

THE OLD BEDAN

2007

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2008

FRIDAY 25TH JANUARY 2008

WINTER REUNION in Bede Centre,

From 7pm to 9.30pm

Tickets £6

Please bring cup – plates provided

Dinner tickets will be available on this evening.

FRIDAY 25th APRIL 2008

ANNUAL - LUNCH in the Sea Hotel South Shields

At 1pm. Tickets £15

PAYMENT MUST BE MADE THIS YEAR BY 10thAPRIL.

TUESDAY 10th JUNE 2008

SUMMER REUNION at the Marriott Hotel, Seaburn

Buffet Lunch (optional) at 12 noon

Please note change of venue and time.

THURSDAY 18th September 2008

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING at 2pm,

This will be held at 7, Corby Gate, Ashbrooke, Sunderland, SR2 7JB

The home of our Chairman, Pat Marley (Binding)

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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COMMITTEE AT WORK



We have now decided to print the addresses directly on to the envelopes. For many years, Anne Crowe's daughter, Margaret, and her Secretary, Margaret Dooley, have supplied address labels.

Our grateful thanks go to them, and also Iris Harvey (Bennett), who have all worked so diligently for us, in the past. From now on however, Pat Marley (Binding) will prepare envelopes, so we ask if any change of address or membership occurs, let Pat know in good time.

Thanks again to the two Margarets and Iris, for their willing help in the past .

Life membership stands at £10, and any such membership or donation will be gratefully received.

WINTER REUNION 2007

Our reunion this year was attended by 56 members, but with an interesting change of venue.

We were accommodated in the main hall of our own old girls school, instead of the classroom on the hockey pitch, as previously.

What a transformation to the school hall we all knew as girls, and how we enjoyed the comfort (see later note) although it was still noisy!

We played the normal selection of games, and did the usual cribbing from each other. Thanks go to Barbara Swift (Broderick) for her efforts.

Then we all relished the delightful light supper, supplied again by Mullers. We had to take our own cups, as Mullers do not supply these, although we supply the paper plates.

The raffle seemed even larger this year, and eventually raised £76. Thank you to all who contributed, as these raffles are our main source of income.

We should thank the work undertaken by the committee, especially Judith Rosenstein, who does sterling work trying to keep the noise down, while conducting the raffle.

ELIZABETH SWEETING (JENKINS)

WE COULDN'T BELIEVE IT!

When we entered the girl's hall for our winter reunion, we were all taken aback!

Was this the same school hall we remembered? Surely not! It had changed out of all recognition.

I later made a visit to Bede, at the front door. And on your left, is a large reception area, with tables, a counter and storage behind. This used to be the old medical room.

On your right is a large drop in canteen, with a service area for drinks and snacks, with tables and chairs in abundance. This area obviously has taken in the Old Headmistress's room!

Going forward into the hall, which now has a lobby leading into it, you are struck by the luxurious dark purple carpet, adorned with stars and the motif 'City of Sunderland College' which covers the whole room! It would appear that the hall was kept locked unless it was needed, as it was unlocked to let me in. There

were velvet windows. has been with beech acrylic listing the have been 1998, the honours removed There were honours school, on showing the had lost The walls were an and the much paler cornice above picked out in an attractive silver grey finish.



were sumptuous purple curtains at all the The dark wood paneling removed, and replaced with wood. There were new boards around the hall, names of students who through the college since original dark wooden boards having been many years ago. two of the original boards from the boys the wall at the rear, names of old boys who their lives in the wars. above the beech paneling attractive dark purple ceiling above that was a tone of purple, with the

cornice above picked out in an attractive silver grey finish. The balcony had been completely removed. The stage had been lowered, and is now also in beech wood, and there was no arrangement for any curtaining around the stage.

As I was leaving I saw that the clock presented to the school by The Guild of Old Bedans in 1929, was standing, rather forlornly at the back of the hall, tucked in the corner. It was not going, and looked rather out of place in the modern setting. I wonder if we can do anything about it?

For those of you who have had the occasion to see the hall as it is now, I apologize, but I thought this would perhaps be interesting for members further afield.

MOIRA CUDDEFORD (DIXON)

ANNUAL LUNCH 2007

It was Spring Guild of Old Bedans get together time again and so we returned to the Sea Hotel at South Shields. As one came through the entrance, one could hear the steady hum of voices - ---- FOLLOW THAT NOISE!

Yes, the Old Bedans were once again in full flow, catching up on the news since last we all met.

The meal was excellent, as it was the year before. In spite of there being 87 members present the Sea Hotel had a wide choice of dishes, and could cater for all palates efficiently and pleasantly. There were hot and cold dishes on offer, and everyone seemed to enjoy the three courses, which were followed by tea or coffee as desired.

It seems to be the best move we have made, to change the annual meal to lunchtime, as members are able to come and go during the daytime and it is proving to be a very popular event. We had the raffle as usual, when a limited number of special prizes are selected, and everyone seems to be prepared to buy quite a few tickets, the proceeds of which all go towards our funds. The total raised this year was £ 90 Thanks to you all for contributing.

There were one or two new members at the lunch, and we hope to see them again next year. Pass the word around that it is a very pleasant occasion!

DOROTHY COCKBURN (DUGDALE)

YET ANOTHER LUNCH

After the April lunch several of us wanted an 'off shoot' which took place at the Marriott in September. It was publicized in the Reunion column of the 'Echo' inviting others to join the '48 and '49 leavers. Two ex-Bedan men took us up on this and we were pleased to welcome Leo Armitage and Fred Storey. Only one or two of the 14 females there actually knew them, but we were all very interested in a long photo (seemed about 4ft. I thought) of the whole boys school. Most of the 14 of us knew someone on that photo. Perhaps some were old flames! One of them should have been my husband but no one could find

him. After this diversion we returned to the photos brought by Audrey Briggs (Remnison) and Joyce Hepple (Bainbridge) plus others. There was my missing husband with Audrey Applegarth (Hancock), who was unable to attend.

Anne Maynard (Rawson) and Nora Johnson (Fenton) (remember Artie Fenton's band?) came on the Trans Penine Express. The other 10 were local, Maureen Thompson (Young), Pat Bittlestone, Dorothy Common (Craven) Brenda Johnson (Juler), Margaret Laidlaw, Margaret Massingham (Lawrenson), Betty Jewel, Marjorie Calvert and myself and we were delighted that the others had come some distance to join us. We chose light lunches from a very nice menu – could have had a £20 lunch (not so light). The conversation flew round, as I'm sure it has at all the meetings I have read about in the magazine. I had not seen Joyce Hepple for 50+ years, but those years just fell away.

We hope to repeat this venture sometime (watch the 'Echo') and there might be more male ex-Bodans. So come and join our happy band – any year – any gender.

MOIRA SHEARER (SIMPSON)

SUMMER REUNION 2007

On a very dull, wet cold night in June the intrepid made their way to the Ramside Hall, for the summer reunion. Miss Moul would have been justly proud of the 20 "warriors" who made it!

On arrival a select cosy Pemberton reserved for weather was forgotten as were



we found that corner of the Suite had been us. The quickly old friendships renewed and

conversation flowed. To say the topics were varied is an understatement, as world affairs, the N.H.S., and education were swiftly put to rights, while everyone caught up on the usual family affairs.

As with all such meetings, refreshments played an important part. It never fails to amaze me how the bond of Bedanship quickly binds everyone together with humour and genuine interest. For a short while we were all Bede girls again, and loving it. I would encourage all Old Bedans out there to come and join us next year. You will really enjoy yourselves. To accommodate those who feel happier venturing out during the day, next years summer reunion, will be held at lunchtime. The venue has also been changed to the Marriott Hotel, Seaburn.

Finally, may I thank all those who work so hard to arrange these meetings, and assure them they are truly appreciated.

MARGARET BOTCHERBY (SCOTT)

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING 2007

This took place for the last time at Judith Rosenstein's home . She welcomed everyone and thanked all for their help, and then she chaired her last meeting. (Fortunately she is still happy and willing to cosset our funds).

Various reports of officers in this magazine will indicate what was happening in the course of the year, which generally speaking, has been a good one for us. Our funds are healthy and our events enjoyable. The winter event in the Girls' School Hall was notable, the décor was impressive.

The Luncheon at the Sea Hotel was very well supported, indicating that the move from evening was a good one. This is to be followed up with the Summer event being transferred from evening at the Ramside, to lunch time at the Seaburn Marriott, but with the same informal lack of organization, is come/eat or not as you please.

Judith installed our new chairman – no other than our lady of the magazine – Pat Marley (Binding). On donning her chain of office, her first job was to thank Judith, who has done a sterling job, and then promised to do her best to emulate it.

New dates were arranged (see inside cover), and we all arranged to amalgamate the year's final committee meeting

with the magazine day. We were pleased to welcome the input from some members of the Guild who turned up to the ABM. It was good and rewarding to know of their practical interest. One said she had been asked if we would take male members! We decided that this was not possible, but that the group concerned should not hesitate to reform the Bedan Guild which had, once existed, though it would be more like a League of Gentlemen! We finished at 3.30pm, and if our planned combination meeting on the 8th November comes off, you should all have the magazine in good time.

DOROTHY STEPHINSON (THOMPSON)

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Welcome to our new Chairman, Pat Marley(Binding) and sincere thanks to our outgoing Judith Rosenstein, who has succeeded in keeping us healthy and viable on the financial front as well as performing her duties to the chair with unfailing charm and dignity. Chronological order will perhaps serve best to report the year, so back to November 2006. A minor change, but very successful :- we combined the committee day for sorting, folding, clipping and enveloping the magazines, with a following committee meeting. Thus your magazines were with you in good time to avoid the Christmas rush.

In addition we had quite a few willing post ladies to service their areas, thus saving postage. We were pleased generally with the product, but could still benefit from a few more contributions (Large Hint).

Special thanks to the Editor and Printer.

The Winter Reunion was an experience not to be missed. We were notified that the annexe was to be demolished. We waited with some anxiety to find which little nook our kindly caretaker was putting us in. He told us about a week before, and on the night, stood outside to direct us into the Main Hall of the Girls' School – newly refurbished. Only the WOW factor is fitting for the sight which greeted us. My immediate thought was of Miss Moul's friend from the bible – Lydia, the seller of purple – ancient sign of opulence.

Our members remembered their cups, and the food was excellent. We left the place in pristine condition, as is our wont, and we are looking forward to January 2008. The only drawback was a distinct chill (The single glazing is still in situ and a ha'penth of tar and the sinking ship came to mind). We plan to draw the lush velvet curtains the next time (and perhaps don thermals!!) Our friend said he would try to increase the heating.

The Annual Lunch at the Sea Hotel at South Shields, was again exceedingly well supported. Such a variety of dishes was a distinct bonus, and the atmosphere was excellent, being blessed again with a lovely sunny day. All in all it was a delightful occasion with so much happy chatter. Everyone seems to leave with an extra spring in their step – perhaps its all this harking back to youthful times.

The raffle, as always, was a great success, with a selection of quality prizes, selected by our Chairman.

The Spring Reunion at Ramside Hall was not well attended. We have a problem with holiday clashes, but also wondered if lunchtime meeting (so successful for the April occasion) would be more suitable. This is to be considered, so is the venue (which is a bit far out re transport) at the ABM. (see inside cover of magazine for final details).

It would be good to see everyone possible turning out for the coming year's events.

We look forward to hearing your news and views – in print if possible.

Good Health and happiness to all Old Bedans.

DOROTHY STEPHINSON (THOMPSON)

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Our accounts have been checked, and as you can see from the balance sheet, we have made a profit this year. Donations from members have contributed to this and we are very grateful for your continued support.

JUDITH ROSENSTEIN

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN (RETIRING)

Dear All,

The last two years as your Chairman have been enjoyable and successful. Our reunions have been well attended. The move to a lunch time meeting in April has certainly been successful, with eighty seven of you being at the Sea Hotel this year. As a consequence the committee has decided to move our Summer Reunion to the lunchtime as well. So we hope to see more of you on June 10th 2008 at the Marriott.

Please continue to support us by attending reunions, or by writing for the magazine. I know many of you really look forward to receiving it, but we need **your** input.

My thanks to the committee for all their support and help, and good wishes to Pat Marley (Binding) as she becomes your new chairman.

My Best Wishes to you all.

JUDITH ROSENSTEIN

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello all,

I hope I can do as well for you as Judith; she is a hard act to follow!!

Your continued support at our functions is very gratifying – any suggestions for improvement will be welcomed and considered by the committee.

Your contributions to the magazine are very welcome – but more is always better, we particularly like to hear from members abroad.

We would like to send our condolences to all who have had bereavement in the family and best wishes for a speedy recovery to all who are suffering from illness.

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy year.

PAT MARLEY (BINDING)

DEATHS

LILIAN GALLOWAY
JOYCE ATKINSON (HODGSON)
MARGARET CHAPMAN (HUNTER)
ANNE THOMPSON (NELSON)
JEAN LEITHES (REGISTER)
DOROTHY MIDDLEMASS (SUGDEN)
KATHLEEN MARY BURNICLE (SCOTT)
VERA KEMP (DEVLIN)
DOROTHY MARGARET DODD (GROVES)
MIRIAM STADDON
ALICE MUNRO
BERT SNELL (STAFF MEMBER)
DOREEN WAREING (POTTS)

NEW MEMBERS

MARGARET MASSINGHAM (LAWRENSON)
JEAN CONLIN (LINCOLN)
MILDRED BOUTFLOWER (WATERS)
DOROTHY SNOWBALL (DUFFELL)
JOAN WILSON (MURTA)

39'ERS' REUNION

I decided to wear my 'Bede Blue' jacket. I thought it appropriate for the 1939ers' annual reunion at the Ramside in August. Three of us were first there and spread out trying to 'bag' tables.

They came, walking rather more slowly than usual, more sedately, more steadily and carefully. But they came! Soon all 15 of us were chatting and laughing.

The years rolled away and we were back at school, back in Richmond and evacuation, back in Sunderland and small groups being taught in private houses. Gradually we worked up to present day holidays, families and then of course present generations who don't know what it was like to suffer extremely cold winters with no central heating and away from home. No one mentioned aches and pains, – we laughed them off and got on with it.

We had apologies from:

Maureen Richardson (Robson), husband Bill is too poorly to drive at present.

Eileen Young (Oliver) – Very positive and cheerful on the phone, but neither she nor Raymond are well – Keep going!

Doreen Dobson (Allen). She does live on Merseyside after all!!

We hope to see you next year Doreen.

Rita Manning (Dix). Archie isn't in good health but Rita keeps going and I can hear her laugh now – all the way from Inverness.

Joyce Spoots (Strutt) – booked a holiday in a cooler climate!! Was it Greenland, Iceland or Alaska ? How cool do you want it ?

Anyway we missed you all, but try harder next year.

N.B. Bill Robson has sadly since died, we send our condolences to Maureen and family.

We had two guests. Joyce Robson (Wallage) was chauffeured by her daughter Christine Wallage, herself an Old Bedan and in Joan Liddle's class at Hudson Road Junior School.(A little while ago). Then Marjorie Harris' (Stothard) daughter Denise came to collect her mother and we coaxed her into using an

old-fashioned camera to take a photo of those who were still there. (My apologies to those who had already left. Put it down to a 'senior moment' on my part when I forgot that I had actually brought a camera)

It was lovely to meet them – but I seem to remember it used to be that mothers collected daughters.

Where did we holiday this last year ?

Joyce Townes (Morrison) went to Majorca – to walk in sunshine ?

Muriel Stadden visited Norway for the 42nd time. Why go anywhere else when the scenery is wonderful, the people are friendly, the food is good and the hotel very comfortable ? For the last 21 years she has stayed in Balestrand on the Sognefjord, and last year she was interviewed on the local radio. This year she gave an interview to the local newspaper. In September she goes to Iona with a Pilgrimage group.

Stella Butterfly (Chambers) paid a visit to Sunderland with her local History Society. Lucy Mills (Davison) flew to Austria where she and John admire all the high mountains and vertical slopes but then, only walk on horizontal paths for short distances.

These on the move!

Marjorie Bailes (Webb) has lived in the same house for 41 years, but is now going to Coxhoe to be nearer her daughter. (What surprises and memories will she unearth as she prepares to pack ?) Maureen Richardson (Robson) is going further South, to be nearer her family in Holmfirth. (I've heard of that place).

We wish them well.

A new 'old girl' On the spur of the moment I phoned Kathleen Teesdale (Williams) who could rarely come to reunions in the past because she visited family and in particular a son living in Japan. Anyway, this time she was free and would love to come.

I think she was a little apprehensive, but once there she was soon surrounded by friends and thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon.

Great Grans !!! Joyce Robson (Wallage) Her great grand-son is 4 years old, Charlie, and I bet he has the same sense of humour as Joyce. Rennie Ellison (Lofthouse). Her great grand-son is 9

Months old Hayden Padraig and he should do well.
Congratulations to all !

Who didn't say anything all afternoon? I'm joking!!

We didn't talk about ailments etc. We can't compete with Edna Clement who has had two full hip replacements, two knee replacements, a major shoulder operation, she is blind in one eye from school days and has recently had a cataract op.on the other. On the other hand, she has travelled to most countries around the world, made her own clothes and wine, (that's a secret!) and laughs a lot. Well done!

There was a sense of achievement, challenge and excitement - this year.. Throughout this coming school year we will all celebrate our 30th birthday - indeed Maureen Richardson (Robson) and Joyce Robson (Wallage) have already done so, while Eileen Young (Oliver) has to wait until next August - (She buys the drinks next year!)

NEXT YEAR - Ramside, last Friday in August 2008, 12 noon.
We want to make it special so save up, put the date on the 2008 calendar now, keep healthy and active and come to next year's REUNION. Sounds good. I think I might go!!

Those attending this year in no particular order were;

Betty Scott (Glancey) from Durham

Sheila Snowball (Richardson) Both she and her husband are still involved in choirs and music around the Keswick area.

Marjorie Harris (Stothard)

Kathleen Teasdale (Williams) Lovely to see you, come again.

Edna Clement

Muriel Staddon

Joyce Townes (Morrison)

Rhennette Ellison (Lofthouse)

Joyce Robson (Wallage)

Joan Liddle

Doreen Dodds (Emmerson) She thinks positive and keeps going.

Marjorie Bailes (Webb)

Stella Butterly (Chambers) She ticks us all off - on the register.

Thank you Stella.

Doreen Dreyer (Watson) No high-flying hols.this year.

Lucy Mills (Davison)

P.S. There is a monthly get together of the 1939er's who meet at La Toscanina, Italian Restaurant in Derwent Street, on the first Monday in the month at 12 noon. Anyone of that vintage wishing to join them is welcome, but advised to ring one of the following first in case of changes.

Jean Liddle 0191 5293012

Joyce Townes (Morrison) 0191 5293488

Edna Clement 0191 5672534

LUCY MILLS (DAVISON)

ANOTHER REUNION 1947 STARTERS

The 1947 starters met on Sunday 14th May, at the Ramside Hall Hotel, for our 60th Anniversary. It was well attended, as there were 17 of us, some travelling from as far as Cheshire, Shropshire and Derbyshire.

One of our number, Marjorie Smith (Symonds) has recently returned from New Zealand to live in Sunderland. Of course we all had a good natter, over an excellent meal, and we even had a special anniversary cake!

We first started to meet in 1992, in the Blue Bell, Fulwell, with only 7 of us attending, and we have gone from strength to strength since then. We meet about three times a year, usually at an Italian restaurant. Florence Swalwell seems to know all the Head waiters!

Those present this year were:

Brenda Jones (Nord), June Simmonds (Scott), Anne Weston (Fry)

Sheila Humphries (Brown), Florence Swalwell (Butler), Pat Jarrat (Thurburn), Jean Walls (Barber), Dorothy Shipley (Duff), Enid Richardson (Goldsack), Eileen Gettings (Heslop), Marian Brown (Beston), Pat Chisholm (Fearon), Ruth Turnbull (Routledge), Jean Robertson (Bardess), Sheila Thompson (Liddle), Nina Taylor (Smith), Marjorie Smith (Symonds).

Some of our friends were unable to come this year, but we hope to see them again in the future. Why not come and join us ?

ENID RICHARDSON (GOLDSACK)

MEMORY IS A FUNNY THING and can play tricks.

What did I do yesterday? Can't remember ! What did I do almost 70 years ago ?? That's easy.

Rhennette Ellison (Loffhouse) reminded me that Miss Lloyd always mixed our names, because we sat together. She was always Lucinda and I was Millicent.

Evacuation – As we left to walk to the train, we were given emergency rations in a brown paper carrier to give to our host/hostess. A packet of cracker biscuits, half a pound of butter, Horlicks tablets and a bar of Kit-Kat etc – Guess which item never reached our host/hostess.

Back home, at first we had lessons in the Boys' School. Sometimes we had Mr Taylor, (commonly known as 'Waughie and very 'dishy') Maureen Richardson (Robson) remembers returning to school with a note from her father, explaining her absence, addressed to 'Dear Waughie!!'

French Lessons Miss Shearer, our French teacher also supervised the gardening 'Dig for Victory' activities when we returned home. So when we went for French lessons, we would ask gardening questions, which she answered enthusiastically. Perhaps that is why I am slightly better at gardening than French.

Gas Mask Drill About 10 minutes before Assembly started, with prefects standing down the sides, we had to 'get used' to wearing our gas masks. Imagine it ! The hall full of girls wearing gas masks. The eye window always steamed up, the rubber made a rude brrr.r.r.r., someone started to giggle. Very soon a row of heaving shoulders! All gigglers, with some literally black glares, from the prefects.

Religion Instruction/Divinity/Scripture Which was it ?

In the 6th form this was taken by Miss Moul, in her study.

If there had been a bad night of Air-raids, she would suggest that we had '40 winks my warriors'. So we draped ourselves about her study. Fine for those who had managed to get the settee or chairs, but for those who were arrayed on the carpet, with heads on footstools or hassocks, it was a laugh. Did we sleep? Of course not – all shut eyes and suppressed giggles.

Miss Gibbons, Secretary We did not dare go for a replacement General Note book, unless we had filled the book and used it

properly, and written on all the pages, including the margins and at the tops and bottoms of the page. We also had to use the inside front cover and the inside back cover and boy! did the gentle Miss Gibbons scrutinize each book and then initial it in a couple of places. Finally, one might get a new book. Happy Days!

Miss Moul and the stray dog. (or one of them) Miss Moul was an animal lover and often collected stray dogs. One dinner time she needed something to tie a dog to her desk drawer handle and as we were passing nearby she borrowed Rennie Ellison's (Lothouse) scarf. By 4pm, when Rennie had the knitted scarf returned, it was stretched three times as long.

LUCY MILLS (DAVISON)

AND I THOUGHT I HAD FORGOTTEN THE WAR!

As usual I was too late to submit my article for last year's magazine, but decided to put pen to paper regarding the home I was brought up in, and that my family owned for 52 years.

This was the house that I left, usually extremely hurriedly, every school morning, when I was aged 11 – 16 years, to reach Bede School in time for the start of lessons.

Sometimes travelling on the Humbledon Bus, sometimes the tram from the Blue Bell (now apparently called the Bluebell!) and sometimes even cycling. The roads of course, in the 1940's were less congested and much safer for cyclists.

Now, however, the beloved home that I had resided in from aged 5 to 28, was condemned as unfit to live in, since a crane jib, trying to install a hot tub, in a very large back garden, had overturned and crashed through an extension roof, causing major damage.

The present owners had to be re-housed at the Marriott Hotel until the damage was rectified, which took a considerable time. How different from the war years, when we were allowed to remain in residence after two land mines dropped in close proximity, leaving us without windows, no doors left hanging, and no gable end wall. We had tarpaulin sheets between the

winter weather and us for many weeks. I am sure we would have much preferred to have been rehoused at The Seaburn, as it then was!

We must have been made of sterner stuff! Would it have been different for us if Health and Safety had been in existence then?

MAUREEN THOMPSON (YOUNG)

LETTERS FROM HOME

I thought the enclosed article about Marcelle Goodall (Williams) would be of interest to Bedans of the 1940/47 era. Marcelle, now living in Woking, and Pat Rich (Lord) were great friends at Bede, but lost touch with each other for many years. They made contact again a few years ago, and Marcelle included the cutting with her Christmas card to Pat.

Pat and I bumped into each other in York, about 28 years ago, and discovered we had both recently moved there. We agreed

Nativity sets the scene for charity



we missed our Saturday coffee mornings in the Havelock, and since then we have met for coffee in York, most Saturdays!

I kept in touch with Leahnor Jacobs (Webber) who now lives in Friem Park on London. She regularly visits her brother, John, (also an Old Bedan) who lives in Israel, and on a recent visit attended a reunion of North Easterners and there met up with Blossom Greenwald.

The magazine is much appreciated, and many thanks for all your hard work.

PAULINE HUMPHRIES (HUNTER)

The article to which Pauline referred is as follows, and also had a photograph of Marcelle.

'A Woking artist has been getting into the charitable Christmas spirit, by designing a nativity themed card. Marcelle Williams of Gypsy Lane, painted a variety of animals coming to see baby

Jesus and Mary, for the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals, annual Christmas card. The cards raise money for the charity, which is a Christian organization, aiming to prevent and raise awareness of animal cruelty.

Mrs Williams has been a member of the committee for the charity for six years, and this artwork titled 'O come let us Adore Him' is her latest effort to help raise funds.

She said "I thought I would like to do a picture of the nativity scene of Mary and the baby Jesus with different animals around them"

LETTERS FROM HOME

I am always pleased to receive the Old Bedan, although nowadays most of the names I recognize are in the Obituary notices.

So I was delighted to read Doreen Ward (Macrae's) contribution to the last 2006 issue. Doreen and I were great friends aged 8, in our junior school. I was some months older than she, so entered Bede a year ahead, 1924, and we did not see so much of each other until the 6th form. After that careers, marriage and the war kept us apart. We met again through London Old Bedans, especially in later years, when every other meeting was in Doreen's home. After London Old Bedans disbanded, Doreen and I kept in touch, though not all that frequently, by telephone.

I am pleased to know that she has finally consented to move to a care home. The last time she spoke she was still convinced she could manage on her own. It must have been a source of anxiety to her family. I would very much like to get in touch with her again and would be very grateful if you would let me have her new address.

I do apologize for my handwriting, as arthritis in my fingers makes them pretty useless, and I am not into computers and email etc!

ISABEL LUNDY (MUNRO)

N.B. I was able to let Isabel have Doreen's recent address.
Editor.

THE OLD BEDAN DETECTIVE AGENCY!

I have recently been in touch, by telephone, with Isabel Lundy (Munro), who lives in Cambridge. Isabel is in her eighties, and had been a close friend of Doreen Ward (Macrae). They were pupils at Barnes School together, and then at Bede. I was able to give Isabel Doreen's address, to enable them to get in touch again.

Following the receipt of a letter from Isabel, she told me of the death of her sister-in-law Alice, in August. Aged 83. Alice was a member of the Guild and lived in Norwich until her death. Alice entered Bede in 1920 and Isabel remembered her as a prefect when she was in the 4th form.

Isabel kindly sent a donation to the Guild, which we are pleased to accept. Thank you Isabel, we hope you enjoy receiving the magazine from now on.

EDITOR

MY SPECIAL DAY AT SANDHURST.

On Sunday 25th February 2007, I had the privilege of being present at Old College Sunday, at Sandhurst. My granddaughter became a cadet there in January. She is a qualified barrister, but, unfortunately, she could not obtain a year's pupillage in a barrister's chamber. Thus, she would not be able to practice as a barrister. Undaunted, she applied to join the army, in the hopes of getting into the Royal Military Police, where she hoped to use her legal experience. After many tests, she was accepted as a cadet at Sandhurst.

Old College Sunday started early. We had to be there for 9am, when the cadets were going to parade. We were not allowed into the grounds until we had shown our passports to the sentry. Considering the cadets had only been there since the beginning of January, they were very smart.

After the parade we were taken into the Old College to see the

cadet's rooms. One room had been laid out to show how their clothes had to be hung in the wardrobe, how their shirts and underwear had to be folded in a certain way in their chest of drawers, and how their beds had to be made. There had not to be a speck of dust anywhere, not even on the top of the doors. From here we went to the Chapel for a service, which was taken by the College Chaplain. This was very moving. The Chaplain had just returned from a tour of duty in Iraq. From the Chapel, we went to the dining hall for lunch, and after lunch the cadets were allowed to change out of uniform into a suit - -no jeans! We then had free time with our cadet. The weather had not been kind to us, as it rained most of the time, but this did not dampen our spirits, or our pride in seeing these dedicated young people. Hopefully my granddaughter will pass out in December 2007, and become a second lieutenant in the Royal Military Police. Truly a day to remember.

BETTY SHEPHERD (GRAY)

THE FRANCESCO CONNECTION

Coming, via the Alps, into Northern Italy, my college friend and I had enjoyed great popularity for several weeks. 1954 was still in the post war era and being English gave us great advantages. We left Genoa, walking steadily, and quite soon a microscopic Fiat 500 screeched to a halt and two young men leapt out and said they must take us to Torino by car! One, a redhead, introduced himself as Elio de Angelis of Fiat works, to which they were returning (that name still stirs my curiosity) but he was already 25 and the racing driver was not born. We shot off along the road, our rucksacks on the roll bars of the roof, and we hanging onto the straps to hold them down. Just as abruptly we stopped again – could they persuade us to make a small diversion? Something very special was close at hand and we would never get another chance to view it.

The offer was intriguing, so a sharp right turn took us to the coast, where we arrived at Porto Fino, but we did not stop. A sharp right took us along the coast to a tiny fishing village –

Camogli – where the English were a novelty – we were off the tourist route completely.

We were taken to a tiny harbour. Fishing boats seemed to radiate like petals around a stunning bronze statue of Christ, arms held out and up, all embracing. Being pragmatic, I wondered how these fishing boats manoeuvred round this central figure on a daily basis? My friend, being high Church of England, thought it entrancing – which it was – if you ignored the problem! This was presented to us as the Christo da Mare. We liked the place so much, that we found a place to stay, with a young lady whom we christened Mimi. (Her flatlet was an attic on the sea front and was full of tailor's dummies and half made garments. The price was right – 7/6d – squillions of lire - for both with breakfast!) The following day our friends came from Turin, as promised, at lunch time to escort us back to the harbour, now full of people and flowers. The statue was, in fact, on a float, and was ceremoniously towed out to sea and sunk to the depths by a gentleman who had saved for years to make a fitting memorial to his son, lost at sea in the war.

I never thought to see it again. It was just a pleasant memory, until I watched Francesco da Mostar 'Italy Top to Toe' on BBC 2. He finished his first episode with a scuba dive to show us something very beautiful, about which his father had told him, when he was 8 years old. He'd had to become a proficient diver to witness this wonderful sight, and the camera followed him to the depths where fronds of seaweed and dappled sunlight gave way to the Christo da Mare reigning in majesty on the sea bed. I promptly wrote to the producer at BBC 2 explaining what I have just related here and enclosed a snapshot taken at Camogli with the statue in the background. I asked him to send this to Francesco as he should see it before it was sunk! I received a handwritten and quite excited letter from the producer, who could not believe the million to one chance of English people being there. A few weeks later I received a letter from Italy with a delightful photograph of Francesco, all duly signed, and thanks from his heart for sending the photo and letter to him. I think he had been as excited to see it on land as I had been to see it when submerged.

DOROTHY STEPHINSON (THOMPSON)

LETTERS FROM ABROAD

It has taken several years of procrastination (plus possibly and partially the result of a common problem – not enough hours in the day) for me to put pen to paper.

I would like to respond in some measure to Mavis Berriman (Jockman) who was mentioned in the 2001 Old Bedan. I well remember Mavis and her friend Eileen Graham as they were in my class. I wonder if Mavis and I would recognize each other +60 years on?

In common with Mavis, when the Old Bedan is received, it is read avidly, and names I recognize are highlighted for future reference, and likewise, I am not always able to put names to faces, and vice versa. The puzzlement is ongoing, surfacing repeatedly in my mind.

I remember our truly dedicated teachers, The Misses Seddon, Orme, Harris, Briggs and Parkin. Is it possible that there exist teachers of equal calibre in today's world?

It was with Miss French, the Art mistress that we made the bamboo recorders, and our music teacher, Miss Thompson, taught us to play them. I am one up on Mavis. Mine came to Africa with me in 1952, and I STILL HAVE IT!!!

A Mrs Basher (pronounced BAY-SHER) used to visit the school from Dr. Barnado's home in Washington. I became the school secretary for the home, and dished out collecting boxes, which, if my memory serves me correctly, were in the shape of a little house. Groups of girls, accompanied by me, were taken to visit the Orphanage. Does it still exist, I wonder?

I am happy to say I am still in existence, living by the warm Indian Ocean, and doing my thing at the Education Centre at u'Shaka's Marine world in Durban. I send good wishes and salaams to Old Bedans living all over the world and especially to those who remember me.

Hamba Kahle!

JOAN BROOKS (RICHARDS)

6, Surreyvale 116 Valley View Ave., Morningside, Durban
4091 South Africa.

SNIPPETS

In August 2007, a band of ladies from Boldon Golf Club boarded a vessel for a trip round the Tyne harbour, and upriver for a trip around the Millennium Bridge.

It was a fine warm day, and passengers were entertained with live music, and a running commentary about the places of interest we sailed past. A happy experience, courtesy of our friend Amalia and the Customs House.

I decide to have a look around, and so I went onto the upper deck. There I spotted three fellow golfers who were also Old Bedans, namely Olga Wright (Stewart), Audrey Robson (Dennis) and Rita Froberg (Robson). I waved to them, and then saw another lady looking at me! I walked over to her and said 'I know you from somewhere'

Guess who it was? Elizabeth Ferwick, who was in my form at Bede from 1946 to 1951.

All that time ago, and we still recognized each other!

JOYCE ALLEN (YOUNG)

HOSPITAL CHART BLOOPERS

Actual writings from hospital charts.

This patient refused autopsy.

The patient has no previous history of suicides.

Patient has left white blood cells at another hospital.

She has no rigors or shaking chills, but her husband states she was very hot in bed last night.

Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.

On the second day the knee was better, and on the third day it disappeared.

The patient is tearful and crying constantly. She also appears to be depressed.

The patient has been depressed since she began seeing me in 1993.

Discharge status: Alive but without permission.

Healthy appearing decrepit 69 year old male, mentally alert but forgetful.

Patient had waffles for breakfast and anorexia for lunch.
She is numb from her toes down.
While in ER, she was examined, x-rated and sent home.
The skin was moist and dry.
Occasional, constant, infrequent headaches.
Patient was alert and unresponsive.
Rectal examination revealed a normal size thyroid.
She stated that she had been constipated for most of her life,
until she got a divorce.
I saw your patient today, who is still under our car for physical
therapy.
Both breasts are equal and reactive to light and
accommodation.
Examination of genitalia reveals that he is circus sized.
The lab test indicated abnormal lover function.
Skin, somewhat pale but present.
The pelvic exam will be done later on the floor.
The patient has two teenage children, but no other
abnormalities.

SNIPPETS

HILDA DAWSEY (BAGLEY) 1938 – 1944 has moved, with her husband, Brian, (1936) to Beckwithshaw near Harrogate, to be nearer her daughter, Eileen (1962) and her family.

JOYCE TOWNES (MORRISON) She is still in touch with Miss (Maths) Joyce Harris, who is living in Birmingham. She gets a Christmas letter from her, and she is apparently still doing much needlework, and is in good health.

ANONYMOUS – THE LUNCH

Another resounding success numbers up on 2006,(and three new members!). The meal was excellent and the company could not be better. Join us next year at the Sea Hotel, South Shields, for our reunion lunch.

AND AGAIN!

All who were present would like to thank the Committee for their continuing hard work – all with such excellent results. Here's to more future gatherings!

AND A FINAL COMPOSITION

For all the 39ers gathered here today,
We're glad to be among you, and this is what we say,
We don't look any older, we don't tell any lies,
Our hairs not really grey, we've come here in disguise.
In mind, we're young and pretty,
Full of life, at tennis we play!
There's only one thing bothers us,
Our memories have called it a day!

BY ELIZABETH BARBETT BROWNING aka JOAN LIDDLE

ANN FAMEBELY

A small group of Old Bedans from the 1953/4 intake meet up regularly on a monthly basis for elevenses, followed by lunch, and of course, lots of chat, news and reminiscences. Those meeting on these occasions usually include, Doreen Close (Storr), Patricia Dean (Webb), Ann Famebely, Shirley Hodgson (Hallam), Valerie Owen (Whittaker), Jean Royal (Cox) and Anne Conley (McNab). If anyone who knows and remembers us would like to join the group on any occasion, ring Anne. Tel. 5283663 or email at a.famebely@ntlworld.com.

ANOTHER REUNION

In October 2006, Audrey Applegarth (Handcock), now living in Crowborough, visited Sunderland. After that visit, she asked myself and Moira Simpson (Shearer), if we could contact as many as possible of those who had left Bede in 1948 or 49. Moira thought a grey gang might like to gather! After many phone calls we three and Audrey Briggs (Rennison), Nora Johnson (Fenton), Anne Maynard (Rawson), Olwyn Marshall (Acklam), Muriel Heptinstall, Pat Bittlestone, Margaret

Massingham (Lawrenson), Brenda Johnson (Juler) and Dorothy Common (Craven) attended the lunch at the Sea Hotel in April. Much, much chatting ensued. Not one table, but one and a half were needed for us all. This did not hinder the catching up on one another, with exchange of news and telephone numbers etc. Everyone enjoyed themselves so much that Dorothy suggested meeting up later in the year. By the time you read this, we hope to have had an informal get together in the Marriott Hotel in September. It is intended to publish a date in the Sunderland Echo.

We hope you read the information, and were able to join us. Watch the reunion page in the Echo for next years meeting!

MAUREEN THOMPSON (Young)

MORE SNIPPETS

At a private 80th birthday party gathering, in Sunderland. Pat Rich (Lord) met Moira Cuddeford (Dixon), and they enjoyed reminiscing about their time spent at Bede during the war. Pat remembered spending time "underneath the arches" during air-raids, when Jean Mitchell used to "croon" to entertain them and to help to pass the time. They also discussed being on the various netball teams and the enjoyment they got travelling around the county to play against other teams. They were both county players and remembered those times with pleasure. Maureen Sayer (Carr) was also at the same gathering, but has only kept contact with a few Old Bedans.

PAT RICH (LORD)

BEDE SCHOOL SONG

In the Echo recently, there was a request for the words of the song. They were requested by the son of Joan Lawrence (then Rutley, now Thompson). She was born in 1924, and is now aged 83. Our secretary sent her the words of the song, and the Editor sent her the copies of the magazine for 2005 and 2006. Her son said she would be pleased to hear that there was a school Guild still in existence. Joan now lives at 27, Moulton Grove, Westwood, Peterborough.PE37 JG

EDITOR

BALANCE SHEET SEPTEMBER

2006 - 2007

INCOME

EXPENDITURE

Subscriptions	26.00	Envelopes & Postage	115.90
Donations	158.00		
Interest	12.38	Deposit Winter Reunion	100.00
Winter Reunion	350.50	Refund	15.00
Annual Lunch	1350.00	Winter Reunion	218.00
Raffle	144.00	Annual Lunch	1137.50
	2040.88		1586.40
		Credit on years working	454.48
	2040.88		2040.88

TOTAL FUNDS

SEPTEMBER

2007

Balance September 2006	2408.77	31/2% War Stock	98.36
Credit on years working	454.48	TSB Savings A/c	2116.62
	2863.25	Barclays Bank A/c	648.27
			2863.25

Checked and
verified
Signed Joyce M
Low
Sep-07

