

THE OLD BEDAN

2003

75TH ANNIVERSARY

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2004

FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY 2004

WINTER REUNION in Bode Centre, to right of Girl's School
from 7pm to 9.30pm

Tickets £5

Dinner tickets will be available on this evening.

FRIDAY 23RD April 2004

ANNUAL DINNER in the Marriott Hotel Seaburn.

7pm for 7.30pm until 10.30pm

Tickets £20

**PLEASE NOTE FINAL NUMBERS AND PAYMENT
MUST BE MADE THIS YEAR BY 2ND APRIL.**

TUESDAY 15TH JUNE 2004

SUMMER REUNION AT THE Ramside Hotel Durham at
7pm

FRIDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2004

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING in the Chairman's home
(Burnhope) at 7pm

Please note the above dates NOW, and make sure you pay for
your tickets in advance. Try to come to as many of the official
gatherings as you can, and so make all the effort of arranging
them worthwhile. **THANK YOU!**

GUILD OF OLD BEDANS

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Eileen Brass (Atkinson) Tel : 5496316



COMMITTEE

EDITORS COMMENTS

Welcome to all new members, who have joined us largely as a result of smaller group reunions. Remember. We use your "school" name, with any married name in brackets.

We do not seem to have as much new this year for the magazine, so please send in any items you have in good time for next year's edition. No news --- no Mag!!!

We also need clear photographs to include. They must be of good quality before they can be used, as dark colours do not reproduce well enough. If you have any that you think may be of use, send them and Pat will use them if she can. We will always return the originals to you.

We would particularly like to send our condolences to all members who have lost loved ones during the past months. Their sadness is apparent when we receive letters from them or

when we meet them at times later in the year. Our thoughts are with you all.

We would also like to send our congratulations to everyone who has celebrated an Anniversary during the year. There are many that are never even mentioned in the magazine.

Thanks should be given to Anne Crowe's daughter, Margaret, and to her secretary, Margaret Dooley. They provide us, each year with the ready printed labels, at no cost, which are used when posting all the magazines. This is much appreciated

MOIRA



WORKERS! ASSEMBLING THE MAGAZINE

MORE WORKERS!



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Many thanks to the committee for their confidence in selecting me as Chairman of the Guild. I shall do my best to uphold the very high standard set by Pat Cruddas (Snell), and all previous chairmen who have served us in such an exemplary manner. My special thanks must go to the mainstays of our magazine team – typist/printer Pat Marley, without whom none of it would be possible, and Moira Cuddeford who edits and elicits information with zeal and fervour. Thanks also to the committee, who physically put the magazine together, and also the people who contribute the “news” The most vital factor of all – please keep it coming. Special thanks also to our treasurer, whose outstanding capabilities in bookkeeping, are now only exceeded by her concealed talent for fruitcake baking! Finally, thanks to all “our girls” who keep in contact and prove to us all the value of our good education, and the spirit of friendship and support, which was instilled into us in the Bede School. Long may it thrive.

DOROTHY STEPHINSON (THOMPSON)



MESSAGE FROM THE RETIRING CHAIRMAN

I have reached the end of my two-year term of office, and have found it to be a challenging, but very enjoyable time. I must, therefore, thank all the members of the committee for their full support during my period of service.

All our functions, throughout the two years have been noisy, happy and successful, especially our Annual Dinner at the Marriott Hotel, Seaburn. There we celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the formation of the Guild of Old Bedans. We had a wonderful cake, donated by Judith and Jean Rosenstein (Turpin), baked by Judith, beautifully iced and donated by Elizabeth Sweeting (Jenkins), and Tom Bennett, husband of Iris Harvey, painted the plaque of the school badge on the cake. I had five of the most senior of the Bedans present to help me cut the cake; - Belle Dodd (Smith), 90 years young, Dorothy Middlemas (Sugden), Lily Richardson (Lawson), Gladys Elliott (Canning), and Dorothy Dent (Stoddard).

It was with sadness that I had to report the death of our Vice President, Irene Wilkinson, who died on 2nd April 2003. We remembered Irene when we said Grace. In addition there were some very old photographs on show, which aroused considerable interest. A most happy occasion.

Our magazine arrived nice and early this year, as a result of having the new laser printer and all your kind donations to help to cover the costs. My thanks to Pat Marley (Binding) and Moira Cuddeford (Dixon) for their dedication and hard work producing the magazine. Please send all your news and photographs to Moira by the end of September.

Don't forget to make a note of our future gatherings. The list is on the outside cover of the magazine and we would love to see you all. Any new members would be most welcome. It is £10 for life membership and you will get a yearly magazine, with all the news.

Thank you for your support and I wish our new Chairman, Dorothy Stephinson (Thompson) every success.



PAT CRUDDAS (SNELL)

WINTER REUNION JANUARY 2003

The weather was kind to us on the evening of January 24th, and fifty-eight members turned up, with at least another eight tickets being sold, the members unable to come at the last moment.

The evening was a huge success, Lily's games causing us to think HARD, with the majority still being baffled!!! However it created plenty of laughter. Thanks once again Lily.

Refreshments were very welcome, and as usual "Something Special" provided an excellent spread, with everyone commenting and thanking them, as they carried out the dishes at the end.

The collection towards FINANCES was amazing, with £80 being donated – thank you for your generosity; it was a good boost towards the funds.

Finally the raffle was as popular as ever, and with so many prizes donated by members, many people had the chance of returning home with a prize.

Another happy Guild of Old Bedans evening, and as we wended our way out at 9.30pm we were replete with food, laughter and gossip, many happy memories having been stirred. Thank you all who made it such a pleasant, enjoyable evening.

BARBARA SWIFT (BRODERICK)

ANNUAL DINNER 2003

Pat Cruddas (Snell), our chairman, welcomed us all warmly to the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Guild of Old Bedans

She spoke of the death of Irene Wilkinson, in April this year. Irene was a loyal long serving member of the Guild. We remembered her especially during the saying of grace, before dinner.



Pat thanked Judith and Jean Rosenstein (Turpin) for baking a truly delicious cake, and Elizabeth Sweeting (Jenkins) for decorating it so professionally. The Bede badge had been made by Iris Harvey (Bennett's) husband.

Belle Dodd (Smith) and Dorothy Middlemass (Sugden) 90 and 85 years young, respectively, cut the cake on our behalf.

Moira Cuddeford (Dixon) and Pat Marley (Binding) were gratefully thanked for producing the magazine, with the help of the committee. Moira would welcome any pieces of news or photographs

The meal was delicious, the main course was salmon, and the service was excellent. Was I the only one to whom egg shaped turnips came as a culture shock?

Eating ceased, and a good old gossip started. On looking round at all the familiar faces, and feeling terribly sentimental about the old school and life long friends, it struck me that many of us present must have spent all or some of the war years at Bede.

We underwent the trauma of evacuation (I still hate to pack a suitcase) returned home and faced sleepless nights, tension and upset. Not to mention being bombed – and we were NEVER COUNSELLED. Are we, Miss Moul's dear warriors, unique?

Two closing little thoughts.

Could we start and recite the school song. PLEASE

Isn't grey hair beautiful?

JOAN LIDDLE



SUMMER REUNION 2003

Thunderstorms and torrential rain, Sunderland's Central Station and The Bridges Shopping Centre, evacuated because of flooding, Metro travel disrupted because of a lightning strike; yet on 17th June thirty-nine Old Bedlars attended the reunion at Ramside Hotel.

Most of us had started Bede in the forties, so we are now in our sixties or seventies, but we are still young enough to enjoy ourselves. And we did! Hilda Cousins (Barclay) was having a meal with friends and came over to have a chat as she had recognised some of our members. We were pleased to see her and hope she joins the Guild to keep in touch, in future.

Margaret Laidlaw had interrupted a caravan holiday, to attend and Elsie Duffell (Ronald) had been on a nine-mile walk that day, with Durham Wildlife trust, but still had enough energy to attend!! It was good to welcome Eileen Brass (Atkinson), who has come back to Sunderland and now lives in Roker.

If success can be measured in decibels, this was another very successful reunion. Remember that all are welcome, and no prior notification is needed.

JUST COME AND ENJOY THE COMPANY

ELSIE DUFFELL (RONALD)

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

We were welcomed to the home of our Chairman, Pat Cruddas (Snell) on 26th September 2003. The secretary reported on the successful use of our new laser printer, and thanked Pat Marley (Binding) for her sterling work, in the production of the magazine. She also thanked the committee for organizing such a splendid and memorable dinner at the Seaburn Marriott. The 75th Anniversary of our Guild was celebrated in fine style and

with a special course to follow – a wonderful cake, baked decorated and produced by Judith and Joan Rosenstein, Elizabeth Sweeting, and an additional touch, a beautifully painted school badge by Tom Bennett to crown it! Our worthy treasurer produced a “delightful” statement, showing a profit on the year, due to many kind donations and the splendid support of our annual raffle, augmented by a raffle at the dinner, for which special prizes were purchased. Chairman Pat reported on a happy and successful period of office, during which she represented us with great distinction, looking after everyone’s needs and cares assiduously. She is to be congratulated on her charm and decorum at all times. Our Vice President, Irene Wilkinson, sadly died in April 2003. She was well represented by member of the Guild at her funeral. We were always aware of her dedication to duty, and her years of service were impressive, but we had not realised that this dedication extended to so many other organisations in town. Representatives of these groups spoke of the time and effort extended by Irene on their behalf. Truly a life of service and thought for others, which included a very good meal to follow her funeral, for all who attended, and was her final behest. An amazing lady!

There was much discussion on venue for the dinner, in an effort to keep prices down, but considering the general conveniences of secure parking, and well-lit entrances etc. it was decided to continue with the Seaburn Marriott.

The Chairmanship was passed to Dorothy Stephinson (Thompson) and by unanimous decision, Lily Richardson (Lawson) was chosen to be invited to be our new President.

DOROTHY STEPHINSON (THOMPSON)

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The purchase of a new laser printer for £292.58 meant that the Magazine got under way at an earlier time than in previous years. Hopefully, you were all pleased with the results and received your magazines in good time. We on the committee felt that things went much more smoothly, and our own lady of the printing press – Pat Marley, was certainly much happier and not in a state of exhaustion by the Christmas holidays as in the year before!

The Winter reunion was most enjoyable, and the worthy caretaker had everything ready and organised at the school. The food was excellent, with catering by "Something Special" – a well chosen name. There was some hilarity over serving and juggling with an assortment of wonderful looking guests. They tasted as good as they looked, but we are going to suggest returning to the smaller individual cakes, which were much easier to deal with.

The Annual Dinner was a special occasion, which, we felt, should be marked by something extra. The menu was carefully chosen and received wide approbation. Special prizes had been chosen for the raffle, which was enjoyed by all. The piece de resistance was, however, the most beautiful cake, contributed by Jean and Judith Rosenstein, decorated by Elizabeth Sweeting, and sporting a badge hand decorated by Tom Bennett. (Interesting how these secret talents emerge, isn't it?)

The Summer Reunion went off well, in the customary lovely weather, despite the secretary's difficulties in conveying to the hotel staff that a precise number of guests was not possible. Computers do not deal with "they might just turn up on the night", and may be as many as 50 or as few as 30. The meals are self service from Pembertons (excellent) and all we need is a reasonable space in one area!

Finally, I must thank Pat Cruddas (Snell) for her excellent hospitality in hosting our meetings and with coping with all our problems.

DOROTHY STEPHINSON (THOMPSON)

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that our accounts are in good order and that we made a profit this year. This was due to generous donations from members of the Guild and two good raffles at our reunions.

Your continued support is much appreciated.

JUDITH ROSENSTEIN

39 er's REUNION 2003

We had our annual reunion on the last Friday in August, at the Ramside Hall, and even though a huge wedding party outnumbered the seventeen of us attending, gathering in the lounge, guess who made the most noise? There was much to celebrate – we have now all qualified, by age, for a free T.V.Licence.

It was Joyce Robson's birthday and she was eagerly awaiting the birth of a great grandchild due that day. Both Maureen Richardson and Joyce Townes have celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversaries this year.

Doreen Dreyer is looking forward to the arrival of a third grandchild in October. Muriel Staddon has just returned from her thirty-eighth visit to Norway. (Always by sea voyage as she will not fly).

I brought my copy of the "Teesdale Mercury" which had a front-page article about a local resident celebrating her 100th birthday, who turned out to be one of the earliest pupils of Bede Collegiate Girls School.

As she was teaching in Sunderland until 1967, there may be some Old Bedans who were taught by Miss Margaret Carr (Mrs Martin when she returned to teaching), or others who may have been colleagues at the same school. (See later report).

Edna Wilson travelled from Beaconsfield, to stay with her sister, Joyce, and we were delighted that both sisters came to our gathering. Marjorie Harris invited Joyce Spoons to stay with her for a few days, when she came north from Aylesbury – both enjoy the company and chat.

Rita Manning sent her apologies, as her husband, Archie, is still very ill. We send our best wishes to both of them.

We missed seeing Marjorie Bailes, who was on holiday.

Joyce Townes is going to visit Zoe Crowcroft in Shropshire, shortly. Their friendship goes right back to Fulwell Infants School, and they regularly visit each other's homes.

For those who could not make it this year, we missed seeing you and hearing all your news, and well, there is always next year.

Finally, in the famous words of Henry Hall "Here's to the next time", on Friday 27th August 2004, 12 noon at the Ramside. Make a date.

39ers Present

Stella Butterly (Chambers)	Edna Clement
Doreen Dobson (Allan)	Doreen Dreyer (Watson)
Marjorie Harris (Stothard)	Joan Liddle
Lucy Mills (Davison)	Joyce Robson (Wollage)
Sheila Snowball (Richardson)	
Joyce Spoons (Strutt)	Muriel Staddon
Joyce Townes (Morrison)	Edna Wilson (Dorrell) and sister Joyce

Eileen Young (Oliver)
Doreen Dodds (Emmerson)
Maureen Richardson (Robson)

EILEEN YOUNG (OLIVER)

45er's REUNION

Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves at the reunion in May 2003. It was the third one to be held for those who were aged eleven in 1944/45 (and a couple of years either side) Although the number was down to twenty, for the evening meal (as against thirty five at the first reunion in 1997), everyone commented on how friendly it was, and how glad that they all were that they had come.

The afternoon get together was a huge success. We had about forty girls call in at the Marriott for a cup of tea and a chat. And what a chat! You could not hear yourself speak.

Unfortunately, a few were unable to come, as they had various other commitments, and some were on holiday.

Sadly, some are no longer with us. Considering that we are all getting just that little bit older, and because of this our numbers have been depleted, we consulted the girls who were at the reunion. It was agreed that we should join forces with the Guild of Old Bedans and go to the Annual Dinner reunion, which is held in April every year. Margaret and I think that it is still a good idea to have our afternoon "do" on the day of the dinner. There is no reason why we should not, as some members are only able to come then and not to the evening dinner. We hope to see you during the afternoon, as usual, and to welcome as many of you as possible to the evening dinner as well. Please get in touch and let us know when you are coming. Here's to next April. Hope to see lots of you then.

AUDREY SKINNER (SANDERSON) TEL 0191
536612 MARGARET SKIPSEY (EASDOWN) TEL
01642 555329

OBITUARIES

AUDREY STOCKS (WADHAM)

It is with great sadness that I report the loss of Audrey, who died on Saturday, 6th September 2003.

Audrey was a dedicated Old Bedan, who, at one time was a very active member of the Guild, who always attended our reunions and annual dinners. She led a very busy life. She served on Sunderland's Age Concern committee, and was a past Chairman of the Ladies Circle, the Tangent Club and Seaburn Ladies Probus Club. I have happy memories of working with Audrey, for many years in the Royal Infirmary canteen as members of the League of Friends.

Audrey's terminal illness was diagnosed two years ago, but with typical courage and fortitude, she remained cheerful, active and impeccable right to the end. She was an inspiration to her friends, and we will miss her tremendously.

EDNA WHITE (ROBB)

HAZEL OLIVER (RICHARDS)

My sister Hazel died on June 7th 2002, at the age of 59, only three months after she had been diagnosed with an inoperable incurable condition.

She was a pupil at Bede from 1954 to 1961, and then studied French at London University. After a short time living in Hereford, she moved to the West Midlands, where she taught English in Adult Education for many years, until the time of her diagnosis. She led a very active life and had been looking forward to retiring at the end of this year.

Among the tributes, at a Service of Thanksgiving, to celebrate her life, was a song especially composed and sung by some of her students (who held her in very high regard) and the Easter Hymn from Cavalleria Rusticana, sung by members of Royal Sutton Opera. She had been their producer for many years.

She is survived by her husband, her daughter and two grandsons, her parents, her sister and her brother.

WENDY OLIVER (LEWIS)

ISABELLA PRINGLE EATON (HUTCHINSON)

My mother, an Old Bedan, generally known as Belle, -passed away in Dundee, in May 2003, after a short illness. She was 86 years old, and had been failing through the winter, but she was able to lick the Telegraph crossword right to the end.

Mother's school certificate was dated 1933, and I assume that is the year she left Bede. After retiring to Loughrigg (west of Ambleside) in 1963, my parents were for many years' neighbours and continuing friends of the late Lena Thompson and Phyllis Peters, with whom the family and I kept in touch until their recent deaths. After her husband passed away in 1980, mother moved to Bowness-on-Windermere, and then to Cupar in 1986, to be near the family. She was self-sufficient in her own home until the final week.

PHILIP HUTCHINSON

IRENE WILKINSON

On behalf of all Old Bedans, young and old, I should like to express sorrow on hearing of Irene's death in April of this year. One of our keenest members, she worked hard and ungrudgingly for the success and welfare of the Guild, which was always close to her heart. Sadly ill health overtook her in the last few years of her life.

Irene did a tremendous amount of good work for the Guild when she became Secretary and Treasurer in 1979. She arranged the Winter Reunions, Summer Outings (in the past) and later Summer Reunions at the Ramside, as at present. With a little persuasion, she managed to keep the price as reasonable as she could for us for the Annual Dinners.

She could always persuade people help her gain what she I wanted, especially when she needed after dinner speakers and

entertainers every year. She was also responsible for the Girl's contribution to the Bede Centenary Service in Durham Cathedral in 1990. Irene wore our Chairman's ribbon with much pride and joy in 1995 and 1996. A super Chairman with "that strident voice" (Winnie Scott's words!) which brought a smile to everyone's face when she stood up to speak.

The last few years of Irene's life became too difficult for her to cope alone in her Herrington home, which she loved. Unable to walk or go out, she reluctantly had to go into a care home for the remainder of her life. On my last visit to her, she sent her regards and thanks to her Old Bedan friends, for their kind thoughts and messages. Irene was a devoted attendee of St. Gabriel's Church, all her life. She would have been thrilled at the number of people who filled the church for the Funeral Service, to say goodbye to someone we all miss. I counted at least 15 Old Bedans at the Service, and there may have been more.

I feel proud to have known her and have been her friend.

LILY RICHARDSON (LAWSON)

DEATHS

LAURA MANNING (HALL)

MARGARET LANGHAM

NANCY ANN (ANNIE) MADDISON (COOK)

JESSIE DONALD (ROBINSON)

MILDRED HUGILL

BRENDA GIBSON (RIVERS)

DOROTHY GRIERSON (KENNEDY)

ISABELLA (BELLE) PRINGLE EATON (HUTCHINSON)

IRENE WILKINSON

KATHLEEN CARR (RITCH)

AUDREY STOCKS (WADHAM)

ELEANOR MARSTON (WALKER)

LOUIS SOLLEY (PROCTOR)

NEW MEMBERS

MARJORIE FAIRBRIDGE (FORD)
JACQY BESTON (SHARPE)
LILY KELLY (BURNETT)
AUDREY ALMOND (BEET)
JEAN MELLENTON (GILLIES)
RUBY NIEL (BECKWITH)
MARJORIE WANLESS (LEDGER)
EDNA BEST (FOX)
JOYCE KEERIE (HARVEY)
JEAN FRANKLIN (WYNN)
ENID BAKER (LAMB)
BRENDA LIDDLE (FLEMING)
JOYCE SANDAL (WRIGHTSON)
SYLVIA SNOWBALL (CHURCHMAN)
117, GILLIES AVE., TAUPO NEW ZEALAND

A VISIT FROM DOROTHY OAKS (CLARKE)

Unfortunately, Dorothy was unable to come to the 45ers reunion in May, because of her husband being in ill health. However, when he improved, Dorothy came and stayed with me for ten days in June. We had a great time. My husband and I took her to many places she had never visited. Dorothy moved to Devon when she was only 13 and, as she pointed out, we did not travel far afield when we were kids. Not many people had a car. Our days out were to Saltwell Park, Crimdon Dene, Jesmond Dene, a day on the river at Durham, or maybe a picnic at Finchale Abbey, and many happy days down on the beach at the Cat and Dog Steps. Trips to Northumberland and Weardale were too inaccessible.

So that is where we took Dorothy. We went to Alnwick and Morpeth, Bamburgh and Seabouses, Durham (but not on the river) and of course a rake around Sunderland, and a changed Sunderland for Dorothy!

The weather was very kind to us and we had a great time. We also went to High Force on our wanderings! We had a mini-reunion when Eileen Brass (Atkinson), Joan Robinson (Craig), Doreen Measer (Hall), Cynthia Wilkie (Maving), Dorothy and myself went to The Grotto at Marsden for lunch. After lunch we sat outside and talked incessantly, until it was time to say goodbye, at about 4 o'clock. Thank heavens for the lift! I do not think many of us could manage to steps nowadays, but having said that Eileen *did*!

Hopefully, Dorothy will be able to come and see us all next April.

AUDREY SKINNER (SANDERSON)

MARGARET (PEGGY) EASTON FERSH CARR
(MARTIN)

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

An item on the front page of the "Teesdale Mercury" for Wednesday 20th August 2003, caught my eye, and on reading it discovered that Mrs Margaret Martin of Middleton in Teesdale would celebrate her 100th birthday the next day. Something else caught my eye—she was one of the earliest pupils attending Bede School, Sunderland. I do not believe we have had a centenarian old pupil before, and felt it merited some acknowledgement. Having chosen a suitable card, and asked a friend in Middleton for the correct address, I visited the house and first met Peggy's husband,

William, aged 93, who was delighted I had called. I explained I used to live in Sunderland and I had attended Bede School during the war years, but I now lived in Romaldkirk.

He said Peggy would be delighted to meet me, and so it proved. I had brought some photographs of me in my school uniform, and also a 39er's group photograph taken 50 years later – these amused her.

Margaret was born in 1903, after attending Bede Collegiate Girls School, as it was then she eventually graduated from Reading University, returning to Sunderland, where she worked as a teacher for 30 years. She moved to Newcastle in the 60's to work with her husband. She first visited Middleton just before the Second World War, with children from Sunderland, on a school trip, and moved to live there in the late 80's. Bill told me that he and Peggy had attended the Centenary Service in Durham Cathedral in 1950 and he also showed me their plate decorated with the school badge. They both expressed hope that the Honours Boards from the school hall were being safely stored, as Peggy's name was listed there on graduating in 1923 as Margaret Easton Fershl Carr and she was extremely proud of the achievement. I did not stay too long, as I knew the next day would be busy with family and friends for the birthday celebrations, not forgetting a telegram from the Queen. Peggy was still bright and perky as I left, insisting on seeing me to the door, then a final chat with both of them on the front step. On Peggy's birthday card I wrote "There are many Old Bedans who will join with me in wishing you a happy 100th birthday".

EILEEN YOUNG (OLIVER)

OLD BEDANS RAMBLING CLUB

I felt I had to share the following with you!

On Irene's death, we were given some boxes with original papers in from the Guild of years ago. Among them was a little booklet about a club, formed on 16th May 1928, with a committee of three and a short list of eight members.

There are lists of places visited, and costs involved, with a levy of 6 pence per head, as the club was to be self-supporting. There is then a gap, with a list of only five members being shown at that time, and then the following entries: -

Wednesday 5th May 1932

After being extinct for one year, the Old Bedans Rambling Club came into existence again in May, when members met for an evening walk. The time appointed was 7.15pm. Three members only turned up and set out for OFFERTON. Very soon rain began to fall, but though only one of the brave band had a mackintosh, they plodded on. By the time Grindon Sanatorium was reached the party was decidedly wet, and after much persuasion by one member, all toddled home.

Wednesday June 15th 1932

Three members met at the Town Hall, and took a tram to Fulwell terminus. From there they walked to Marsden, by way of the sea. All agreed it had been a very enjoyable walk. Spice was added by the fact that it was 10.30pm and quite dark, by the time we reached home.

Saturday June 25th 1932

This resulted in two members going, by bus to Dawdon, walking from there through the dene, and on to Dalton. At Hawthorne six pennyworth of large fruit balls were bought, and consumed in due course. The walk from Hawthorne back to Dawdon by the fields is very, very pretty.

Wednesday August 17th 1932

This evening was reserved for Cleadon Hills, but as the evenings were getting rather short, the walk was curtailed. Two members took a tram to Fulwell and walked across the fields to Whitburn. They returned by the shore, nothing daunted that they were scarcely a club.

Saturday August 27th 1932

This day turned out an ideal picnic day. The sun poured down its golden rays and all the world smiled.

One member packed her tea joyfully and sallied forth to Grangetown. The picnic was to be at Seaburn, after a walk along the cliffs. The member waited an incredible time, but no one else came. Greatly to her sorrow, she turned back home, and had her picnic in her own garden.

That ended the Rambling Club for year 1932.

It also appeared to be the end of the Rambling Club forever! In 1928, there had been a much longer list of members, and subscriptions paid and expenses involved are all carefully given. I am sure some of you would recognise the names given.

MOIRA CUDEFORD (DIXON)

LETTERS FROM NEAR AND FAR

AUDREY BELL (BOND)

I have only been a member of the Guild for a couple of years, and was very glad to see a few "names" I remembered from school, in the last issue of The Bedan.

Since I joined I have met up with two particular friends from school. Maureen Thompson (Young) and Pauline Veitch (Crozier). They had a lovely day, down here in Romaldkirk, where I live.

This small village is populated with people who have connections with Sunderland. When I first came here twenty years ago, I found friends of my mother and her sister, who had known each other in the 1920's. Also across a crowded room, I espied a familiar face, which belonged to Eileen Young (Oliver), just a little older than me, who lives here too. I recently invited a friend from Durham for lunch, and as we chatted, I discovered she was going to visit a relative who had been at Bode, perhaps with me. I recognised the name, Jean Haswell (Gallagher) and was able to produce a photograph of a 1946 netball team, with the names on the back. The last sighting I had of Bodans was now 51 years ago. Living in London in 1951, I emerged to Holland Park Underground Station, with Audrey (Goofy!) Prest and Muriel Beaumont, utterly unaware that we were standing next to each other. We almost immediately lost sight of each other as the SMOG closed in, and we were gone! It was a ghostly experience! I am very happy to be back living in Co. Durham, after many years of living in London, Canada and Gloucestershire. My husband and I have been married for 42 years, and we have two children, and three grandchildren. All of us fortunately in good health.

BEST WISHES AUDREY

Brenda Johnston, Margaret Carrick, Mary Robson, Jean Haswell, Audrey Bell, Christine Holt, Sheelagh Brooks.



SYLVIA SNOWBALL (CHURCHMAN)
117, Gillies avenue, Taupo, New Zealand

On 7th August 2003, 10 Old Bedans met at the Marriott Hotel, Seaburn. This was a follow on from one early in January, when 6 met together at the Station Hotel, Newcastle. Present at this first meeting were, Irene Makel (Earl), Pamela Winter, Sheila Elliott (Butterfield), June Thompson (Kennerly), Irene Ridley, who was home from Norway, and Sylvia Snowball (Churchman) home from New Zealand.

Sylvia was returning to Britain again in August, and was accompanied by Glenda Lawson (Griggs). Glenda and Sylvia both live in the centre of the North Island of New Zealand. Sylvia in Taupo and Glenda in Taumaranui.

Also paying a visit home was Lavinia Scott from Sydney, Australia. Everyone from the first meeting was present in August, apart from Irene Ridley. We met at the Marriott, and were joined by Dahlia Phillips, Jennifer Crawford and Kathleen Boyd (Grainger). We all started Bede in 1957.

Kathleen lives in the Wimal, and has just retired from teaching. Everyone else is still living in the Northeast. Glenda is now retired. She was a Head teacher at a Montessori pre school in Wellington. Jennifer works as a medical librarian and Lavinia has retired from the insurance and superannuation industry. June is an acupuncturist; Sylvia a travel agent, Pamela works for Age Concern, and Sheila for the Inland Revenue. Irene works for Durham County Council, running a service for schools with children who have English as an additional language.

We had on hand, one of the big photographs of the whole school, taken in 1961, which was referred to frequently, as we recalled girls and members of staff. Glenda commented that we were all the same people we had been 40 years ago, and apart from being that much older, we had not changed that much.

One highlight of the evening was Irene's announcement that she was engaged to be married to Cliff Wilkinson, and those at the January meeting had the pleasure of meeting with Cliff. Four hours passed so quickly and with much hilarity. We all look forward to the next time, whenever that might be.

Kind regards SYLVIA

Editor Sylvia sent a photograph of the group meeting. Unfortunately, this was too dark to include in the magazine. She also sent £10, via her mother, as her Life Membership donation, so she will receive a magazine each year.

MAVIS BERRIMAN (JACKMAN)
2021 E 110th Street, Indianapolis IN 46280

Greetings Old Bedans!

Thank you for the magazine, and all the effort, which went into producing it. Received with joy and nostalgia.

This year Indiana has had heavy rain, which has twice resulted in flooding for the unfortunates who lived by the rivers and streams, which overflowed. One day we had 7" within 24 hours. We watched the water spreading from the little creek near us, but luckily the electricity in our area stayed on and so we had no flooded basement.

The East Coast has just been bombarded with hurricane Isabel, which left millions of dollars worth of devastation behind, as well as causing at least 17 deaths.

The mosquitoes have proved plentiful; to say the least, so gardening can be painful. Our cat, now 20 years old, prefers to remain inside, moving round as the sun changes position on the carpet.

The meal was delicious, the main course was salmon, and the was only a village at that time. After taking the second half of the 11+ I was happy to join the Bedans in Richmond. After only one term, the remaining evacuees were told they there would be an amalgamation between Richmond and Bede classes, so it was back to Bede in Sunderland and Miss Arkle form 1!

My hostess in Darlington kept in touch, through our moves to Canada, and down to Detroit and Indianapolis.

Memories of the lessons are vague, to say the least. I do remember woollen stockings, which irritated me, and having my haircut, just as it grew to the length I liked it!

On looking for pictures, I have one of the Lower V1th, with Miss Moul and Miss Seddon in front. I also have a tiny snapshot of the Upper V1th 1947, taken by Jean Brewis (Pillans). Somewhere in the house is a photograph of a hockey 11. My husband and I have turned the place apart to try to find it, without success. Maybe next year!

Enclosed is a donation to cover the cost of postage for this year's magazine.

With Very Best wishes MAVIS

MORE LETTERS

JOAN GRABHAM (MORRISON)

On receiving my copy of the Old Bedan, last week, (Nov.2002) I immediately read it from cover to cover, as usual, and found it most interesting, again. I think it was a great idea to point out to us all the cost of producing this important "magazine", and the great job done by all, particularly Pat Marley.

With this in mind, and remembering Pat from school, I was prompted to phone her, and we had a great old natter! I told her I would like to make a small contribution towards the cost of paper, and hoped other readers would be prompted to do so as well. Hence my letter to you!

I play bridge on Tuesday evenings at Wearside Bridge Club, with Joyce Young (Allen), and at school my best friend was Audrey Hall (Price). Mildred Raine (Ellison) contacted me last March and a number of us, including, including Joyce (Spiky!) Smith, went to Millie's house for coffee. We would be 1941ers, except me, who started at West Park for 2 years, and then went to Bede.

Anyhow, good luck to all you hard working Old Bedans, who kept us all in touch with one another. Thank you.

JOAN

RITA MANNING (DIX)

My sister LAURA MANNING (HALL), died in April 2003. Laura started Bede in 1928, the year the school moved to the new building on Durham Road. Among her photograph collection, she had one showing all her class comrades at that time, which is very interesting. I was interested in reading the contributions about evacuation in last year's Old Bedan. On the day war was declared, I was on my way, by car with family and friends, to spend a week in Allenheads, prior to becoming a new pupil at Bede, the following week. On approaching Hexham, police flagged down the car, to tell us that war had been declared. The air raid siren was sounding and we were

told we must make our way to Hexham Abbey, where we were taken to the crypt, for safety. After what seemed an age, the all clear was sounded and our journey was able to continue. No sooner had we reached Allenheads, than my mother arrived in hot pursuit, to tell me that I was to be evacuated with Bede School pupils, the following morning. We had to return straight away to prepare.

On Monday morning, everyone arrived on the platform on Sunderland Station, complete with identity tags, gas masks, luggage and a few provisions, consisting in my case, of a tin of corned beef and a brown paper bag containing custard creams! I was billeted in Gilling West, with Mr and Mrs George Deane. A fellow evacuee, Jean Urquhart, who was a second year pupil, accompanied me. Jean did not return to Bede, completing her education at Richmond High School.

Eventually, many of those evacuated drifted back home. Miss Clark, one of the English teachers, organised classes in her own home, and then various parents offered hospitality of home tuition, until such times it was decided to re-open the school. Some years later I met up with Jean Urquhart (Goldie) at a Roker Methodist Church Social. She introduced me to a young man, a family friend, who was accompanying her that night. Archie and I have been married now for almost 52 years!!!!
With very best wishes RITA

Editor Unfortunately the photograph sent by Rita was very old and faded, and we have been unable to improve it well enough to print it. Sorry.

SNIPPETS

DOROTHY COCKBURN (DUGDALE)

Dorothy met Margaret Chapman (Hunter), once a wonderfully efficient Secretary of the Guild of Old Bedans, while they were both shopping in Morrisons at Deocford Park. Margaret looked really well, and sent her kind regards and best wishes to all Old Bedans.

JOYCE PLEMPER (WESTWICK)

Joyce brought photographs of her son and her three grandchildren, to the Dinner. The family live in Alaska, and Joyce and her husband spent a holiday with them last year in Minnesota.

JENNIE GARRETT (CHESTERS)

Jennie and her husband Alan are preparing to retire to Chester on his retirement.

DOREEN DREYER (WATSON)

On holiday in Hawaii, a fellow Old Bedan and I were taught the Hula Hula. I was commended on my swaying hips.

CLASS OF 55 REUNION (LATE ADDITION)

I am sure you do not need me to remind you that we are all 60 this academic year. That means that it is also time for our reunion, and details will be sent out early in the new year. If you have moved house in the last five years, or if you would like to join us for the first time, please contact us.

Eileen Calvert (Potts) 01915344016

Ann Duffield (Wight) 01748835105

Joyce and her husband spent a holiday with them last year in Minnesota.

MOIRA HODGSON (SPOORS)

Moira was unable to attend the 2003 Dinner, and she was greatly missed by her friends.

MARJORIE FAIRBRIDGE (FORD)

I am now living in Lancaster, and attended the Dinner this year. I met lots of lovely, friendly people, Miss Middlemass, Miss Cruddas (Snell) and Miss Thompson (Stephinson), from times long ago when I was living in Grange View, Fulwell. One question --- where are all my contemporaries (1950-1957)? Do join us as you will not be disappointed and will have a very pleasant evening - a lovely meal in good company.

MARION POWLEY (MUNDAY)

Marion has now gone to live in Canada with her daughter Margaret Munday (Barron). Marion went in September 2002, on an extended visit, and has decided to stay on. We wish her good luck in her new life there. (News from Ann Fambley)

BARBARA HOPPER

Last August Anne Corcoran (Harper) and Judith Hind (Whitfield) met at the Barnes to have a reunion with Barbara. She was on holiday from New York, where she works for Forte's Le Meridien (America's) hotel group. Barbara asked to be remembered to any Old Bedans who may have known her.

MAUREEN RICHARDSON (ROBSON)

Celebrated her Golden Wedding and her Grandson's 18th birthday in the same week!

JOYCE TOWNSEND (MORRISON)

Maureen (above) and I were married on the same day, even in the same church, and went on to the Lake District in Maureen's father's car.

EILEEN BRASS (ATKINSON)

Eileen has now moved back to Roker, Sunderland, from Scotland.

EDNA WHITE (ROBB)

Edna is still wading the river and reservoirs, seeking those elusive trout. She fishes with Jean Kock's (Malta's) husband, Albert. She offers this recipe for your attention!

Trout and Almonds

- 1 angling husband (this makes the recipe most economical)
- 2 Trout

1 tab seasoned flour
3oz butter
2oz flaked almonds
2 tabs lemon juice
1 tab chopped parsley

1. Gut the trout
2. Melt 1oz butter in frying pan
3. add the almonds and fry till lightly browned, then remove them from the pan and put to one side
4. Add remaining butter to the pan and fry the trout gently, turning once during cooking till browned (about 10 minutes)
5. Sprinkle with browned almonds, lemon juice and parsley, transfer to a serving dish.
6. Serve with freshly cooked green vegetables and new potatoes.

A chilled white wine turns this simple meal into a festive occasion. Try it!

DOREEN WALKER (LOMAS 40-45)

Doreen wrote, following the comment "Where are they now?" She had found that Audrey Gittins (Brown) had been ill and was in a nursing home in Plymouth, and that she has since moved to Oxfordshire. Doreen lives at 17, The Rise, Darlington, DL3 8HD, Tel 01325 465788. She has taken up painting again after her sons moved south. Michael is a musician, and Peter an engineer, and she has four grandchildren.

JEAN LOCKIE (LANGLEY)

Jean is still living in Strasbourg. She is computer literate, and sends emails to Jean Royal (Cox) who is now trying to master the new technology! Jean Lockie's daughter Emma is about to make her a Gran!

BRENDA CARTLEDGE (EDWARDS)

Brenda wrote, after reading of the death of Margery Humphrey (Mellor), as she had known the family, particularly Freda Humphrey, who was a close friend in earlier times, and who is unwell and now in a home. She was able to contact Margery's husband as a result of the information given in the magazine, to learn more of Freda. She comments "Why do we leave these things until too late?" something we have all said at sometime during our lives.

ANNIE SHIELD (HILL)

Annie's daughter wrote last year to let us know of her mother's death. She said her mother had a photograph of a 1928/29 netball team. This was FRAMED and hanging on her mother's wall, and not FRAYED as printed. SORRY!

FROM THE PAST

These snippets were gleaned by our secretary from old Guild documents

WASTE NOT WANT NOT THEMES

1934 Secretary's report (E.R. Shearer) "A Christmas tree was bought for our party, but was first lent to St. Nicholas Mission, then we used it, and later it was given, with its decorations, to the Eye Infirmary, where it caused much joy; most of the toys, which Guild members brought to hang on it, were afterwards sent to the Cottage Homes at Highfield"

INCOME

Subscriptions	159.00
Donations	320.00
Interest	6.76
Winter Reunion	305.00
Annual Dinner	1181.00
Raffle	<u>152.50</u>
	<u>2124.26</u>

EXPENDITURE

Printer	292.58
Ink	58.00
Flowers	45.00
Postage for Magazines	114.89
Winter Reunion	260.00
Gifts Annual Dinner	30.00
Annual Dinner	1021.00
Expenses Annual Dinner	<u>30.00</u>
	<u>1851.47</u>
Credit on years working	272.79
	<u>2124.26</u>

TOTAL FUNDS SEPTEMBER 2003

Balance B/fwd September 2002	2037.54	31/2% War Stock	98.36
Credit on years working	<u>272.79</u>	TSB Savings A/c	2016.78
	<u>2310.33</u>	Barclays Bank A/c	<u>185.19</u>
			<u>2310.33</u>

signed Joyce M Lowe
23/09/2003

