

# **THE OLD BEDAN**

**2006**

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2007

### FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2007

WINTER REUNION in Bede Centre, to right of Girl's School

From 7pm to 9.30pm

Tickets £6

Please bring cup – plates provided

Dinner tickets will be available on this evening.

### FRIDAY 27th APRIL 2007

ANNUAL - LUNCH in the Sea Hotel South Shields

At 1pm. Tickets £15

PAYMENT MUST BE MADE THIS YEAR BY 10th APRIL.

### TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2007

SUMMER REUNION at the Ramside Hotel, Durham at 7pm

Please make a special effort to attend, as the numbers were very low in 2006

### FRIDAY 21st September 2007

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING at 2pm.

This will be held at 3, Alexandra Park, Sunderland SR3 1XJ

The home of our Chairman Judith Rosenstein.

Please make a note of all these dates NOW and ensure you pay for any tickets well in advance. In any correspondence please give your maiden name first followed by your married name in brackets to enable us to quickly identify who you are.

THANK YOU

## **GUILD OF OLD BEDANS**

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Sylvia Pratt (Hill) Tel: 5485801

## COMMITTEE



## COMMENTS

Once again our thanks go to Anne Crowe's daughter Margaret and her trusty secretary Margaret Dooley, for supplying the labels for our magazines, both time and cost saving for Guild.

This is the last time for Margaret Dooley's involvement, as she retired at the end of August. We send her our very best wishes for a long, healthy and happy retirement.

## WINTER REUNION 2006

Our reunion was well attended with 68 members present. We all thoroughly enjoyed the customary games, buffet and raffle. The games this year were in the very capable hands of Barbara Swift, who despite having a hard act to follow, successfully maintained the high standard, and tested our knowledge of geography, musical tunes and confectionary delights – great fun.

The games were followed by a delicious buffet, courtesy of Mullers, who provided very attractive and dainty sandwiches, vol au vents, and small cakes, all of which were much appreciated.

The prizes for the raffle, donated by the members themselves, seem to increase each year, this one being no exception. The Grand total of £95 was realized, and our thanks to all who contributed, as this helps to keep the Guild finances in the black!

We extended a warm welcome to two members present for the first time, namely, Hilary Richardson from Melbourne, Australia, and Ann Foster, from nearer home in Lanchester. It is always good to renew friendships that have spanned the years, and we hope that they both enjoyed the evening as much as the regulars.

Finally, our thanks to all committee members, for again providing a really good evening, enjoyed by all.

## FAY TWICHELL (KEMP)

### WINTER REUNION

It was a fine dry night in January, when we held our usual winter reunion, and this may in part, account for the increase in numbers this year.

There were a total of 68 members present. On the other hand it might mean that more members are finding out that attending this reunion is a very pleasant way of spending an evening with friends, in the coldest winter month.

After greeting these friends and exchanging news, the selling of raffle tickets took place. This is a painless way (we hope) to help replenish the funds that are needed to run the Guild. Most members seem to take something to put in the raffle.

Next we had the quizzes. They are not always easy. In fact, this year, one paper was quite demanding. But as we sat in groups, "sharing" brainpower, as usual, answers were eventually produced, and little chocolate bars were presented to the team on the winning table. Thank you Barbara, for organizing the games.

Then came the highlight of the evening. The Refreshments! This year Mullers did the catering. They provided neat little sandwiches, with a variety of fillings, and a variety of little cakes, among other items. All were very enjoyable, and we have our Chairman/Treasurer, Judith, to thank for going to Mullers, to choose and order these delicacies.

Then the raffle was drawn, which is always exciting (and noisy!) and it made £95.

This brought the evening to a close. We said our goodbyes and departed cheerfully, into the night. But it was not the end of the evening for everyone! I have hinted before that it is not always plain sailing, for our hard working committee, and now there was another task to do before they could go home.

Although Mullers had delivered the food, there was no pick up service for the return of the many trays. So there was nothing for it but for the committee to roll up their sleeves and carry all the trays out to Judith's car and load them in, ready for her to take them back the following day. Thank you again Judith, for your time and the use of your car!

So you see how no effort is spared by our committee, in making sure everything runs smoothly, so we can all have a relaxed time.

Thank you, committee, we do appreciate everything you do.  
P.S. I hope no one ended up with back ache!

### **PAT RIDDLESTONE**

You will all realize you have two reports about the winter reunion . This is my fault, as I made a mistake and thought I had asked Pat to cover this, forgetting that I had already asked

Fay. Although Pat was sure I was incorrect, she agreed to do her best with a report, so I have included both reports. Sorry Pat, but thank you for your willing assistance. It must have been a senior moment on my part. MOIRA

## ANNUAL LUNCH

The Sea Hotel, South Shields, proved to be a very happy venue, for the first Annual Lunch on Friday April 28<sup>th</sup> 2006.

It was a beautiful sunny day, and the Guild members soon gathered in the restaurant, looking for their respective tables, and greeting old friends. There were 82 of us present.

When we were all seated, our Chairman, Judith Rosenstein, warmly welcomed us and remarked that this was the largest

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special

all

involved in the preparation and distribution of "The Old Bedan".

Contributions and items of interest are welcomed at any time throughout the year, by the Editor, Moira Cuddeford, or any member of the committee.

There were thirteen 1937 starters present, of whom I was one.

We had made a special effort to attend as we are all celebrating our 80<sup>th</sup> birthday this year!



gathering  
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at the April  
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Next year it will be 70 years since we started at Bede.  
Looking round at our group, we decided we were all wearing quite well for octogenarians. (I agree! Editor)  
We all enjoyed an excellent lunch, with plenty of choice on the menu. This was accompanied by non-stop conversation. Raffle tickets were on sale, the varied and attractive prizes being chosen by Judith. After lunch the raffle, which raised the sum of £95, was drawn, and the Chairman was thanked for all she has done to make the occasion so enjoyable.  
We then closed by singing the School Song, accompanied on the piano by Joyce Robson (Bagley), and all started to make our way home, following a very pleasant occasion.

### **OLGA STONE (HAWKINS)**



### **ANNUAL LUNCH AT THE SEA HOTEL** **South Shields**

This year, the sheets, which were put on every table, requesting information for the magazine,, almost exclusively commented on the new venue!

Here are some of those comments:-

The meal and location were both excellent. Can we come again?

Meal. Company and location All



Great venue, excellent food and super company. Thank you.  
Excellent meal. Very good choice.  
A very good choice of dishes. All extremely tasty, and would like to come back next year.  
Very good – venue, meal and service.  
Very good meal – enjoyed the choice.  
Superb salmon – lots of vegetables.  
We have really enjoyed this change of venue and the wide choice of menu.  
Service very efficient.  
Excellent value meal.  
Then – Rousing rendition of the School Song – but where was Pat Cruddas (Snell) when we sang the School Song?  
Someone added they knew where she was – I wonder where?

#### **MOIRA CUDDEFORD (DIXON)**

#### **SUMMER REUNION**

There was somewhat of a depletion in numbers this year, but at least a dozen apologies for holidaymakers whose dates had clashed.

However, resourceful as ever, we covered up for the deficiency by our volume of laughter, chatter and (as always) enjoyed the exceptional offers from Pemberton's Rotisserie and Buffet!

We, on the committee, hope that this was a "blip", and that in 2007 droves of you will arrive to exchange news and views. Put 12<sup>th</sup> June – the second Tuesday, as ever – in your diaries for 2007 and. As Miss Moul would have said, "Gird up your loins, brave warriors, and descend upon Ramside Hall!"

I seem to recall her fondness for the Assyrians coming down like wolves on the fold etc!

#### **DOROTHY STEPHINSON (THOMPSON)**

## ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

We were made most welcome by Judith Rosenstein, our Chairman, at her home in Alexandra Park, despite the duress she had been under for many weeks. The water people had dug everything up and replaced it, only to have the electricity board do likewise, and when we arrived we had to pick our way carefully round the gas board men, who had dug everything up yet again. By the time we left, they had followed suit, so let's hope that the telephone men do not follow them!

Apologies were received from Doris Henderson (Wilton), Eileen Brass (Atkinson) and Brenda Liddle (Fleming). The minutes from 2005 were read, accepted as correct, and signed, and the Secretary gave her report, which you can read later in the magazine.

The Chairman/Treasurers report was perused by all, (also in this magazine) and was found to be healthy and carefully stewarded as always. Judith explained, the slight deficit on the Winter Reunion, was due to the additional cost of hiring crockery. Moves are afoot to avoid this problem – see later. The dates for the forthcoming events were decided upon and are listed on the inside cover of this magazine. A Vice Chairman was elected – Pat Marley (Binding) who also does such sterling work as our resident printer!

It was also decided that paper plates and napkins would be provided at the winter reunion, but the committee requests that you all bring your own cups, to avoid the cost of hiring these items. Discussion also took place about the Summer Reunion at the Ramside, as numbers were so small this year. A lunchtime reunion was suggested, and it was decided that you would be consulted about the situation at the Winter Reunion, with a view to implementation in 2008. The Summer Reunion will still be held at the Ramside for 2007 however..

The meeting closed at 3.30p.m.

## DOROTHY STEPHINSON (THOMPSON)

## SECRETARY'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2006

Greetings of the warmest kind to all Old Bedans everywhere. We have had a good year generally, and our major change in strategy was apparently extremely successful in having our annual dinner for lunch!

During the course of the year we welcomed an additional committee member, Sylvia Pratt (Hill), and it was the first year for our new President, Doris Henderson (Wilton), who acquitted herself with charm, as always. We also have a titled person amongst our ranks – one Anne Jobling. She married Derek Foster ( M.P. for Bishop Auckland), who is also an Old Bedan. He was elevated to the House of Lords, thus Anne is now Lady Foster. (I don't know of any previous Old Bedans who have a similar distinction, but it would be interesting to hear of such matters?) Our Winter Reunion was very successful. The catering was by Mullers, arranged by our Chairman/Treasurer, after an excellent reference from Pat Marley (Binding), and constituted of a wide variety of mouth watering delicacies of such a size that one could eat several, without concerns over being wicked, or appearing greedy! The games were arranged by Barbara Swift (Broderick) with "Presidential Assistance", and were interesting and amusing. We slightly over-ran our budget, due to having to pay for crockery hire, but this was covered by funds, and the decision to ask everyone to bring their own cup next year, whilst we provide the paper plates and napkins. The outcome is problematic at the moment because the school is about to be subjected to yet more alterations, but our caretaker has assured us he will find somewhere suitable, but it may not be the annex. We all had misgivings over the star event on our calendar, but it was excellent in outcome. The Sea Hotel provided easy parking, was reachable by public transport and is very pleasantly situated. We were made most welcome and were served an excellent lunch with speed and efficiency. Once we had selected from a varied menu, and despite the large number attending (81), we had the best turn out for years, and long may it continue! I heard nothing but praise, the price was £5 down on the usual cost of our dinner, and the food was better.

I have been given to understand that someone was not happy that a Sunderland guild had to go to Shields – but no one has come up with a better venue!

Sadly we seemed to clash with many members holidays for our Summer Reunion at the Ramside. It was a lower turnout (21) but nevertheless thoroughly enjoyed. A lot of our usuals were missing. Let's hope for more support for 2007.

We moved our A.G.M. back to Sunderland last year. It is a longer trek to my house, for what we hoped might be a greater influx, and a good meeting was welcomed at Irises house at Roker, along with some welcome refreshment.

The magazine seems to go from strength to strength, but we do sometimes struggle for information (Larger or smaller items – all are welcome!) Thanks to Pat for her unstinting effort and ever increasing powers on the production side, and also to Moira, who spends a vast amount of time on the sifting, editing and sorting side, not to mention welcoming the entire committee for a day, to her home. Here the assembling, covering, clipping, enveloping and stamping are done, aided greatly by the pre-printed labels kindly supplied by the two Margarets! I managed to arrive for the sorting on the correct day, but I must apologize for errata re Ulysses S Grant. I had been happily certain that on the commemoration stone at the museum entrance, he was stated to have opened the affair – or laid the foundation stone, but according to one of our members, who wrote to the Editor, I stand corrected. He was there, but evidently too drunk to leave his carriage. The affair was conducted by the Mayor and I apologize unreservedly for misleading you all. The other fact – re his musical repertoire is true! (Folio Society). Had this error happened this year, I would have had a viable excuse. It is a well quoted aphorism that lightning never strikes twice. This, I can tell you with authority, is not true. We had our own 9/11 here at Highburn on that very evening. We were struck at about 10.30pm, removing all the electrics. After putting the trip switch back on, we functioned for about three minutes, when we were struck again. This time there was no restitution – the whole ring main circuit was kaput. Our neighbour, sitting in his bedroom opposite, looking at the display (it is spectacular sometimes) said it was a

weird sight. She was looking across the whole valley when these bolts made the whole house incandescent on both occasions! The fact that the house was saturated and dripping, may have saved us from structural damage as it would go straight to earth, so other than electrical damage we escaped. How lucky can one be? As a by-note – I took out an 'Npower' domestic insurance (not expensive) to provide an electrician within two hours. One never knows if these things work – we have been paying a small amount for several years. I found the number, telephoned and an electrician was with us within one hour. He fixed the lights but could not do the ring main, which was major – because we suffered from an act of God! Had we had a domestic breakdown it would have been sorted. So those who wonder if their policies work – they do! On that note, I'll finish for the year and hope to see many of you at our January Winter Reunion

**DOROTHY STEPHINSON (THOMPSON)**

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

As you can see from the Balance Sheet at the back of the magazine, we have made a small profit again this year. I would like to thank you all for your continued support.

**JUDITH ROSENSTEIN**

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear All,

I hope that you will enjoy the magazine that the committee have put together for you. We have had good attendances at our reunions this year. Sixty eight members were at the Winter Reunion in January and eighty two at lunch at the Sea Hotel in April. This venture was very successful and the committee have agreed it should be repeated in 2007. Numbers were about the same at the Ramside in June. We have decided however, that June 2007 will be the last time we meet in an evening. It has been proposed that we meet at lunch time – the committee are looking for suggestions for a meeting place. Have you any ideas? Many thanks to the committee for their help and support during the year. My Best Wishes to you all for a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

JUDITH ROSENSTEIN



## DEATHS

JEAN DUFFELL (CLARK)  
DORIS BORTHWICK (SMITH)  
MARIAN POWLEY (MUNDAY)  
JOYCE HALDON (HARRISON)  
ALISON McARDLE (McCLELLAN)  
JOAN MACONKIE (HOSKINS)  
JOYCE WHITE  
JEAN PETCH (ANNAN)  
FLORENCE FARROW (CADOGAN)  
MAY EMBLETON (HYAM)

## NEW MEMBER

ANN FOSTER (LEE)

**LIVES REMEMBERED**  
**MARIAN POWLEY (MUNDAY)**

It is with deep sadness that I am writing to let you know that my mother, Marian, passed away peacefully in July, in Toronto, Canada. She had been recovering well following surgery for a broken hip, but she suddenly began to deteriorate, possibly having suffered a stroke. She was 92 years of age and



had been living with us in Canada for four years.. She had a wonderful life with us here, although she did miss Sunderland and her friends

there. She attended the Centennial-Rouge United Church. And it was there we held her funeral. She was cremated, and my husband Colin and I will be returning to England, with her ashes sometime in the spring of 2007. We will be holding a "Celebration of Marion's Life" service in St. Bede United Reform Church (formerly Sorley Street Congregational Church) and her ashes will be buried in Sunderland. Marian was pre-deceased by her husband, Alf Mundry, and by her sister, Margaret (Maggie) Powley, and by her brother, Captain Robert Powley of the Merchant Navy, who was also an Old Bedan. She was organist at Sorley Street, for almost 60 years, and spent many years as Church Secretary, and a Deacon. She was Chairman of Probus for, I believe, two years, and she regularly spoke at various Sisterhood meetings. She and my father visited us here in Canada, many times, until his death. My mother remained at home in Kayll Road until late 2002, when she decided to come to Canada to live with us. It is amazing to think that she lived in Kayll Road since the age of 16 while still attending Bede School. Both she and I were



thrilled to join the Old Bedans at the winter reunion of 2002. It brought back many memories for both of us. I am enclosing a photograph of my mother taken earlier this year. As you can see, she was very spry for her age and it is wonderful to know how many lives she has touched with her music and her generosity of spirit. She passed away peacefully, and I was at her side. She was a wonderful mother and mother-in-law and we will miss her terribly, but know that she is now at peace and out of her suffering.

**MARGARET MUNDAY (BARRON)**

### **39 ERS REUNION 2006**

You know that saying about creaking gates? Well the twelve of us who met in the Ramside in August of this year are assured of many more reunions. Everyone has had replacements of one sort or another, which does not stop us from leading active lives. Muriel Staddon has made her 41<sup>st</sup> visit to Norway. Sheila Snowball can recommend the Outer Hebrides for a holiday. Joyce Townes still goes rambling and loves the walks along the riverbank at Durham. Stella Butterley has spent most of the last year wrapping, labelling or packing the exhibits of the Hancock Museum for safe keeping, while the museum undergoes a two year refurbishment. Then everything will have to be put back into it's new home. Keep going Stella!

Betty Scott still has a season ticket for the Stadium of Light. How optimistic can you get!

Joyce Spoor, Marjorie Harris and Marjorie Bailes were all on holiday when we met and sent their apologies.

I was sorry that Eileen Young missed our reunion. She attends St. Romald's Church in Romaldkirk, and could have told us what inflammatory sermons our favourite Bishop David had been preaching. No doubt the Sunday Papers will tell us. We are still a year or two short of our 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays, but life is not dull!

Joan Liddle missed the April dinner in 2005 at the Marroitt, having just come out of hospital that day, but she made the lunch at the Sea Hotel this year. We saw Rence Ellison at the

Sea Hotel, but where were you for the reunion Renée?  
The next 39ers reunion is at the Ramside at 12 noon on Friday  
31<sup>st</sup> August 2007. Put the date in your diaries NOW!

Those who attended this year were

Lucy Mills (Davison)	Sheila Snowball (Richardson)
Edna Wilson (Durrell)	Maureen Richardson (Robson)
Muriel Staddon	Stella Butterley (Chambers)
Edna Clements	Joyce Townes Morrison
Joan Liddle	Betty Scott (Glancey)
Doreen Dreyer	Joyce Wilson (Craig)

### **MAUREEN RICHARDSON (ROBSON)**

#### **Editors Comments**

On speaking by phone to Maureen to check something, she asked me to add a note to her report! She realizes she may have to apologize to Betty in the future for her comment about her still having a season ticket for the Stadium of Light, considering that at present (September 2006) there may be a little light at the end of the tunnel!

I recently had a long telephone conversation with Doreen Macrae (Ward) who, for many years, sent information about the London Branch.

She told me she had , for some time, been intending to write something to be included in the magazine. She is now aged 93, and living in a care home in Birch Grove. Members of her family regularly visit her, and although she has had a stroke, she is still able to stand and walk.

I was very pleased to hear from her, and she obviously still enjoys reading the Old Bedan . Perhaps her contribution will encourage some younger members to consider putting pen to paper for our delectation! Thank you Doreen, and may you keep in good health in the future!

### **MOIRA CUDDEFORD (DIXON)**

## YOUTHFUL MEMORIES

I was 8 years old when I read a romantic story in my mother's Woman and Home magazine.

One of the characters was a beekeeper, and his experience with his bees over many years fascinated me. I said to my mother "When I grow up I am going to keep bees", and I did!

I went to a class about bee keeping, and bought a hive with several thousand bees. Fortunately my husband was prepared to be a beekeeper too, when the war was over, and he was demobbed as heavy lifting was often necessary.

The bees survived the winter, but did not expand in numbers, and a beekeeper friend said I had been swindled, as the queen was much more like a black beetle, than a new queen!

I phoned the swindler, and cycled a few miles to collect a frame of bees, which I carried on my handlebars, in a special box. An RAC motorcyclist drew up alongside me, and asked what was in the box. When I told him he said "I don't think I'll stick around" – and he didn't.

I was lucky and got home to put the frame of bees in my hive. They thrived and raised a new queen, and eventually we had three hives.

Ealing Common, where we lived, is a very good area for bees, and no neighbours objected to thousands of bees in a garden only 63 feet long – they were very docile bees, fortunately!

The occasional swarm was a worry, especially as there was one out on our road on a lamppost, with schoolgirls going past it! I wore my hat and veil, and made sure none of them went too near the bees.

We continued to keep bees for nearly 40 years, and then had to sell them, but we had enough large containers of honey, to keep the family supplied for some time afterwards.

They are very happy memories for me.

DOREEN ~~MACRAE~~ WARD

WARD (MACRAE)

## LETTERS FROM HOME

I thought this might be of some interest to some members of the Guild. On holiday, in South Africa in January, I gravitated towards a group of guests with English accents. I subsequently found out, after the obvious question, "Where do you come from?" that I was speaking to an Old Bodan. Her name is Heather Hewitson (Reay), and she would have started Bede in 1949. She remembered some of the names of her form –mates, Serena Queen, Jean Bitgood, Pat Perry and Margaret Young. If anyone is interested in contacting Heather, I can put them in touch.

I now live in Sussex, and Heather in Dorset, so this is one of the many coincidences that feature in the magazine.

May I take the opportunity of sending best wishes to anyone who started Bede in 1948, and to thank the committee for all their hard work.

### AUDREY APPLEGARTH (HANDCOCK)

11, Millbrook Road, Crowborough, E.Sussex TN6 2RT

I met Greta Gibson (Thomas) again in Ledbury, when I was spending a week there, during Easter with my friend Barbara. Greta and her husband very kindly gave me a lift, to a beautiful Easter Service on the Sunday in Ledbury Parish Church. The following day, Greta and her husband came to Barbara's home for coffee, and told us they had just come back from a family wedding in North Wales.

I hope to spend Christmas with Barbara, and to meet Greta and her husband again. I was so well looked after at my friend's home, following a fractured humerus, sustained following a fall in my garden, that I booked in for Christmas!

### DOROTHY COCKBURN (DUGDALE)

Thank you for the Old Bodan magazine – it is a joy to receive it. It is an interesting and well compiled reminder of days and years at an excellent school. I am a life member and I feel the committee exemplifies the school motto –Post Tenebras Lux.

My name is Woodruff and on marriage I kept my maiden name. The dates I attended Bede were 1930-1933 i.e. the second year to attend the new building.

Until my last year there, Miss Boon was the quiet but certainly well respected Headmistress. Miss Ewart the capable secretary, played the piano every morning at prayers. We were seated about 10 minutes in the hall before prayers began, and we listened to the senior girls (e.g. Nancy Lawther) playing to us. The Deputy Head was well liked, and very able – Miss Hutchinson, nicknamed “Crutch”, and that epitomizes her help to the school and individual pupils.

The house system was started when I was a pupil – Ben, Esk, Dron, Avon, Ness, Strath, the first letters spelling ‘BEDANS’. We were very proud of our school and our House. Memories in abundance are valuable and treasured.

I am just off on holiday to Italy, with a Bedan friend, whom I have known since 1930!

Please tell the committee how much I value their work. With every good wish

**MURIEL WOODRUFF (HERON)**

**BURGHER JOINT** (continued from 2005!)

Roll on three weeks time – 28<sup>th</sup> September. That is when I have another date with Mr.Fuchs. We are going to have to stop meeting like this. It is on this “date” that I will hopefully be rid of these extended arms (crutches) that I have had for so long now. It will be like losing part of my being. The splint will also go the journey, along with the burgher joint. I am getting a bit sick of having these in my diet. Just think how many pounds I will lose, along with the others that I have acquired whilst being lazy!

There will be a drawback. I am having my leg fused so it will be stiff (no comments, please!) I am looking in the ads, to see if anyone has a parrot for sale.

I did have an operation in March, which was unsuccessful, therefore leading to the present circumstances.

And don't forget the third man in my life – the gynae fellow.  
I'll be jumping onto the operating table for him next!  
I hope this is the end of the saga.

### **AUDREY SKINNER (SANDERSON)**

Ed. Note. We wish you well Audrey, and hope that this is truly the end of the story.

### **MEMORIES OF BEDE**

The article in last year's magazine, from Doreen Simm, inspired me to recall my experiences, as she had done. To my amazement, I found myself in Form 1C, and further astonishment rose when I was near to the top of the class at Christmas! However, the glory was short lived. The Spring report was not too good, and the Summer report was worse, so the following September found me in Form 2B. I recall Miss Arkle teaching us the art of letter writing. "Never use the phrase – Hope you are keeping well – or not!" Another of her guidelines was a taboo on the use of the word "nice". At first I found her quite fearsome, but one day I met her on a bus near Cambo, and she was charming. Her friends in the North lived near my Mum's friends, and we met up there once or twice.

To jump forward several years, I once met Miss Harding on a bus. She asked me what direction my life had taken, and then confided that "We did not know quite what to do with you!" back to school years. I recall Miss Wilman's despair over my arithmetic. ( However did I make it into 1C? Administrative error perhaps!)

I remember Miss Murray insisting that her race was Scots or Scottish – the adjective was alcoholic!

Miss Heslop used to tell us about her walking exploits. She hoped we could imagine her legs in fell boots. At that time I had never seen a fell boot, so I could not share the joke. I am pleased to say that 40 or so years later, I became very well acquainted with them, much to my joy!

Another pleasure was watching the boys go by. They must have started later than us, because 30+ of us spent time in our form room (the music room) getting a good view.

Another memory is of a garden fete, when it was rumoured that someone had hit on a scam, a word perhaps not generally known in those dear distant times. However it worked thus – bottles returned for deposits were stacked behind a stall, but they were being spirited away to be re-returned! I hasten to add that I had no part in it, and I am only on record as being aware of it!

The day we left saw tears in many eyes, including mine, but over the years I am pleased to say that many friends from then are still friends today.

### MOIRA SHEARER (SIMPSON)

### ULYSSES S GRANT AND THE OPENING OF SUNDERLAND MUSEUM

Following the small entry in last year's magazine, I received much more information about the occasion, which I give below. Thank you Elsie for this information. Editor.

Many people believe that the foundation stone of Sunderland Museum was laid by Ulysses S. Grant, and it is an old curator's joke that Sunderland was the first museum in Britain to be grant-aided. However, Grant was merely present at the ceremony, and the Mayor, Aldermen Storey, laid the stone. This is clearly seen on the foundation stone in Borough Road. It is believed that the General watched the ceremony from his carriage, as he was too drunk to get out of it!

The corporation spent £266 on a firework display, and a huge banquet, but this was challenged in the High Court and the councillors themselves had to find the money.

The menu consisted of, goose pie, turkey poult, tongues in aspic, braised chicken, hams, ducklings, roast goose, roast turkey, veal, ham pies, pigeon pies, roast hare, grouse,

partridge, raised pies, lobster salad. Apple tarts, apricot tarts, raspberry tarts, Italian and lemon creams, jellies, Blancmange, cream cheese and Stilton cheese.

Washed down with sherry, Chablis, sauternes, champagne and claret!

The banquet was held in the Victoria Hall, and members of the public gazed down with never ending fascination from the gallery, and the dress circle, as civic leaders and their guests worked their way through this huge repast.

### ELSIE DUFFELL (RONALD)

#### NEWS FROM ABROAD

For many years, upon receiving my copy of *The Old Bedan*, I have enjoyed reading about the gatherings of "old Girls", and recognizing many names. Unfortunately, I never seemed to be in England at the appropriate times. Imagine my delight when I realized I could fit in a reunion, between visiting my family in Belfast, and my sister in England. January is not the best time to be leaving Australia to stay in the U.K. Leaving hot summer for cold winter, but it was a special visit for the 40<sup>th</sup> birthday of one of my sons, who was to drive a steam train for a birthday treat. I have to say it was one of the best fun days of my life! Northern Ireland is never as cold as the north-east of England, so after my weeks there, I flew to Newcastle, caught a train to Sunderland, and it was a huge shock to face such an icy cold wind and rain, as I made my way to stay in Roker. It is a long time since I have been so cold, and I was glad I had packed a small waterproof jacket, and that my daughter had given me gloves and a hat for Christmas!

I spent some hours during the day, exploring the city center, and it was a while before I recognized some parts, it had changed so much since I had left the area, about 40 years ago, but it was a trip down memory lane.

Then it was time to start catching buses to get to the reunion in time. It was with great trepidation, tinged with excitement



that I joined the throng. I was sure that I would recognize one girl, Moira Shearer, who had been at my wedding, and so I did. I also knew that one girl from my class would be there, Ann Foster, but that took me a while to remember. Ann had brought a class photograph, which was so interesting. It was lovely to remember a few names, and of course it would be wonderful to have a class reunion. I tried hard to persuade Ann to organize such an event, so Ann, I do hope you are thinking about it for the 1949ers.

The reunion was well attended, and it was very well organized and a great evening. Lots of chatter and games for entertainment, creating fun and much laughter, and a lovely supper was included. Being part of the reunion was also a trip down memory lane as I tried to recognize "old girls" and heard news of lots of them. I felt a little disappointed that I did not recognize a lot of people, but I suppose we have all changed from girls to women and, unlike the majority of people there, I had not been around to see that process taking place! Eventually the evening came to an end, and sadly I said goodbye to Moira and Ann, not knowing if I would ever be in Sunderland again. It was so worth the detour before going on to London to see more of my family. The memory is still with me. My next trip is in October and November, and does not coincide with anything! I can see I need to visit in June one year! Soon I hope.

Thank you to all who made me welcome and looked after me. I know there are quite a few Old Bodans in Australia. Perhaps we should try to get together on occasions. If there are any girls in or around Melbourne, please contact me.

**HILARY RICHARDSON (FERGUSON)**  
**1142 GROSVENOR STREET, BRIGHTON, VIC.3186**  
**TEL. 03-9592-6234**

## SNIPPETS

I was speaking to Jean Sangster (74) at the historic Trafalgar Inn (near the Cutty Sark) at Greenwich, during a Trafalgar weekend organized by English Heritage. There were over 200 of us at this event. Jean asked to be remembered to Old Bedans and mentioned she is still in touch with Joyce Wilson (Craig), who now lives in Whitburn.

At school she was friendly with Avril Trembath and Doreen Sharp. She played on the school hockey team and she may have been captain at one stage. She had, in the past, had some approach or contact, about the Old Bedans, but she is no longer in touch, and wondered if the organization was still functioning.

Information from a friend of **DOROTHY COMMON (CRAVEN)**

N.B. Perhaps Joyce could let Jean know we are still a thriving organization! Ed.

Following the lunch in the Sea Hotel in April, Doreen Henney (Ayad) and I went up to Warkworth to visit Moira Mahoney (Bambrough). Doreen had been staying with me as she now lives in Hoylake on the Wirral. Moira had been unable to travel to the lunch, due to ill health. She is another of the octogenarians, so we had plenty to tell her.

## OLGA STONE (HAWKINS)

### ANNUAL LUNCH

The lunch and the company were very much enjoyed by the Octogenarians. We all look forward to next year when we will celebrate 70 years since we all started at Bede.

Those present were:-

ELSIE LYNN (TURNER)

OLGA STONE (HAWKINS)

DOREEN HENNEY (AYAD)

MARGERY CONLIN (BOUDGE)  
MARIANNE ALLINSON (MOFFATT)  
MARIE WINTER (PATTERSON)  
JOYCE ROBSON (BAGLEY)  
AUDREY ROBSON (ALDERSON)  
MARJORIE PHALP (SNADEN)  
KATHLEEN YOUNG (CRAIGS)  
JOYCE PILLANS (HALL)  
ENID SPENDLEY (TINDLE)  
EDNA WHITE (ROBB)

### ANONYMOUS

Jenny Garrett (Chesters) has recently been seriously ill needing heart surgery, followed by intensive care. She is now making a slow, but hopefully good recovery, and her friends wish her all the best in the future.

### OLWYN MARSHALL (ACKLAM)

We are off to Brisbane in May 2006, to see our newly arrived grand daughter, Gaia. Daughter Jeanette and husband Stuart are there for three years. A long way to go for babysitting, but well worth the trip!

### JEAN ROYAL (COX)

### MARJORIE SNOWBALL (CUDDEFORD)

Congratulations to Marjorie on a Golden Wedding Celebration in April 2006.

This is the only celebration we have heard about, so for all of you who have had reason to celebrate any anniversary, all our congratulations!

**BALANCE SHEET SEPTEMBER 2005 -**  
**2006**

**INCOME**

Subscriptions  
 Donations  
 Interest  
 Winter Reunion  
 Annual Dinner  
 Raffle

18.00  
 70.00  
 13.37  
 320.00  
 1150.00  
175.00

1744.37

1744.37

**EXPENDITURE**

Printing  
 Gifts  
 Deposit Winter Reunion  
 Envelopes/Postage  
 Winter Reunion  
 Annual Lunch  
 Credit on years working

175.34  
 15.00  
 100.00  
 156.93  
 298.50  
872.08  
 1718.31

20.06

1744.37

**TOTAL FUNDS SEPTEMBER 2005**

Balance Sheet September  
 2005  
 Credit on years working

31.07% War Stock  
 2382.71  
20.06  
2402.77

TSB- Savings A/c  
 Barclays Bank A/c

88.38  
 2376.24  
234.12  
2409.77

Checked and verified  
 Signed Joyce M Low  
 Sep-06

