

# **THE OLD BEDAN**

**2002**

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2003**

**FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2003**

Winter reunion in Bude Centre to right of Girl's School

From 7pm to 9.30pm

Tickets £5

Dinner tickets will be available on this evening

**FRIDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2003**

Annual Dinner in the Marriott Hotel Seaburn.

7pm for 7.30pm until 10.30pm

Tickets approximately £119.50

PLEASE NOTE FINAL NUMBERS AND PAYMENT MUST BE MADE THIS YEAR BY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – SEE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

**TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2003**

Summer reunion at the Ramside Hotel Durham at 7pm

**FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2003**

Annual Business Meeting in the Chairman's home

8, Whitburn Bents Road, Whitburn at 7pm

Please make a note of all the above dates **NOW** and will you make sure you pay for your tickets in advance, so everyone can enjoy the evening without collecting money on the night.

Try to come to as many of these official meetings as you can, as well as your individual gatherings!

## GUILD OF OLD BEDANS

Office Bearers and Committee 2002-2003

### Vice President

Miss Irene Wilkinson

### Chairman

Pat Cruckles (Snell)

8, Whitburn Beers Road, Whitburn, SR6 8AD Tel: 5293313

### Vice Chairman and Secretary

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### Magazine Distributor

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### Committee

✓ Marjorie Snowball (Cuddeford) Tel: 5498817

✗ Barbara Swift (Broderick) Tel: 5511443

✓ Doris Henderson (Wilson) Ex Officio Tel: 5489429

✗ Lily Richardson (Lawson) Tel: 5482147

✓ Lynda Batey (Foster) Tel: 5529557

✓ Pat Marley (Binding) Tel: 5227383



## EDITORS COMMENTS

Welcome to another Old Bedan, produced again, despite a variety of problems, which we have been able to overcome successfully. Why are things never straightforward?

We are still gaining a few more members, although alas, some of our long standing members are no longer with us.

It was decided by the committee that the production of the magazine be done earlier in the year. We found that last year, we were physically making the magazine just before Christmas, when everyone was frantically busy with her own Christmas preparations.

We ask, therefore, if you have any news for the magazine, to send it in during September. After that there is still an enormous amount of unsorted work for us to do. Remember, at one stage the magazine was produced professionally, and had to be paid for, and now your committee does much of this work.

Have you any interesting photographs of Old Bedan groups? We can now include them in the magazine. We do not seem to have much news from Old Bedans abroad this year, and comments were made last year, about how interesting this had been the previous year. Send in any news you have, even if you think it is not very much, as you will always be remembered by others in your year.

Thank you again, for those of you who, willingly – or otherwise – report on our social events. It is much appreciated.

MOIRA CUDDEFORD (DIXON)

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We are at the end of my first term of office as your chairman, and it has been quite a busy and eventful year for me.

The Winter Reunion, Annual Dinner and Summer Reunion, dates are printed on the front cover of this magazine, so PLEASE make a note of them in your diaries NOW!

**NEW RULES** now apply to the dinner at the Marriott Hotel on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2003. We have to pay the full amount of the hotel bill *three weeks* before the actual dinner. This means that cheques, made payable to The Guild of Old Bedans, must be received on or before 4<sup>th</sup> April 2003, and are not returnable after that date.

This has caused a lot of concern to the committee, and me, but I am afraid there is nothing we can do. We have already paid £100 deposit, and cannot afford to lose out. Maybe we will have to consider a new location for next year (2004), we will always listen to any suggestions.

Please keep up the good work, by sending in your news and photographs to Moira. No news means a lean magazine.

We now have a printer, which has been very kindly given to us, by the son of Barbara Swift (Broderrick). We do not know how long it will last, but at the moment it is producing the magazine for us. Grateful thanks to Moira Cuddeford (Dixon) and Pat Marley (Binding) for all their hard work.

Lynda Batey (Forster), our Vice Chairman, has had to withdraw from this position, due to ill health. I am saddened at this news, but Lynn must put herself first, and take care. However, she has thankfully agreed to stay on as a committee member.

At our A.G.M. it was proposed and seconded that Dorothy Stephenson (Thompson) take over as our Vice Chairman. She agreed to this and she will also be our excellent Secretary.

As I write this in September, our President, Irene Wilkinson, is in hospital, following a stroke. We send her our kindest regards, and wish her a speedy recovery.

**PAT CRUDDAS (SNELL)**

## WINTER REUNION JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup> 2002

Our winter reunion proved as enjoyable as ever, with 67 of our members present. We were warmly welcomed by our Chairman, Pat Craddis (Snell) and introduced to mother and daughter, Marion Powley (Munday) and Margaret Munday (Hanson). Margaret's visit to Sunderland from Canada made their appearance possible. You may remember the auction of Miss Moor's inkstand some years ago – this now belongs to Margaret. Marion, her mother, has the honour of being the first girl to enter the doors of Bede School, in 1929 – photographed by the Echo!

The position regarding the production of the magazine was also mentioned. The cost of the ink alone was £380, and took many, many hours of Pat Marley (Binding's) time. She used her computer and then the committee completed the binding. Many thanks, Pat. It was agreed that the inclusion of the photographs has made our magazine even more interesting. We hope and expect all problems to be solved before the production of the magazine next year. To help towards the financial cost we received the magnificent total of £109 as donations at the winter reunion. Thank you ladies! Lily Lawson again provided us with plenty of chatter and discussion when brains and memories had to be engaged to solve her games. Thank you Lily! The Committee had organised supper for us, again from Something Special. They were so busy serving us and we were so very busy chattering that it was really quite noisy.

Finally, the raffle was as popular as ever and produced £75. Then 9.30pm and time to go – the end of another lovely evening.

## JUNE THOMPSON (BIRLISON)

## OLD BEDANS ANNUAL DINNER APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup> 2002

The queue of cars signalled there was 'something on' at The Marriott Hotel on the seafront. My passenger, Doreen Dreyer (Watson) got out at the gate – she was so eager to be inside!

Once again it was the Old Bedans Reunion Dinner, and a splendid, very happy evening it turned out to be. Do I imagine the girls are getting younger?

74 of us attended with lots of laughs and much chat. We had a leisurely meal of melon with sorbet, which was a work of art – really delicious and we tackled it in true Bedan style – to face and conquer the challenge!

The chicken was lovely and moist. Some felt deprived until they eventually found the apricot, which added a great zing and there was plenty of mixed vegetables.

The marbled lemon and lime delight, with a mandarin and caramel sauce looked very more-ish and disappeared rapidly. Coffee and mints followed and I am happy to report there were lots of clean plates at our table.

Then we sang the School Song – a few matters of “It’s a bit high” but overall it was sung well, a good sound, and many sweet top notes! Well done to Joyce Robson (Bagley) at the piano – she kept us going.

Chairman Pat Cruddas (Snell) spoke of the death of Lena Thompson – announced in The Sunderland Echo that evening. Lena always enjoyed the Annual Dinner in earlier years, and particularly the various hilarious entertainments produced by Mary Alderson and co.

Pat also sent the good wishes of the Old Bodans to Betty Brantingham (Hunter-Robson) who is having some health problems at the moment, hoping she soon recovers her good health.

Then came the entertainment!

Stewart Cameron was booked for last year, but unfortunately a serious accident took him out of circulation for some time – so it was really good to see and hear him in such good form.

With Paul at the piano – he who battled through chaos and traffic diversions caused by a huge chemical explosion in North Shields!! – they sang, joked, enjoyed and royally entertained us, and all too soon it was 10.30pm.

Just time to look at the display of old photographs, pore for some present day colour snaps, say our final goodbyes, catch someone passing to say Hello, and out for taxis, cars, and the journey home. (We arrived home at 12.30am!)

Many thanks to the Committee for their hard work and efforts in organising such a very enjoyable evening and all other events. We do appreciate all you do.

**LUCY MILLS (DAVISON)**



## SUMMER REUNION JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup> 2002

On a pleasant summer's evening, 35 Old Bedans gathered at the Ramside Hotel for our regular reunion. It is usually fine when we meet here – perhaps all our Old Bedan meetings should be held at the Ramside!

No one had travelled very far this year – Mary Tullock (Thompson) and Jean Johnson (Cree) came from as far a field as Durham! While Gwen Grace (Andrews) came from Pickering, and Sheila Triggs (Allen) from Billing ham.

Muriel Hepinstall brought some school photographs, and it was quite challenging trying to recognise some of our friends and fellow pupils from years past, and also some of the staff.

We swapped our usual banter with the “Boss” of the food counter – he is always in good form. The beauty of the Ramside is that you can have as much or as little as you fancy to eat – but those desserts are always so tempting!

There was plenty of laughter and catching up with news of our families and friends. There were some missing familiar faces this year, but it was good to greet others who had been absent for a year or two. Try, everyone, to make the effort to come next year! The evening ended sometime after 10pm, with promises to meet again next year.

DOROTHY COCKBURN (BUGDALE)

## ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Chairman, Pat Craddock (Snell), welcomed us to her home, on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2002. Apologies were read, and minutes for last year were agreed and signed. Lynn Batey (Forster) has reluctantly had to withdraw as Vice Chairman, due to ill health. Everyone wished her well and she agreed to stay on the committee. It was proposed and passed that Dorothy Stephenson (Thompson) be Vice Chairman, on the understanding that she could call for assistance if necessary.

The Treasurer's report was approved and reflected the careful stewardship of our funds. Flowers had been sent to Inna Wilkinson, who has suffered a stroke, and we wish her well. Her long service is still remembered and appreciated.

Information was given about new members and also, with regret, the deaths of former pupils.



The position regarding the printing of the magazine, was discussed as Pat Marley was having difficulty with the new machine. It was hoped that this could be resolved to allow printing to go ahead.

The dates for forthcoming events were discussed and agreed. These dates and relevant information will be printed inside the cover, as usual.

## DOROTHY STEPHENSON (THOMPSON)

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

An interesting year began with pandemonium for our generous magazine crew. The decision to have photographs included resulted in a noble first effort but because of the type of equipment, getting the photographic quality up to standard used vast amounts of ink (£380 cost). We thus launched an appeal to purchase a laser printer to reduce these expenditures.

Winter Reunion - was well supported and included two Canadians, one Marian Fowley Munday and her daughter, Margaret Munday Baron. Marion has the distinction of being a member of the first intake to the "new building" in Durham Road in 1929!

Annual Dinner - at the Seaburn Marriott was also well supported - once we had sorted out the American barman who was not familiar with Spritzers. Stuart Cameron succeeded in avoiding acrobatics from a high ladder (which hospitalised him last year) and entertained the "girls" to a good and well-varied song repertoire, interspersed with brief and humorous anecdotes. Alan, (accompanist and fellow raconteur) was delayed by a huge chemical fire on Tyneside, but arrived at Miss Mead's eleventh hour. The audience is still out on choice between regular entertainment and chat. It was suggested that we should come an hour earlier and get "well chartered" before the meal - 6.30 for mingling, 7.30 for eating and 9.00 for entertainment! Joyce Robson (Bagley) obliged with an excellent rendition of the school song - geared to the young sopranos we once were, but some said it was now a note too high!

Summer Reunion - was disappointing in attendance, but much enjoyed by those who were there - and an opportunity for "pure chat", of which full advantage was taken. The food is always excellent and the evening warm and sunny.

Our new president has had a busy and rewarding year, as have the committee.

We look forward to seeing and hearing from you.

#### DOROTHY STEPHINSON (THOMPSON)



#### TREASURERS REPORT

This year our accounts show a loss of £71.25, but we have paid our deposit of £100 to the Marriott Hotel for the Annual Dinner in April 2003.

Thank you for all your generous donations to the Guild.

#### JUDITH ROSENSTEIN

#### 1937 REUNION

In May fifteen Old Bedans met for lunch at the Barnes Hotel. We were Enid Spendley, Joyce Pillans, Joyce Robson, Audrey Stocks Margery Conlin, Marianne Allinson, Marjorie Phelps, Marie Winter, Olga Stone, Edna White, Elsie Lynn, Barbara Westberg, Moira Mahoney, Jean Rough, and Jean Robinson. I really do not know what we find to talk about after all these years, but talk we did until "throwing out time". It was certainly a very happy occasion, and one, which we hope to repeat next year. Sadly Vera Price could not be there, because of a spell in hospital. However she is now back home and making a good recovery.

#### JOYCE ROBSON (BAGLEY)

## 9ers REUNION 2002

"I'm here, that's something" said Joan Liddle. It was a sentiment echoed by all sixteen of us, in spite of replaced or creaking joints. We gathered, as usual, at The Ramside. Our reserved space had been changed to a side room – because we had made so much noise last year, Marjorie Harris thought! Lucy Mills has a second granddaughter, and Zoe Crowcroft has (I think) twelve grandchildren, ranging from two years to University student. It was especially good to see Zoe, as it was her first venture away from home, since being widowed.

Our Golden Weddings are being celebrated – some in grand manner, with trips to Italy at Slayley Hall. How many of those for some of "those who took our place"?

There were apologies from Edna Wilson and Rita Manning (whose husband is not well enough to leave in Inverness).

Joyce Spoons has flu, Eileen Young was chaffing her husband, who has broken his leg. (See what I mean with my opening comment of this report?)

Joyce Robson, Doreen Dobson and I argued about whom is the oldest. Joyce won by one day! Muriel brought a card, which we all signed for Beryl Schwab, who is living in Israel near her daughter. Una Greenfield has left Woolley Hole and is now living in Walls.

We were talking about our experiences as eleven-year-old evacuees, to Richmond, and then our return to pester the masters in the boy's school. Who was the most apprehensive? The masters or us?

After three hours of chat, we went out onto the entrance steps, for a communal photograph, and then we went our various ways home. I see,

Lucy said we needed a volunteer to write the report. Volunteer? HA!

Next years meeting will be at the Ramside on Friday August 29<sup>th</sup> 2003.

Looking forward to another enjoyable afternoon.

## Event

Joan Liddle  
Doreen Dodds  
Muriel Staddon  
Marjorie Bailes  
Doreen Dobson  
Joyce Robson

Lucy Mills  
Marjorie Harris  
Edna Clement  
Joyce Townes  
Zoe Crowcroft

Sheila Snowball  
Stella Butterly  
Maureen Richardson  
Betty Scott  
Doreen Dreyer

## MAUREEN RICHARDSON (ROBSON)

#### 45ers REUNION

As many of us will be aware, Margaret Skipsey (Easdown) and myself are arranging another reunion at the Marriot Hotel, Seaburn, on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2003. The previous two in May 1997 and May 2000 were so successful, we are running this one along the same lines. We have booked the lounge for the afternoon (approx.2pm – 5pm,) and a dinner in the evening. We hope to see those who came before and more besides.

If you can only make it for either the afternoon, or the evening, that is all right, we would still like to see you, but hope that you will come for the day. Will anyone who is interested in coming, please get in touch with Margaret or myself for any further details, and hopefully to say that we will see you. It would be so nice to see some new faces.

As well as those who started Bede in September 1945, the girls who started in 1944 and 1946 are most welcome.

MARGARET SKIPSEY (EASDOWN) TEL: 01642 555 329

AUDREY SKINNER (SANDBERSON) TEL: 0191 5366123

#### ANOTHER REUNION

In January, Dorothy Oakes (Clarke), came to visit me for a couple of weeks. Dorothy has lived in Devon since 1948. Except for the reunion in 1997, she has not been back to Sunderland since about 1967. She was keen to see how the place had changed, so we did a lot of sightseeing, including driving past her house in Grange town and Bede School. Being January the weather was poor, but that did not deter us. We visited the Angel of the North, when it was blowing a gale, and the day we went to Sunderland (me living in South Shields) it rained cats and dogs, and then even snowed!

However we plodged through it all and she was amazed at all the changes. We also had a mini reunion at the Bay Hotel. At lunchtime, those who gathered for a good old natter were, Cynthia Wilkie (Marving), Doreen Measer (Hall), Sylvia Pratt (Hill), Margaret Skipsey (Easdown), Dorothy and myself. Joan Richardson (Craig) had hoped to come, but at the last minute, could not make it.

A good time was had by all.

AUDREY SKINNER (SANDBERSON)

## DEATHS AND NEW MEMBERS

### DEATHS

PHYLLIS MARY PETERS  
MARGERY HUMPHREY (MELLOR)  
ROSALIND COOPER (THOMPSON)  
IRENE SIGSWORTH (JOHNSTON)  
ANNIE SHIELD (HILL)  
MONTY GRAHAM (ATKINSON)  
LENA THOMPSON  
WINIFRED MARY ARKLESS (ROBINSON)  
GRETA BEADLE (PYBURN)  
WINIFRED COATES (GRADY)  
HAZEL OLIVER (RICHARDS)  
MARGARET SPROAT  
LORNA CUTTER (BITTLESTONE)  
ELIZABETH KEENLYSIDE (ARNAL)  
ELEANOR WILSON (TITHERAGE)  
MARGERY ROBSON (HODSON)  
GRACE TURNER (HAYTON)

### NEW MEMBERS

KATHLEEN COWE  
VERNA JENKINS (DENT)  
ETHEL MAY TEASDALE (COOK)  
JEAN BITTLESTONE (DALZIEL)  
JEAN HARRIS (BRIDGES)  
VERONICA HUWITSON (BIRKETT)

## OBITUARIES

### LENA THOMPSON

I only met Lena when two of us were interviewed by her to join the staff at West Southwick School – but her fame as a County Hockey player and P.E. enthusiast had gone before her! Rhoda Bowman and I both wanted to teach only 2 1/2 days a week, but after the interviews, and some persuasion, we each agreed to teach 3 days – thus Lena got extra days teaching.

Lena first taught gym, games and some English at Monkwearmouth Central School, before getting a Headship at West Southwick. To quote a former pupil, Hannah Davison (Harrison), who was taught by her in the 30's "she was a lovely teacher, well respected and liked by everyone.

We started the week on Monday morning with swimming at High Street Baths, and gained medals and certificates. Miss Thompson also taught gym, hockey, netball and games and she always wore a blouse and proper tunic, just like the girls!"

On the other hand, Lena liked cooking and, up to her sister Ethel's death in the 60's, they kept house together. I remember Lena being thrilled with nylon sheets, which could be washed in the morning and ready to go back on the bed by evening (a great boon when teaching full time!)

She also drove a real 'sporty' motor car (Austin I think), but it was rather worrying when she insisted on looking at you, even if you were in the back seat, whilst still driving!

Right up to her death at 95, she was interested in many things; particularly people, their families, children and progress, and they always had many visitors at Brat hay Fell Cottage.

As a staff (West Southwick) we have visited Lena and Pete at Clappersgate, annually, for the past 30 plus years.

Her Funeral/Thanksgiving Service, as one would expect, was all planned and organised by her. One item, even detailed that the Church must be warm for everyone, and if necessary her funds could meet the expense entailed – typical of Lena!

She was a hard working, friendly, considerate lady, full of fun, and will be much missed.

### LUCY MILLS (DAVISON)

## PHYLLIS MARY PETERS

"Pete" to all who knew her stays evergreen in my memory. From first sight of this tall, imposing, curly haired figure, in tunic and long black stockings, my P.E. teacher at Bede, I have been fortunate to maintain close contact with her over many years. When Pete became P.E. Organiser for Sunderland Education Authority, she foresaw the future for athletics in school sport. I remember her words to me when I was teaching P.E. at Bede. "Athletics is going to be big, so go on this course to learn sprint starts and throwing things!"

Our next big involvement was setting up more classes for women in Keep Fit, training teachers who had gained recognised certificates from the LEA. We then became a branch of the North Eastern Region of the National Keep Fit Organisation, and as President, Pete maintained a keen interest in our branch, even after her retirement. In gratitude the branch has made a substantial donation in her memory.

On leaving Gateshead as P.E. Adviser, she and Lora set up home in the Lake District and became enthusiastic participants in many activities in the region. They were charming hosts and, like many others, I enjoyed visiting them over the years, and we exchanged letters and phone calls until the end.

## PEGGY VICTORY (SIMPSON)

## MARGERY HUMPHREY (MELLOR)

Margery started Bede in the early 1930's, followed by her sister Freda (Hackney), who is now living in a home, and Kathleen (Hudspeth), who recently died in an accident.

Their mother Winifred (Crichton) had also been a pupil at Bede. Margery had been Vice-Captain of the School during her time there.

She then went to King's College London, to read French, due to Nottingham University, and she eventually taught at Macclesfield Grammar School.

She married Duncan and moved to Croydon. She taught at Kingston Polytechnic, until she had her family, and then returned to teaching, eventually becoming deputy headmistress.

Margery retired from teaching in 1982, when she undertook a number of voluntary activities. Margery and Duncan enjoyed foreign travel, visiting, in total, 61 different countries, their most interesting visit being when they drove in their own car to Moscow.

As they became more elderly, they moved to Kaitiaki, to be nearer their daughter. Following a visit to their son, in New Zealand, it was apparent that

Margery was becoming frailer, suffering from a brain tumour. She died peacefully in October 2001. Family and friends gave generous donations to friends of Mayday Hospital, Coxydon, in her memory.

### DUNCAN MELLOR

#### KATHLEEN HUMPHREY (HUDSPETH)

A letter was received from Edward, husband of the late Kathleen, thanking her for sending him a copy of the magazine, following Kathleen's death. On looking through some of her belongings, he had "come across a story she had written in long hand, goodness knows how many years ago, which I had not seen before, about her evacuation from Sunderland, with Bede School, to Richmond. I am taking the liberty of sending you a copy, as I thought it might be of some interest to your magazine readers"

Here is Kathleen's story, as she wrote it.

#### EVACUATION MAY 1939

"Good news – Mrs Ayre says she'll take six!" – those words spoken by the aptly named Mrs Blegg from the 'big house', set the seal on my fate for the next two years or so, and they are words I shall never forget. After the long procession to the local station, complete with rucksacks and gas-masks, came my mother had sat up late the previous night to sew, then a train journey to Richmond, and then a long wait in some school hall there, during which we were each presented with a carrier bag containing, among other things, a tin of corned beef and a packet of cream crackers – in case our "hostess" was short of food for her new arrivals, thus finally in the little shelter on the village green, came the end – and the beginning – for last six woebegone schoolgirls.

Mrs Ayre turned out to be a kind-hearted Yorkshire farmer's wife, and a marvellous Yorkshire cook (we soon got over the strangeness of beginning Sunday dinner with Yorkshire pudding, served with milk and sugar, and eaten with knife and fork). Hot scones, dripping with butter (our carrier bag offering of "Special marga" was rather disdainfully banished to the pantry for "baking") were, it seems always keeping warm on the ample kitchen range, and we came home on frosty days to be offered "a few broth" which was kept simmering in a huge pan.

In the first few weeks, before school could be organised for us, we were kept busy with hockey on the village green, and singing in the village church (we had the gym mistress and the music mistress billeted in the village, at the doctor's house). I well remember the fateful day when the usual order of things was reversed, and hockey preceded the singing. Picking up my hockey-bag, I blissfully walked back to the farm, quite



forgetting the singing - it was my first year at grammar school, and I was fearful as to what my punishment for such a dire sin might be - but I think no-one had ever noticed my absence! When things were more organised, we gathered each morning on the village green for the bus to take us into Richmond for school. On cold mornings, we were invited into the postmistress's warm kitchen to wait before a blazing fire - with dire consequences on the day when I was carrying in my gym bag, a pound of best farm butter for the geography mistress! Once in Richmond, we proceeded to the old Methodist Chapel for assembly and gas-mask inspection. ("Have you soaped your mica?") and then to the boys' Grammar school for morning classes, followed by afternoon classes in the girls' High school, or in Lennox House, a large house high up above the river, where I day-dreamed many homesick hours. Packed lunches were eaten in the Y.M.C.A., and any odd periods, when no classroom could be found around the town, were spent in walking the castle walk.

The novelty of oil lamps and candles soon wore off for the older girls, and they were moved into new homes in the town. Others drifted back home, and finally I was the only one left on the farm, and it was real home for me.

**KATHLEEN HUMPHRY (HUDSPETH) (DECEASED)**

### **EVACUATION TO RICHMOND**

Edna White (Robb) following a lovely afternoon at the home of Gladys Sidney in Richmond, had a word with Audrey Stocks (Wadhams), who is the only ex-evacuee she knows who is still in touch with the family where she was billeted. Although Audrey is not very well at the moment, she made a special effort to compose the following little contribution for the Old Bedans.

One of our members in the Old Bedans canasta group was telling me about the visit in September to Gladys Stewart's (Sidney) home in Richmond. This brought back many happy memories of my days as a wartime evacuee in 1939.

I was billeted with Mr & Mrs George Constantine of Skeerby, and we kept in touch for many happy years until their deaths, after which I continued to correspond with their children. Ann, who married Dave, now lives in Darlington, Gordon and his wife are farmers in Northallerton, and Brian and Jennifer are mine hosts at the Frenchgate Hotel in Richmond. They all came to our Golden Wedding party in March 2001.

I am sure Brian and Jennifer would be very pleased to see any Sunderland friends calling at the hotel.

### AUDREY STOCKS (WADHAM)

#### MEMORIES OF RICHMOND

In September of 1939 I was ready to start school at Bede. My sister Joan was in the sixth form already. It was the start of the evacuation of school children at the outbreak of the war.

I remember the train journey to Richmond and we all had to wear a label, marked "Sun 41"

Joan and I were sent to a couple who lived at least a mile from the centre of Richmond – our hostess was very pleasant, but her much older husband was very strict and not very hospitable. Looking back now I have great sympathy for them, as it must have been very difficult for them to have two young strangers thrust upon them. Most people were very kind, although some of them thought we were German refugees because of the Phoenix on our badges!

The junior girls shared the Boy's Grammar School and the seniors shared the Girl's High School, but I must admit I cannot remember much about the actual lessons – remember it was 63 years ago!

The rest of the days were spent in Church halls or any other place available. I do remember once sitting in the Town Hall wearing our gas masks – Miss Mead was in charge and I think the siren had sounded.

We did a great deal of walking, and as it was Autumn/Winter, we were often cold and miserable. I cannot remember having any organised games or P.E. It was a great thrill to go home for a few days at Christmas.

How difficult it must have been for parents to send their children away in those circumstances!

In January 1940 we went home for good. Joan and I were delighted! Five months away from home was quite enough – but –POST TENEBRAS LUX!

### KATHLEEN TEASDALE (WILLIAMS)

## LETTERS FROM HOME

Researching family history, my husband Ken and I visited Heatherslaw in Northumberland, the birthplace of my paternal great grandfather, Ralph Davidson, who was born there in 1835. Heatherslaw is known for having England's most northerly working water mill.

Situated on the banks of the River Till, the only wholly English tributary of the River Tweed, Heatherslaw Mill uses traditional methods and original machinery to produce stone ground wholemeal flour from locally grown wheat. The power of the river is harnessed to drive all of the machinery.

We were enjoying our visit to the mill, talking to the miller and at some time during the conversation I mentioned our reason for being in Heatherslaw, and wondered why Ralph Davidson had left and settled in Sunderland.

The miller, Julia Nolan, picked up on hearing Sunderland mentioned, and we eventually found out that she had lived on Chester Road and attended Bede School. I was so pleased to meet her and we chatted for quite a while. Her husband is a police officer and had served in Sunderland before moving to Millfield, about three miles from Heatherslaw. They have two daughters. Julia really loves it up there, but she misses the sound of the foghorn – a sound I missed when I lived away from Sunderland.

I mentioned the Old Bedam and asked if I might write about meeting her for the magazine – at which point she reminded me not to forget that she was one of only three lady head millers in the country.

Julia is a really attractive character and it was a joy to meet her – do go up to Heatherslaw and meet her yourselves! At the same time visit the two small villages of Ford and Etal nearby. There is lots to see up there (a thatched pub, also at Etal) with a great history of border warfare. Flodden Field is nearby. It is a very beautiful part of Northumberland and a lovely drive via Wooler. Julia was at Bede from 1971 to 1977.

## ELIZABETH SWEETING (JENKINS)

## A PRINTER'S TALE

The committee hope you enjoyed our first modest "Illustrated Old Bedou" I feel a degree of guilt about this however, as it was initially my suggestion that produced a mountain of extra work, and a variety of unfortunate difficulties for our printer. Pat Marley (Binding) has worked unstintingly, and in a totally voluntary capacity, to print the magazine. This reduced costs – until last year. It was still less expensive than a professional job, but sadly, the equipment available was not up to producing photos and text, without consuming ink in gargantuan proportions – thus the saving was minimal, but the print rate was slowed to almost individual printouts making a much, much longer job. We are thus faced with launching into the new age technology. It seems that the purchase of a laser printer would cost less than last year's ink, and it would be a "one off" cost, for a number of years at least. Ink usage would be much less, and print and photographs would be produced evenly and at speed. The arithmetic is compelling (Q.E.D.) We put our contribution bowls at our winter and summer reunions, and were happy to see the idea was well supported. If anyone reading this feels disposed to making a donation, however small, it would be gratefully received by the treasurer.

We feel if the magazine were to stop, it would be the beginning of the end for the Guild of Old Bedou.

## BOROTHY STEPHENSON (THOMPSON)

### HONORARY SECRETARY

## THE CANASTA GROUP

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2002 nine canasta players, armed with the playing cards and raffle tickets, and each carrying a contribution for tea, boarded a mini-bus, and set off for Hadswell Village near Richmond. This was in answer to a very kind invitation from Gladys Stewart (Sidney). Last year, at the age of 93, Gladys had been persuaded to move to Hadswell to live with her recently widowed daughter, Mavis Sidney (Hodgson). She missed playing cards with us, nearly as much as we missed her! The journey was over very quickly (well, we talked a lot) and the very detailed route, sent by Mavis was invaluable.

We played the game, and then it was time for TEA!

Now each of us takes whatever we please, and this time, nearly all the contributions were savoury, and very tasty, too.

But – we like our cakes – and our lovely hostess had come up trumps! Gladys (a legendary cook) had made meringues – very special meringues – a real treat!

When we were all sated, there was one left, and a voice said, "Does anyone need that meringue more than I do?" The rest of us demurred, and it was passed to the person concerned. Eating it with obvious pleasure, she said "I shouldn't you know. I am diabetic!"

Laughter and various comments followed and then we cleared the table, the winning partners received their prizes, the raffle was drawn, and we got ready to leave.

Gladys and Mavis came out to see us off, and instructed the driver to turn right out of the entrance, drive up to the top of the hill, where there was a lovely view. This led on to the road alongside the River Swale, towards Richmond, from there on to Scotch Corner, the A1 and home.

A super day out!

The following evening Gladys and Mavis went to the village pub for a quiz night.

**JEANNE KOCH (MALTA)**

## SNIPPETS FROM NEAR AND FAR

### DOROTHY COCKBURN (BUGDALE)

I met Greta Gibson (Thomas) in Ledbury, when visiting my friend Barbara. Greta just lives around the corner from Barbara, having moved there to be between family in Oxford and Birmingham. Greta came for the first time last year, to a reunion, organised by Iris Harvey (Bennett), and I learnt that Greta was now living in Ledbury, a lovely old market town in Hertfordshire. When Barbara had called on Greta and her husband, with the church magazine, it was established that Greta was an Old Bedan from Sunderland – it's a small world!

Some distant memories of school, pupils and teachers, were swapped over a cup of tea.

N.B. I apologise to Greta as I realise, in the last magazine I had her living in Sedbury instead of Ledbury! Also, any news of Brenda Gibson, who was in my year at Bede?

### MOIRA CUDDEFORD (DIXON)

### LUCY MILLS (DAVISON)

Lucy and her husband John celebrated their Golden Wedding in June of this year. They held a family party on a Saturday evening, followed by another celebration on the Sunday, for a larger group, including friends. A.W.I. group were invited to help the evening go with a swing, and all the songs were based on the Golden Jubilee. Congratulations Lucy and John,

### NANCIE McKENNY (MELTON)

Nancie started Bede in 1928 and now lives in Harrogate. She would welcome contact from any old friends.  
Contact Iris Bennett for details.

### JEAN MITCHELL (FENTOLFE)

Jean, together with her husband, paid a short visit to Sunderland, last year, whilst on holiday from their home in Zimbabwe. They were most impressed with the changes they saw, especially to the Museum and the new Glass Centre. Jack particularly enjoyed his tour of the Stadium of Light. Jean says she only has to smell parsley and she is immediately back in domestic science with Miss Littlehales.

### LUCY MILLS (DAVISON)

The article on Marjorie Sparing, in last year's magazine, inspired me to visit her in January. We had not met in 50 years, but after her greeting of "Well! I never" we chatted and had a lovely afternoon, reminiscing about our times at Thompson Memorial Hall, where Marjorie was superintendent of the Junior Department, and I at 14 years, played the hymns – 4 each week – all right reading.

At 90+ she is still in charge and interested in everything – interested to talk to my husband John etc. Thank you Marjorie.

### MAUREN RICHARDSON (ROBSON)

While reading last year's magazine, I had a phone call from Hilda Andrews (Moore), asking if I were the Maureen Richardson writing there. I remembered her as one of the "big girls" who played hockey. She very kindly visited me while I was in hospital, and we never stopped talking – reminiscing of teachers' eccentricities and especially Miss Orme, with her Latin translations of songs – *Arno puellam meam palebram puellam* etc.

### POPPY GOULD (CRAFER)

Poppy (1941 – 1948) wishes to send greeting and good wishes to all who remember her. Sheila Bagley (Coates) visits Poppy regularly in Borech in Alton Hampshire. This year she is moving from a large house, designed by Poppy and Husband Charles, to a smaller cottage, which Poppy is in the process of re-designing. They have called it Bede Cottage, and are having a window made to show the Bede Cross.

### KATHLEEN ROBSON (MUNDS)

Kathleen, who lived in Napa Valley, California, for many years, is now living in Virginia. Her son, Phil, having inherited her musical talent, now plays principal horn with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Last November the orchestra toured Europe. One of the venues was Leeds Town Hall. Sheila Bagley (Coates) and Joyce Robson (Bagley) joined him for an overnight stay with Eileen Bagley (White) in Harrogate and they all enjoyed the wonderful concert. Afterwards, before going to bed, they all talked about our days at Bede School.

### JEAN CURRIE (DARWIN)

On holiday last year, we boarded the coach from Milan Airport. Starting a conversation with the other passengers, I realised that I was at Bede with another passenger, namely Audrey Watson (Johnston). Audrey and Norman have lived in Coventry for the last 30 years or so. We caught up on all the news from the past. Audrey sends her kind regards to all Old Bedans and would love to hear from any 1942 – 1947 girls.

### JOYCE ROBSON (BAGLEY)

At last I am writing something I planned to write, every time I hear about the Old Bedans London Group. I don't think I ever met Nancy Lawther, and she has probably never heard of me, but I believe we both had the same piano teacher when we were very young. It's rather late in the day to tell her this, but I thought she would like to know that our teacher held her in such very high esteem, that I knew that if I could ever play as well as Nancy, I would be no mean pianist. Perhaps this spurred me on. Certainly, although I am sure I never reached Nancy's standards, music has played a great part in my life. Thank you Nancy for your example.

### WINIFRED COATES (GRADY)

Winifred's daughter wrote to tell us that her mother had died in March, aged 82. If anyone should wish to contact Shelagh, Iris Bennett has an address.



### THE KEENLYSIDE GIRLS

Dorothy (52-57) and Hilary (60-66) attended the dinner for the first time this year. Hilary met May Morrison (Walker), who was Head Teacher at Thorney Close Infants School, when Hilary was a very young teacher. Dorothy retired after 40 years of nursing in the N.H.S. about 4 years ago. Miss Moul was horrified when she decided she did not want to go to University, or to be a teacher, and tried to dissuade her from nursing, but she has always been glad that she stuck to her guns and did so.

### HILARY ANDREWS (34)

Hilary has promised to come to the dinner if some of her year come as well. She lives in Scruton near Northallerton.

### DOROTHY CASLAW (HANNEY)

Dorothy (Tel 0191 5567756) would like any 38'ers to just get in touch to try and arrange a meeting.

### NORTHALLERTON

In April of this year a visit was organised to Northallerton for evacuees from Sunderland, who had spent time there during the war. Moira Cuddeford mentioned to Lucy Mills at the dinner, that this was to take place, as she knew that Lucy's husband, John and her husband, Alan, had both been evacuated there. The outcome was that they, and others, all met for a very pleasant visit to the town. There was a reception in the Town Hall, attended by the Mayor, with refreshments, followed by a visit to the old Grammar School, and a tour of the area. The countryside was beautiful, as it was a warm spring day. And everywhere was covered in blossom. It brought back memories of evacuation to Richmond for Lucy, and much chatter about being taken down to the arches in the quad during air raids, when back at Bede.

N.B. Is there anyone out there who was evacuated to Richmond from Bede, and has any interesting story to tell?

### DENISE HART

Hells – Living in Durham with husband, Rob. Have 3 sons – 2 in Newcastle and one in Australia. Teaching special needs in comp.  
Bede doesn't seem that long ago – time flies!

### CAROLYN HODGSON

Teaching Maths mainly in Farrington comp. Three children, all grown up.  
One grandchild – David – born by Victoria – the youngest.  
Still playing Badminton – and teaching it.

### IRENE MAKEL

Marries in 1967 and divorced in 1989.  
3 children – Chris (28) living in Middleton St. George, with partner Rebecca, teaching Drama at Eaglescliffe Arts College. Pat – married to Katya, living in Kent, training to be a Chartered Accountant. Rosie, just Completed AS levels, now doing A- levels at Eaglescliffe.  
I work for Durham County Council, running a service for schools with Children who have English as an additional language.

### SUSAN NELL

Living in U.S.A, married with four daughters and three grandchildren.

### LYNDA MARSHALL

I am living in Horsforth, Leeds, with my husband Geoff. I have one son and Two daughters who have all now flown the nest.  
Currently I am working as a sales co-ordinator, though I trained as a teacher after leaving Bede

### MARGORIE PATTERSON

Living in North Yorkshire, have just retired from teaching and I'm learning about Helium.

### SHERI ROBINSON

Moved down south in 1964. Married Doug Grigg in 1972 and divorced in 1982. Living with current partner John for 10 years. University lecturer at APU in computing, after working in city for 11 years. No children but got 3 substitutes in Johns (now all adult and independent) Hobbies mainly sailing and bridge.

### JOAN SAMUELSON

Married and still living in. I have two daughter aged 28 and 31 who are both living with partners. Retired from "Computer Advisers" job at University in 1991, but have returned to the University to work a much easier two days a week as an administrator in the Disability Support unit.

### MARILYN BASSETT

Married Art Haythornthwaite in 68. We have a daughter and a son, soon to be grandparents. I am teaching Art at Bergholt High in Suffolk, and try to squeeze in some of my own sculpture work when poss.

### RUTH BERG

I am married to Stephen Shenker and live in Southgate, London. We have two children. Tamara, is married to an Israeli, and lives in Jerusalem. Motti, who is a Rabbi and also lives in Jerusalem, with his wife and baby son, Aryah.

### SHEILA ELLIOTT

Living in Sunderland, married to Tom since 1968, have son John married to Deborah with granddaughter Jessica 9 years and Lois 9 months, and daughter Julie married to Pedro, living and working in Cuba. Have been in contact with Irene Makel.

### JUDITH MCKENZIE

Married in 1976. Lived in Kent for 18 years. I am now living in Worcestershire, I have retired from teaching, but still do home tuition.

**EXPENDITURE****INCOME**

Subscriptions	99.00	Deposit Marriott Hotel 2002	100.00
Donations	219.00	Printing	326.18
Interest	11.62	Postage for magazines	113.19
Winter reunion	335.00	Flowers	20.00
Annual Dinner	1490.00	Winter Reunion	260.00
Raffle	60.00	Annual Dinner	1287.50
		Expenses Annual dinner	79.00
		Deposit Marriott Hotel 2003	<u>100.00</u>
	2214.62		
Loss on Year	<u>71.25</u>		
	<u>2285.87</u>		<u>2285.87</u>

**Total Funds September 2002**

Balance September 2001	2108.79	3 1/2% War Stock	98.36
Loss on year	<u>71.25</u>	TSB Savings Account	1678.06
		Barclays Bank Account	<u>260.52</u>
	<u>2037.54</u>		<u>2037.54</u>

Audited Joyce M Lowe 14th  
September 2002

