his rod'. A T.V. programme in 2000, discovered similar reasons.

Miss Heslop came to a reunion in 1997, when she was 91, she looked around at all her former pupils from the 45/46 intakes, and turned to me and said 'Such delightful ladies, it makes one so proud to have had a hand in producing them, you know?'

The ultimate accolade!

## DOROTHY STEPHINSON (THOMPSON)

### THE LONDON BRANCH

I am sorry that a report about London Old Bedans was missing from last year's magazine. My letter to the secretary, asking her to mention that no one was free for the reunion in May 2000, and that I had had a minor stroke in August, never arrived.

Marjell Heron (Woodruff) and I were the only guests at Nancy's lunch in May. (I went by mini-cab as I can no longer drive). We decided that the October reunion would be the last, in view of the difficulties the members have in attending, and I was very disappointed that no one was free to come to me. Isabel Lundy (Manroe) was the only one free, but suggested, on the phone, that she came in the spring. (She was my 'best friend' at Barnes School, until she went to Bede a year before I did).

Our few members all had long journeys (from Durham, Hartlepool, Reading, Westbury and Cambridge).

It is surprising that we have managed any reunions at all!

We all have happy memories of our school days, and keep in touch by phone.

In 1957? The London Old Bedan Branch was suggested by Miss Shearer, who asked me to arrange meetings, all that I remember is that on several occasions (annually), about twenty of us met for tea at the Y.M.C.A. (Tottenham Court Road) and played silly games afterwards! Does anyone else remember?

The war stopped meetings and it was not until 1952, When Phyllis Beck (Termant) took over, that a small number, out of about 40 members, started meeting at each other's houses.

On May 1<sup>st</sup> 1954, Miss Shearer, Miss Ewart and Miss Birchall, joined eight of us for tea, at Lyon's Corner House, and a walk on the Embankment Gardens. Several years later Miss Seddon and Miss Birchall, entertained us at their homes and later Miss Nicol was hostess several times. We were pleased to see Miss Ewart and Miss Franklin at several of our reunions.

I relieved Phyllis of her responsibility in 1962, and we continued as before, with two reunions a year and several picnics in St. James's Park with our young children – it never rained! We were all shocked at the sudden death, in 1968 of Phyllis Beck (Termant) and very sad for her husband and young family.

The number of members gradually declined, but occasionally a 'New Old Bedan' joined us for a time, and gave us up to date news of Bode. In 1959 Nancy Lawther (Hubeloka) moved from Kensington, where we had visited her, to Ealing, and we started sharing the hosting some years later, changing from tea to lunch. Nancy and I met every week to play darts and play to Action Blind Clubs, when asked. I apologise for the length of this report, but it is my "Swan Song" as the London Branch is now closed down. We have made some very good friends and will keep in touch. Apologies for the alterations, right hand (and brains) fire quickly. Best Wishes to the School, the Guild and all Old Bedans.

**DOREEN WARD (MACRAE)**

### **EDITORS NOTE**

The Secretary, Dorothy, telephoned Doreen, and had a long chat to her. . Unfortunately, no report was received by any committee member, last year, from Doreen, about the London Branch. For many years Doreen has sent such a report, although, over the years, their meeting have been smaller, as travel became difficult. We are grateful to Doreen for her efforts, and wonder if anyone, also in the London area, would consider keeping in touch, with news, as Doreen has decided she can no longer do so. Old Bedans everywhere are keen to hear news of other Bedans and it is good to hear of others who were at the school when we were there. Doreen can be reached on 02089923907 and would still like to keep in touch, although she can no longer manage to send in any report. I can actually remember visiting Doreen for a reunion about 1948 and Marjorie Brown (Breeze) when we were working in London. How time flies!

**MOIRA**

## LETTERS FROM HOME

### SHELAGH BUCHANAN (JONES)

It was a lovely surprise to read in the 2000 Old Bodan that Jean Lothes (who was in the year below me) had recognised my name from the letter you printed – and there was me bemoaning the fact that my generation of Old Bodans never seemed to be in touch with the magazine. I sit corrected. It is a couple of years since I sent you any news, but the big event of recent months, is that I have been selected for Ordination training. I shall be continuing with my prison chaplaincy and teaching work, whilst following the three year North East Ecumenical Course, which is administered from the top floor of Ushaw College near Durham. It will be three years of hard work but the prospect is very exciting.

Wishing you well with getting the 2001 magazine together.

Shelagh  
Red Gables, Town Street,  
Shiptonhorpe, East Riding,  
YO43 3PE

MURIEL WOODRUFF (HERON)

Thank you indeed for the Old Bedon. I always enjoy it and it brings back many happy memories. Actually I prelate many of the Bedans who write to you, as I started there in 1930 and always thought it was a wonderful school.

A long time ago I became a Life Member and then I did send another donation (also ages ago) as I realised that every expense was rising and so was the duration of my receiving the Bulletin!! Enclosed is a small donation of £5 which I hope will be a little help.

I have not been able to attend meetings often as during the winter I find attending difficult and at the summer events I have usually been away, but recently I visited Nancy Lawther (Habicka) and Doreen Ward (McCrae). They are vallant Old Bedans and have done fine service to those who, during the years, have met in London. This year Doreen has had a stroke and had to arrive by taxi, albeit until a year or two ago, she used a bicycle, and has nobly struggled until she is now able again, to play the piano. Nancy, to whose home I went, had had a fall, but recovered very well indeed. She is still very active and plays the piano to Blind people once a month. Doreen joins her every second or third month.

They have held London meetings in their homes for many years – Miss Shearer first asked them if they would do this and only now is it diminishing for obvious reasons. If you could put a note of appreciation of them in the next Bulletin, I am sure they would be very thrilled. Nancy started Bede in 1929 and Doreen about five or six years before that!!

Thank you indeed for all your help and please thank all the officers and committee from me – as the work you do is extremely valuable; it certainly spreads news but it also perpetuates a fine spirit.

With every good wish

Muriel  
Bank Top, High Street,  
High Shindcliffe,  
Durham. DH1 2PF



## LORNA MACCORY (RAYMOND) 1912-1937

Thank you very much for my copy of the magazine once again. I have not written before as I wonder if many people will still remember my family. There were five children; three girls and two boys all spread over ten years.

My father was Senior Master in the Boys School for 42 years, teaching maths, and during the First World War, Science. He was 'Tubby Maccoby' to all and sundry. He also taught his two grandsons called Pearlman.

My eldest sister Eva was the first girl to go to Cambridge on a Scholarship. She married an American Airman during the War, while she worked as an Octavia Hill Housing Manager in London, and lived in New Jersey until she died aged 82 years.

My sister Bessie (Pearlman) lives in Golders Green and recently lost her husband. I moved from Sunderland 23 years ago to Washington (part of Sunderland now) and lost my husband Maurice (Businessman and well known Clairvoyant 'Raymond')

in April. I have two sons, one a Science professor in MacMaster University in Canada, and another a Quality Consultant who travels worldwide. My daughter, Angela, lives near me and is my constant companion as she is divorced. I have four grandsons. I have rarely met anyone who started school when I did, except Anne Crowe (Nancy Mitchell to me) who lived in the same street, and we went to school together every day. We joined in 1932. I am so sorry I lost touch with her, and did not know about her funeral.

I was the youngest of three girls, and the two boys followed me. Perhaps a few of my old schoolmates may still be around. I am still in good health and spirits and would love to meet some old school friends again.

I have made a note of the Socials and get togethers

Lorna

11 Lowthian Terrace, Washington,  
Tyne & Wear NE38 7BA

## MAUREEN RICHARDSON (ROBSON) 1929 – 1945

As usual, when THE MAGAZINE arrived, nothing got done until I had read it from cover to cover. It was a very moving ending that Rennie Ellison wrote in her obituary for Dorrie Robson. She was right; we will all remember how Dorrie gathered us all together. As you will see we live in Northallerton. We occasionally go to visit Alice Brown (Randle), in Thirsk, who is a contemporary of Miss Peters. She is now 92 and as lively as ever – bridge five times a week. Her daughter Jennifer (High School) brings her back to Sunderland quite often. I took my husband for a birthday treat to Floodlights in Masham, a group of ladies ‘accosted’ us, having recognised the accents. They turned out to be Donna Brown (Stothard) who left Bede in 1986, her mother and aunt, and guess what? Alice above is her great aunt. How’s that for coincidence? Doris is a Beauty Therapist in Bedale. My husband and I see Lucy Mills (Davison) and her husband John quite regularly at Helme Park. It is a handy half way house between Northallerton and Hambleton and I also keep in touch with news from my sister Erid Richardson (Goldback). I am looking forward to the Dinner in April and also our 39ers meeting in August. P.S. Since I became a Life Member some time ago I feel I ought to make a further contribution to the Old Bede Fund. Donation enclosed.

Maureen

131 Alnby Road, Northallerton,  
North Yorkshire. DL7 8HL

## POETS CORNER

DOREEN STANNIFORTH (SIMM) remembers this contribution to the magazine in 1947.

## HATS

THE FIRST FORMS HATS LIE NEAR THEIR EYES  
THE SECOND FORMS HATS ARE LESS IN SIZE  
THE THIRD FORMS HATS ARE AT THE BACK  
THE FOURTH FORMS HATS, ALL STYLE THEY LACK  
THE FIFTH FORMS HATS LIE IN THEIR ROLLS  
THE SIXTH FORMS HATS ARE NEARLY HOLES

She also remembers clearly when Lynda (?) had to get a stain out of her gingham dress, when a dinner ticket left in the pocket, was overlooked on washday.

Doreen has also provided this doggerel for your amusement.

### SCHOOLDAYS

Blazers, Assembly, Prefects, Bells,  
Rule days.  
Homework copied, skipped, or late,  
Mule days.  
Crushes on 'Miss', making a noise,  
Fool days.  
In at the deep end, learning to swim,  
Cool days.  
Home perms, preening, giggling at boys,  
Drool days.  
Verbs, experiments, scales and skills,  
Tool days.  
Memories, bonding together for life,  
Schooldays.

### LETTERS FROM ABROAD

#### JOAN JOBLING (KIRTON)

I am writing to thank you for sending on to me the 'Old Bedan' every year. I enclose a cheque for £5 in gratitude. George Kirton, my late husband, and I have lived in Ibiza for 19 years and have been very happy. George died two years ago, but I have made many friends here, and the weather is so kind to older people. My name was Joan Jobling, before I married, and I attended Bede from 1933 - 1937 and still am very proud to have gone to Bede Grammar School!

Please pass my love and greeting on to any of my old pals. Remember I have a soft spot for any Old Bedan coming over here.

Yours in friendship

Joan

Apt 251

San Antonio 07820

Ibiza, Balearics.

#### EDITORS NOTE

I remember visiting Joan's home in Whitburn when the carasts group used to meet. She had a mynah bird, which talked, and also a very cold swimming pool (it was winter!). I am sure Joan Boswell (Rough) borrowed a swimsuit and had a chilly swim following a game of carasts.

## SNIPPETS FROM NEAR AND FAR

ELSIE GOLLING (SWANNACK) now living in a Residential Home in Aylesbury. Her daughter Fran, lives quite near, so is able to visit her quite regularly, says how much she enjoys reading the Old Bedan, as it often sparks off memories of school days many years ago.

VERA KEMP (DEVLIN) now lives in 'Glenholme Residential Home'. Vera's son, David, says how he taken the magazine to his mother and read it to her, as she is almost blind. It revived many memories for her, as she was a good friend of the late Anne Crowe.

MARJORIE SPARLING now living in 'Little Sister's Residential Home' Sunderland. Due to falling eyesight, has had to have the magazine read to her. She has found memories of her days at Bede – she especially loved playing hockey!

BETTY PETERS (SPENCER) now living in 'Hillsborough Residential Home' in Cornwall. She moved from Sunderland to be near her brother.

DOREEN LOMAS (WALKER) has made contact with Audrey Gittings via a friend of Mary Reed (Lawson) who is cousin to Audrey. This followed an enquiry in last year's magazine. Audrey is now in a residential home in Cornwall following a stroke

DORIS HENDERSON (WILTON) was photographed by the Echo newspaper, as a member of the Cardio Support Group, meeting at Sunderland Royal Hospital. The group was trying to encourage other heart attack victims. Were other Old Bedans in the background of the same photograph?

SUSAN HALLAND The Sunderland Pride Cup was presented in 1975 to Susan of Bede School. The shield to commemorate this is held by Moira Cuddeford, having come from school.  
Does anyone know Susan?

**BETTY HEDINBURG (BOWMAN)** wishes to send happy birthday greetings to all Old Bedans who reach 70 years of age from August 2001 to 2002.

**ISABEL EATON (HUTCHINSON) CUPAR, FIFE.**

I enclose a cheque for £25, a donation to help continue the issue of the magazine. I do enjoy receiving it each year. I am now 85 and it seems so long ago since I paid the life membership fee, I feel ashamed.

I'm afraid my generation is very depleted, and not much news. I have had lots of 'tit bits' from 'Pete and Lena' but I have not been fit enough to do the trip to the Lakes for a couple of years.

Doris McCree (Pygott) has visited me twice, during the last two years, and she brings news of my age group. Her cousin Lillian McCree still lives in Sunderland and although Doris is in York she visits. She had met Lillian Galloway, Joan Newby and Lillian Dawson, all my year.

The very best wishes to G.O.B. may it flourish.

**MARJORIE CALVERT**

It was a miserable, misty day outside when we assembled at her daughter Karen's home to celebrate June Thompson (Burlison's) 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Inside, it was a joyous occasion, with many of June and Austin's family and friends gathered together. June and Austin have a son and daughter and four grandchildren, who keep them young.

Old Bedans who were there were, Norma Wyness (Laker), May Morrison (Walker), Marjorie Calvert and Joan Wilson (Anderson) who came up from Kent with husband Les. It was lovely to see June's two brothers who were there with their wives. Old friends and neighbours came from near and far. Karen and Steve worked hard behind the scenes to make it a truly memorable day for June.

**UNA BROADLEY**

Joan Henderson (Teller) wrote commenting that her friend Una, had died in March 2000. Una had attended the old school and then taught in Sunderland, being Headmistress at Hill View, until her retirement. Joan also sent the new address, in Gateshead, of her sister-in-law Joyce Dunning (Henderson).

Joan also sent a donation, which was gratefully received, commenting that she much enjoyed receiving and reading the magazine each year.

### KATHLEEN YOUNG (CRAGGS)

Kathleen wrote to let us know of the death of her sister-in-law, Rita Craggs (Young). She was a pupil at Bede from 1926-1933, when she went to University. She was later a member of staff, teaching French and German, replacing Miss Shearer on her retirement, and she later married Gordon Young. She had been involved with the Bedan Magazine when a staff member. Many Old Bedans will remember and the holiday she spent on the continent with the sixth form. Kathleen also says, like most Old Bedans, everything stops until she has read the magazine when it arrives, although, like most, she does not send anything to put in it. This year she has been fortunate to meet up with Bedan friends, her sister, Dorothy Young (Wheldon), Elsie Lynn (Turner) m Olga Stone (Hawkins), Marjorie Phalp (Snaden) and her cousin Joyce Elliot (Farrer). She keeps in touch with Jean Rough (Alderson) and Audrey Robson (Alderson), with Christmas letters. Her donation also towards postage expenses, was gratefully received.

### GRETA GIBSON THOMAS

It was so kind of Iris to arrange the date of the Old Bedans lunch to suit me, and I enjoyed every minute of it. It was lovely to see so many old friends again and to be made to feel so welcome. Thank you all.  
You will remember we talked about the songs Miss Orme translated into Latin for us, and we were trying to remember the words of 'Amo facillam'. I said I still had my notebook with them in and promised to send a copy to Jean Rosenstein. Well.....

Although it is a year since we moved to Sedbury, we are still in chaos. I searched everywhere for my notebook, and then found it, quite by accident, while looking for something else. I have had copies made of all the songs and cards, and now that I have managed to lay my hands on some large enough envelopes, I will be posting copies tomorrow to Jean, Pat and Iris.  
Perhaps you could sing a few of the old songs at the next meeting of the Guild of Old Bedans.

I enclose a cheque for £10 (I hope I have remembered the correct amount), for my membership of the Old Bedans and look forward to receiving my copy of the magazine.

With Best Wishes to all,

**GRETA**

**NORA JOHNSON (WILSON)**

Earlier in the year I had an enjoyable visit to Bowes Museum, and discovered that our guide was Anne Weston (Fry), of a rather later generation of Old Bedans than mine. Recently Emily Darratt (Lawson) visited me from her home in Scotland and we joined Muriel Woodruff (Sherrin) to see the new kneeler in the chapel, dedicated to St.Hilda in Durham Cathedral. Muriel is a Broderer of the cathedral and was responsible for embroidering one section of this beautiful and unusual piece of work. (of course we also went to Galilee Chapel to pay our respects to Bede, as I always do)

**GLADYS STEWART (SIDNEY)**

When Gladys (now 93 years old) moved to Richmond, to live with her recently widowed daughter, the canasta group lost one of its longer playing members, having been playing for over 40 years. She was known, not only for her skill at the game, but also for making mouth watering cakes, which she brought along for her contribution to supper. She actually made the cake, which was to celebrate the 50 years anniversary of the Guild, when the annual fee was 3s 6d and for life members £3.30. She also has a photograph of the cake.



PAULINE HUMPHRIES (HUNTER'S) daughter was married in July at Eskrigg near York. Old Bedans present included Pat Rich (Lord) Marie Humphries (Bailes) and Jean Rosenstein (Turpin). Susan's married name is Kraus, she teaches English as a foreign language, and at present travels frequently to Germany to teach members of the Deutsche Bank. Her address is available if requested.

ANN GILBERTSON (TATTON) has a few faded old photos of school, teachers and girls 1933-1938. Best Wishes to all who remember her. She lives in Edinburgh but keeps in touch through her cousin Joyce Townes's a 39'er.

ALICE BROWN (RANDAL) is living in Thirsk and at 92 years old, still plays bridge 5 times a week!

MARJORIE HARRIS (STOTHARD) mentions that as the school song was sung at the annual dinner, it was a reminder of Dorrie Robson's lovely funeral service, where the school song was sung as she left the church. It also brought memories of Kathleen Humphries, who had just been discovered living in Brampton. She had just gone to two of the 39er's reunions before her untimely death.

#### KATHLEEN HUMPHRIES (HUDSPETH)

Kay had written after joining the G.O.B's, requesting a copy of the school song, as she could not remember all the words, and she was driving everyone crazy trying to sing it. Iris Bennett sent her a copy, which she was delighted to receive, as she could at last, sing the words in the right order.



### JOYCE GALLON (HODGSON)

Joyce arrived Heathrow at the end of April and was met by her cousin, also Joyce, and taken to her house near Bristol, for a few days. Next they visited the Lake District, for another cousin's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, where they met many relations and had a marvellous time. Joyce came to me at the beginning of May and we had a busy time with visitors. We had visits from Joan Boswell (Rough), Joan Ball (Turpin) and Constance Turpin Miller, daughter of Joan. We had a weekend visit from my sister, Irene Nicholson (Dickson) and Urs Laidler (Cox), both from Bradford. During the week we had visits from several of Joyce's relations and then her cousin Joyce took her to visit others around Newcastle.

It was quite exhausting for her, but any time she had a break, she was sewing and embroidering all kinds of gifts for everyone. We had a few days with her cousin Joyce, and then back to Australia. I rang her recently, and she has now recovered from her adventure.

### MARGARET NICHOLSON (GRACEY)

#### EDITORS NOTE

It is with regret we have heard again from Margaret, that Joyce died in September in Australia. Olga Phraups (Sinclair), visited her in hospital, just before her death, when she had been very bright, and they had chatted together about old times.

Joyce had promised to visit Olga, when she was better, as she had no idea how ill she was. Olga intends going to her funeral, taking with her flowers on behalf of the Guild of Old Bedars. Joyce had been President of the Guild from 1957 - 1959 before she went to Australia.

**GUILD OF OLD BEDANS**

**BALANCE SHEET SEPTEMBER 2000 – SEPTEMBER 2001**

Subscriptions	109.00	Bookmarks	188.82
Donations	238.00	Stapler	15.00
Interest	21.59	Flowers/Chocolates	23.00
Winter Reunion	381.63	Postage	115.45
Annual Dinner	<u>1270.50</u>	Copier	50.00
		Winter Reunion	270.25
		Annual Dinner	<u>1158.50</u>
			1817.02
		Credit on years working	<u>201.70</u>
	<u>2018.72</u>		<u>2018.72</u>
Total Funds Sept.2001			
Balance 31/8/00	1907.09	31/0% War Stock	98.38
Cr. For year	<u>201.70</u>	TSB Savings a/c	1819.49
	<u>2108.79</u>	Barclays Bank a/c	<u>180.94</u>
			<u>2108.79</u>

Audited Joyce M Lowe  
5th September 2001

