

THE OLD BEDAN

2008

80th ANNIVERSARY

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2009

FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY 2009

WINTER REUNION IN BEDE CENTRE

From 7pm to 9pm

Tickets £6

Please bring cup. Plates provided.

Dinner tickets will be available on this evening.

FRIDAY 24TH APRIL 2009

ANNUAL LUNCH in the Sea Hotel South Shields.

At 1pm Tickets £15

PAYMENT MUST BE MADE BY 10TH APRIL.

TUESDAY 9TH JUNE 2009

SUMMER REUNION at the Marriott Hotel Seaburn

Buffet lunch (Optional) at 12 noon.

THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2009

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING at 2pm

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

The home of our Chairman, Pat Marley (Binding)

Corby

Please make a note of 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

Office Bearers and Committee 2008 – 2009

President

Doris Henderson (Wilton)

21, Dovedale Road, Sunderland. SR6 8LP Tel: 5489429

Treasurer

Judith A Rosenstein

3, Alexandra Park, Sunderland. SR3 1XJ Tel: 5229102

Chairman & Magazine Printer

Pat Marley (Binding)

7, Corby Gate, Ashbrooke, Sunderland. SR2 7JB Tel: 5227383

Secretary

Dorothy Stephenson (Harpin), High Burnes House, Jaw Blades,
Barnhope. DH7 0EE Tel: 01207521706

Editor

Moira Caddelford (Dixon), 10, Viewforth Drive, Sunderland. SR5 1PX
Tel: 5486952

Committee

Pat Cruddas (Snell) Ex.Officio Tel: 5293313

Barbara Swift (Broderick) Tel: 5511443

Iris Harvey (Bennett) Tel: 5489259

Lynda Batey (Forster) Tel : 5529557

Brenda Liddle (Fleming) Tel: 5483263

Dorothy Jobling (Singleton) Tel: 4153649

Eileen Brass (Atkinson) Tel: 5496316

Sylvia Pratt (Hill) Tel: 5485801.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Printing addresses directly onto our magazine envelopes has worked well. However we still get a small number of magazines returned, marked 'gone away' or 'Address incomplete' even when the magazine has not been previously returned. If you know anyone who might have changed address please let us know as soon as possible.

Thank you to all members who sent in various reports, even though their arms sometimes had to be twisted, as without their assistance we would not have a magazine!

Also thanks to our friends who live away from Sunderland, as their news is interesting to others from school with whom they have lost touch. Keep up the good work.

May we ask again that monies due for our events, are paid in to our Treasurer, before that actual event, to enable her to enjoy the time, without spending the evening counting and checking cash?

Remember Life membership stands at £10, maiden names first, followed by any married name. Thank you also to all of you who have given or sent a donation. We do not give any list, but very often someone will regularly give a donation towards expenses. Thank you again.

MOIRA CUDDEFORD (DIXON)



WINTER REUNION

I was greatly looking forward to the reunion in January, as it would be the first time I had been in the main school building in 54 years.

I was quite prepared for it to look vastly different – and the main hall certainly was. Also where Miss Moul's room had been is now a cafeteria, no less. We took a short walk around the corridor (only on the one floor). It was strange to see so many computer terminals where the classrooms had once been and we kept saying to each other 'remember where...?' etc etc.

The evening was, as always, a great success, the quizzes and games good fun, although much cheating seemed to be going on – at least it was on the table that I was on – even though we didn't win anything!

The food selection was excellent, again, with a variety to suit everyone, different types of sandwiches, vol-au-vents, mini pizzas, asparagus rolls, Florentines and mini cream cakes. The cream cakes (naughty but nice) didn't appear to be quite so naughty, being mini, so having two was not so sinful!

Fifty nine people attended, and although that doesn't sound so many, considering the size of the hall, it still felt friendly and cosy.

The raffle made £87 and, once again, we might give thanks to everyone who supported it by donating prizes and buying tickets.

I would like to thank all the committee members who gave so much of their time into making it such a successful evening.

BRENDA LIDDLE (FLEMING)

GUILD OF OLD BEDANS CLOCK

We thought you might be interested in catching up on the situation regarding the afore mentioned clock!

After our visit for the winter reunion last year, we arranged to have a horologist check the clock, to see if it could be made to go again!

Apparently, it could, so the necessary steps were taken and the clock was eventually restored to a prominent place on the stage in the old girl's hall. Our president at the time, Doris Henderson (Wilton) and I went along to see it put in place. We were most cordially received, and we spent a pleasant hour with Mr Nigel Harrett, Head of Bede Sixth Form Academy and some of his staff. We were also offered quite a splendid afternoon tea. Mathias Bauerle, a manufacturer of clocks and watches in the Black Fore Germany forest, apparently made the clock in 1922.

When we visited the school recently, we found the clock was not working. The clock has to be periodically stopped, as the Hall is being constantly used for examinations, and the ticking is very distracting for the examinees. However, it still looks very impressive!

It is also interesting to report that a group of students at Bede Sixth Form Academy produced a first newspaper called The Bede Read. There was a article about the Guild included with a photograph of the clock. Doris and I were interviewed by the Editorial team, headed by their Editor, Kloe Jobling. The team was James Cairns, James Hendry, Kati Thompson, Francesco Di Meo, Claire Collier, Hannah Layford, Gary McGuinness and Kloe. Kloe had managed to get an interview with Denise Robertson, who is a member of the Guild.

We were able to distribute some copies of the Bede Read to our members at the Guild Lunch, and members were very impressed with the content. Well done, the entire editorial team

MOIRA CUDDEFORD (DIXON)

SPRING LUNCH 2008

The Guild held the Spring Lunch on April 25th 2008 at the Sea Hotel in South Shields.

Once again it was a very enjoyable event, attended by ninety Old Bedans. This Hotel is proving a very popular venue. It is easy to reach by car, and it is also on a good bus route. It has a large comfortable restaurant, which easily accommodates our now, quite large gatherings.

Great care is taken by Judith to see, as far as possible, that friends are able to sit together. This cannot always be arranged if someone decides to come at the last minute. We do not have a set meal, as the Hotel allows each person to choose individually, from their daily menu, so everyone can have the meal that appeals to them. After the meal our Chairman, Pat Marley (Binding), welcomed us all.

It is pleasing to say that some members are prepared to come quite a distance for the Spring Lunch, and even spend a few days with relatives or friends in order to do so. For instance there was Nora Johnson, who had come from Skipton, Ann Maynard had come from Robin Hood's Bay, Audrey Briggs from Ponteland and Lucy Mills, a stalwart, who had come from Hexham! We also welcomed Celia Pipe (Shepherd) who had come for the first time from Leatherhead.

We do not ignore our members who live nearer to Sunderland, who obviously make up the bulk of our luncheon visitors! Please all keep coming! As usual there was a steady buzz of chatter as everyone "caught up" with news, or left their seats to view, or even take a photograph of the special cake made to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the formation of the Guild of Old Bedans. Iris Harvey (Bennett) had ordered the cake from Mullers, and on it was placed a colourful plaque showing the Bede Badge, made by her husband Tom. Then the raffle was called. Among the prizes were some special gifts, chosen by our chairman, Pat. The raffle raised £90 towards the funds. Soon we were asked to stand and sing the School Song. Mary Reed (Lawson) accompanied us on a keyboard supplied by Sylvia Pratt (Hill).

The cake was then cut and distributed to everyone.

Eventually we were preparing to go our different ways. The lunch had started at 1pm, and to the astonishment of some people it was 4 o'clock. On behalf of everyone, I would like to thank all the members of the committee for all their work to ensure the event is a success.

PAT BITTLESTONE

SUMMER REUNION 2008

For the first time the Summer Reunion was held at lunchtime, and in Sunderland, to see if it was more suitable for the Old Bedans.

The venue was the Marriott Hotel. We met between 12pm and 12.30pm in the lounge for drinks, and of course chat! There was plenty of that.

Photographs were passed round which had been taken by Olwyn Marshal (Acklam) at the Winter Reunion. The usual remarks were heard – Who is that? I would never have recognised her! That is a good one of you!

I was pleased to see them as I was not at the Winter Reunion.

Only 25 people had attended this Summer Reunion, but by the noise it seemed many more. I wonder if many members had been put off by the term 'Buffet Lunch' in the magazine, imagining food laid on tables to help yourself. Not so. The Marriott did us proud. At 12.30pm when we were ready to order food, the Manager took us all to the end of the restaurant. The tables were all beautifully laid with crisp white cloths and proper serviettes.

There was a great variety of meals to choose from, delicious sandwiches, soups and cooked meals. The service and food were excellent. The time always passes quickly when you are with old friends, as there is just so much to talk about, holidays, different people you have seen, family and of course grandchildren.

There were two apologies for absence, Margaret Skipsay (Easedown), whose husband had a hospital appointment, and Moira Simpson (Shearer) as John was ill. Sadly, John has since died, so we send our condolences to Moira.

Now you know what to expect, I hope many more Old Bedans will join us next year, as everyone agreed it had been a great success. Remember that no pre booking is needed. You just need to arrive!

Thank you, whoever had the bright idea to change.

BRENDA JOHNSTON (JULER)

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Chairman, Pat Marley (Binding), made us very welcome at her home in Corby Gate. She both charmed and delighted the Secretary, by presenting her with a most beautiful bouquet, to mark the occasion of her remarriage, and the Secretary expressed her thanks, to the committee. All reports, shown in full in this magazine, remarked on a successful year in general for the Guild, and all were pleased to know that the "clock" stood in a prominent place, having been successfully repaired. Our Treasurer has succeeded in taking us to a little in excess of £3000 in assets, which is a healthy and viable position, and although we lose a few more members each year, we still enjoy a goodly number of active and interested members. The dates and venues are all listed for our events in 2009, on the inside cover of the magazine, and we look forward to a good turn out to support these. We also look forward to your news items and snippets of information for the next magazine.

Greetings to all.

DOROTHY STEPHINSON (HARPIN)

SECRETARY'S REPORT

This is the time of the year to send greetings to all Old Bodans and again be thankful for the legacy bequeathed to us who were fortunate to attend such a splendid school, enabling us to develop that bond, which, even now holds us together in such friendly affinity. The only sad feature of my job in attending to the register – the deletions now outnumber the additions, that is alleviated by affection we all read from those who remember those passed.

We now hold our Annual Business Meetings on Thursdays – the Friday road traffic is formidable in the late afternoon. Our other innovation, in combining the autumn committee meeting, and the 'Magazine Assembly Day', was so successful it will be continued. Our patiently long suffering Edrice, also regales us with a feast of delightful quiches and coffee, a mouth watering sweet, made by our Treasurer, makes the task a pleasure. An acknowledgement and thanks were sent to Margaret Crowe, who has unfailingly provided our address labels for years. Modern technology has overtaken and Pat now provides printed envelopes, in addition to her other printing chores.

Earlier this year we were amused to receive approaches from Old Bodans who wished to attend our various functions. We have had to deny them the pleasure because they were the wrong variety! The boys have not been so diligent on giving time to furnish their former comrades with news, and also have let their magazine lapse. Much as we regretted being unable to accommodate them, we decided that this could be the 'Topsy' who just 'grewed and growed' and would be quite beyond our resources.

Our Winter Reunion was again held in the sumptuously carpeted hall of the school, and consequential to a little hint to the caretaker, the luscious purple velvet curtains were all drawn, and the heating increased, so that we were all very comfortable. This welcome was completed by the presence of the Clock, which the committee had arranged to be repaired. The services of a good repairer, who took great pleasure from his work, and was not overly concerned about financial considerations, meant that all were well served and the finished clock stands, in all its glory, at the left hand of the hall. Mufflers refreshments, Barbara's games and Iris's and Doris's raffle, provided the entertainment, and an excellent evening was had by all.

The Annual Lunch, at the Sea Hotel, South Shields, was better attended, even than last year, and the celebration cake for our 80th Anniversary, was much enjoyed. An excellent meal, with many choices, and a successful 'special raffle' rounded off a very happy occasion, marked, as usual, by the continual buzz of laughter and chatter. Even the weather, in this year of storm and tempest, was kind to us.

The Summer Reunion, the first at lunch time, and at the Seaburn Marriott, was a much better choice for those reluctant to turn out late in the evening, and public transport was excellent. The hotel staff were very considerate and seated us all in a specially designated area of the main dining room, with tables in groups, and conveniently placed for access. The food was good, members were able to order what they wanted, and enjoyed by all. I would thoroughly recommend it to those who didn't venture out this year. I would like to offer thanks, on your behalf, and on a personal level, for all the work and hospitality of our Chairman, Pat, and for the continual vigilance of Judith, our Treasurer, who still keeps us financially viable, despite the best efforts of those asset strippers, which serve us from Whitehall, and because of whose ignorance of our modest funds, have thus not succeeded in pauperising us! (Yet !). I must also congratulate both Pat and Moira, who manfully garner snippets all year for the magazine. Their product is excellent, but some of you are so reticent about sending your news. (Hint!)

I am sure you will all wish to join us in sending kindest thoughts to our friends and colleague Eileen Brass (Arkinson) her husband Ian has recently died and she has been unable to be present at our meetings as Ian has needed constant attention. Our condolences go to her and her family at this sad time

On a closing note, you will see a change at the end of this! Quite unexpectedly, my companion, of nearly thirty years, proposed marriage, citing that I had had enough time to discover any of his foibles! Realizing this was a totally reciprocal situation, I accepted, with pleasure and delight. Our choice of venue, Headlam Hall, is always well booked, and it would not be imminent!! However John's P.A. pretended to be me, when telephoning, and discovered a cancellation on 28th August 2008, and promptly said "We'll take it!". Then confessed what she had done! That gave us two months.

We had a frantic time, but it all went well, and the weather was wonderful. My friend announced that she was not attending nor was she buying a gift. She was giving us her time. She moved in, fed and watered and attended the menagerie etc., until we returned. It was a monumental task, but even the gander, (the Top Man), obeyed her (ex-infant teachers have a way with difficulties).



Thus I take my leave of you all and sign off :-

DOROTHY STEPHINSON (HARPIN !!)

TREASURERS REPORT

The Balance Sheets shows we once more have made a profit. The committee is very grateful to the members of the Guild for their generous donations to the funds and their continued support.

JUDITH ROSENSTEIN

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Well this is the end of my first term of Office, and I'm pleased to report it has been a very good year.

The Winter Reunion is always a good night, although there were only 59 members present it seemed a lot more.

The Annual Lunch at the Sea Hotel, South Shields, was again a huge success, with 90 members attending, it goes from strength to strength and long may it continue.

The Summer Reunion however was poorly attended, only 25 members made it, which was a pity as the Marriott Hotel did us proud.

Our trip to the Old School however, was wonderful and we must thank Mr Nigel Harrett and his staff for a wonderful day, showing us, in detail, the difference in teaching methods of today, particularly as they gave up a day of their holiday to accommodate us. It was embarrassing when only 23 of the 46 who had their names down to come, actually attended.

It only remains for me to thank you all for your support and please keep sending the news.

On behalf of the Guild I would like to send our sympathy to all members who have lost family members this year. To those who have been ill we send our Best Wishes for a speedy recovery and return to good health. Let me take this opportunity of wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

EAT MARLEY (BINDING)

E.S. just a little footnote – I notice that there seems to be quite a few small reunions around the time we have our Summer Reunion. I thought it would be nice to combine these with the official one as the staff at the Marriott were so good. You can still have your little separate tables and private conversations as required, but also join with the rest of the members.

DEATHS

EDNA WHITE (ROBB)
MARJORIE WHITEING (SMITH)
AILEEN MARTIN (SMITH)
JEAN WILSON (ANDERSON)
MARY BRANFOOT
VERA PRICE (MILLER)
MURIEL DUNN (STAFF)
DORIS McCREE
ENA PARRY (WALKER)
EDITH OSBORNE (LINFOOT)

NEW MEMBERS

ANN CHISHOLM
JOYCE ARCHER (WALLIS)
MARCELLE GOODALL (WILLIAMS)
JOYCE SMITH (STOREY)

39er's REUNION

This has been a special year for us. We have all reached 80 years and been lucky enough to celebrate it. Seems no time at all since we were 11 years old. As we wanted to mark this year, when we met at the end of August at Ramside, there has been a great deal of letter writing and telephoning. Various incidents, like illness, holidays and family intervened, but nevertheless 14 of our year met at Ramside. According to Rennie Ellison (Loffhouse) it was a very happy reunion – small but select – and they missed me as well as the others who did not make it.

The select few were:-

Edna Clement	Joan Liddle and friend
Marjorie Bailes (Webb)	Betty Scott (Glancey)
Rhennette Ellison (Loffhouse)	Sheila Snowball (Richardson)
Stella Butterley (Chambers)	Joyce Spoons (Stratt)
Marjorie Harris (Stothard)	Muriel Staddon
Joyce Townes (Morrison)	Edna Wilson and sister Joyce
Eileen Young (Oliver)	

The rest of us were there in spirit!

Eileen Young (Oliver) had made a double effort ! Because of a misunderstanding, she and Joyce Robson (Wallage) had turned up the previous week and found no-one there. Joyce was not well enough to make it a second time, but Eileen did, bless her. Her time is precious now as she is a full time carer and driver for her husband Raymond.

Sheila Snowball (Richardson) is a real stalwart and comes quite regularly from the Lake District.

Good to see Betty Scott (Glancey).

Edna Wilson (Dorrell) travelled up from the deep South and arrived with sister Joyce (also an Old Bodan).

Joyce Spoons (Strutt) also travelled up from the South, but she probably came with a "Fun Fare" (Donkey Riding?)

Muriel Staddon has been to Norway for the 43rd year, but she fears it may be her last, as the boats from the Tyne are finishing.

Marjorie Harris (Stothard) brought a beautiful, home made cake, complete with the school badge decorating the top. Thank you so much Marjorie.

How did we celebrate our special Birthday ???

First we flexed our eye lashes, had a huge special stretch, then gently got out of bed !!!

Sheila Snowball (Richardson), had a family gathering in Manchester, with an evening meal, when all the vegetarians were well catered for. They all stayed over and enjoyed a celebratory breakfast together. They have also just had a short break on a Canal Barge - in the fast lane at 5mph.

Eileen Young (Oliver) enjoyed lunch at the Rose and Crown Romalkirk, with her husband Raymond, on his first outing for many months. (The food is good.L.)

Maureen Richardson (Robson) had a family meal when they presented her with a beautiful locket.

Lucy Mills (Davison) spent a few days in a lovely family owned and run Hotel near Dortmund, with daughter Vicki and partner. Special breakfast and superb evening meal. Herr 'Owner' asked Vicki if it was my 70th Birthday!!

Now that's good business !

Did they enjoy the Reunion ??

Rennie Ellison (Loffhouse) had a wonderful birthday treat – 5 days in Milan with daughter, and although she had been before she had never managed to see the ‘Last Supper’. To see this was a special Occasion. Shops were at their best as it was the week after Milan Fashion Week. In the Galleria Vittorio Emanuel, they came face to face with Antonio Banderas and his entourage, He smiled at them and for a brief moment Rennie wished she was 20, 40, 60 years younger.

Joyce Spoons (Strutt) thought it was wonderful to be here again. It was laughter from start to finish. No one looked a day over 79.

Juan Liddle put her thoughts into verse:-

Here we are again, Happy as can be,
Older, wiser, Greyer, But jolly good company.

Edna Clements just enjoys life! – even when she says “Done nothing – been nowhere” . I’m sure she does a great deal.

Edna Wilson (Dorrell) I quote “ Great to see so many vivacious, sprightly, loquacious, octogenarians all talking at once. A wonderful reunion”
(She must have gone to a good school. L)

Now what about those who were not there ?

Maureen Richardson (Robson) is settled into her lovely flat in Holmfirth, (Last of the Summer Wine) town, and near to her daughter. She sends her love to all and hopes we have a good gossip.

Zoe Crowcroft (Waddington) has been ill for over a year and has been quite depressed. We are sorry and send her our good wishes.

Kathleen Miller (Phorson) had really hoped to come, but got the wrong date. With a little luck we will meet up.

Kathleen Teasdale (Kay Williams) really enjoyed last year’s reunion and had planned to come this year. Unfortunately she fell and broke her arm a few weeks ago and has been staying with her son. She is back home now, but felt it was too soon to venture forth, even with a lift.

Rita Marning (Dix) keeps going near her family in Inverness.

Stella Butterley (Chambers) would like an update of your Post Code and maybe also your email address. Please write very clearly.

Marjorie Bailes (Webb) Did she move house safely?



I am sure we all wish Doreen Dodds (Emerson) and Doreen Dreyer (Watson) Good Health.

For those who missed Marjorie's delicious cake with the School badge as decoration, those who travelled from the deep South and all those dynamic octogenarians who gossip when they meet --- Next Year's date will be

FRIDAY 28TH AUGUST 2009 RAMSIDE 12 NOON
(Last Friday in August)

Have faith dear warriors and keep your Old Bedou Magazine handy. Do as Miss Arkle taught you and read carefully.
See you all next year on — last Friday in August 2009

P.S. Out of the blue I had a phone call from Doreen Medd (Linsey). She had made plans to come to the reunion but unfortunately shortly after, had a slight heart attack. Now on medication she is recovering and sends good wishes to everyone.

LUCY MILLS (DAVISON) with help from
RENNIE ELLISON (LOFTHOUSE)

AN INFORMAL MEETING

It was when the Guild of Old Bedans was having the Annual Lunch at the Sea Hotel in April, that someone said that perhaps members would like to have another lunch meeting sometime in late summer.

Maureen Thompson (Young) was immediately interested in this idea, and having found that several people were too, she suggested that we pick ed a date to have 'an open invitation' to the Seaburn Marriott Hotel, to everyone who would like to come along.

The date chosen was Tuesday 23rd September, the time 12.30pm and ten people arrived. Talking and enjoying refreshments of their own choosing, everyone found the event relaxing and enjoyable.

This was just a small or 'mini meeting' but these, I think, are just as valuable as the large meetings, in that they still provide ways of keeping Old Bedans in touch, to hear 'the news' that can be passed to others.

PAT BITTLESTONE

A number of Old Bedans are volunteers at Durham Cathedral.

One Tuesday morning there were four of us on duty, myself, Valerie Williamson (Trigg), Pauline Humphrey (Duffell), Pamela Harris (Baxter) and Gwyn Page. I am sure Miss Moal would have appreciated this.

VALERIE WILLIAMSON (TRIGG)

1947's REUNION

On Sunday 11th May 2008, ten of the 'Class of '47' met at the Marriott Hotel, Seaburn, for our fifteenth annual lunch.

Unfortunately some of our regular members were unable to attend.

Our overseas friends –

Barbara Lee (Martin) from Ontario,

Anne Jennings (Berry) from Australia,

Irene Darr (Reed) from Northern Ireland, could not travel this year, but sent their best wishes and exchanged family news.

The local contingent also met in March and October for an informal meal with lots of lively discussion and laughter and exchange messages from absent friends.

We have twenty active members, ten locally, and would welcome any 47er's who would like to join us or correspond.

ANNE WESTON (Ers)

01833637486

ANOTHER REUNION

Most of our group started Bode in September 1951 and left in July 1958. 5 years ago. A core group from this year decided to hold an event, to commemorate this at the Sea Hotel in June.

Some people travelled many miles to be with us, but none from overseas.

Two or three 'girls' who had never been to our yearly get togethers arrive and we had a very noisy but enjoyable evening, we are grateful to the Ech for publicity and to the Sea Hotel for furnishing us with private, pleasant surroundings and excellent food and service.

Next year we hope to meet at the Sea Hotel again, the first Saturday in June (6th) Anyone interested in joining please contact me.

ROBINA 5361343

REUNION OF 1953 STARTERS



On Wednesday, September 24th, five Old Bedans from the 1953 starters – Anne Fambely, Jean Royal (Cox), Pat Deans (Webb), Doreen Closs (Storr) and Valerie Owen (Whittaker) met up for our monthly get together at the home of Anne Conley (McNab) in Newcastle.

This was, however to be a special occasion, as we were to be joined by Sylvia Refson (Adler), who was travelling up from London specially for the meeting. Sylvia had got in contact with Anne Fambely as the result of an article she had read in last year's "Old Bedan" and had since been determined to meet up with us. Most of us had not seen her since our days at Bede.

There was, as you can imagine, lots to catch up on! We happily shared news of children and grandchildren, some of whom live as far away as Israel and Australia. Of course the conversation also moved back to our time at Bede and many happy and amusing incidents were recalled as we remembered the teachers and fellow pupils.

Sylvia was able to stay overnight with Jean and revisited old haunts in Sunderland. She is keen to meet up with us again, before too long.

If anyone else recognises any of those mentioned above, do contact Anne by emailing a.fambely@ntlworld.com or phoning 0191 5283663.

ANNE FAMBELY

OLD BEDANS VISIT TO THE BEDE SIXTH FORM ACADEMY

On Friday, 11th July, twenty three Old Bedans arrived in what was once the Bede School girl's hall.

Originally, forty six names were listed as intending to be present, but on the day only half that number turned up. The shortfall in visitors was a pity because the staff had anticipated larger numbers, and had clearly prepared most thoroughly.

On arrival, we were each given a programme covering the visit.

Mr Nigel Harrett, Head of Bede Sixth Form Academy, then made a computer presentation, guiding us through the various aspects of the academy, as it is now, so very different from the school that we once attended!

The age group of students is sixteen to eighteen years. Feeder schools are Farrington, Southmoor, Thornhill and Pennywell. Teachers from these schools come to the academy to assist with some of the teaching.

The academy staff deals with all levels of attainment, many of the subjects prepare the students for life. Both vocational and academic courses are available, supported by fine sports facilities.

In this relatively new academy, Mr Harrett reported year 2007 results were good, with students achieving success in a wide range of subjects.

There are many out of school activities and outings available.

The most notable change is the introduction of computers, the old boy's hall being the major room for computers, and it also contains many reference books. We were shown into one typical classroom where tables were arranged in small groups for discussion purposes.

This was in direct contrast to the regimented layout of desks as experienced in our youth.

Some students receive instruction about coursework and homework to be completed at home, via their mobile phones!

The staff displayed a caring and enthusiastic attitude throughout our visit. This concluded in the student canteen area, part of which was once Miss Moul's room. At the end of the visit, we were treated to tea, coffee and a selection of delicious small home made biscuits and cakes, which we all thoroughly enjoyed!

DOROTHY COMMON (CRAVEN)

CONGRATULATIONS

To all the kids that were born in the 1940's -50's & 70's !!

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked & / or drank while they carried us. They took aspirin. Ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a tin, liver pate and didn't get tested for diabetes. Then after that trauma. Our baby cots were covered with bright coloured lead-based paints.

We had no child proof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets & when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets.

As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags.

Riding in the back of a van – loose – was always great fun.

We drank water from the garden hosepipe and NOT from a bottle.

We shared one soft drink with four friends & NO ONE actually died from this. We ate cakes, white bread & real butter & drank pop with sugar in it, but we weren't overweightbecause.....

WE WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING !!

We would leave home in the morning & play all day, as long as we were back when the street lights came on. No one was able to reach us all day. and we were O.K.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps & then ride down the hill, only to find we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.

We did not have Playstations, Nintendo's, X-boxes, no video games at all, no 99 channels on cable, no DVD's.

No MP3's no surround sound, no mobile phones, no text messaging, no personal computers, no Internet chat rooms...

WE HAD FRIENDS & we went outside and found them !

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones & teeth & there were no lawsuits from these accidents. We played with worms & mud pies made from dirt, & the worms did not live in us forever. Made up games with sticks & tennis balls & although we were told it would happen, we did not poke out any eyes. We rode bikes or walked to a friends house & knocked on the door, or rang the bell, or just yelled for them !

Not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that !

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law!

This generation has produced some of the best risk takers, problem solvers and inventors ever !

The past 50years have been an explosion of innovation & new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success & responsibility, we learned

HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL !!

And YOU are one of them !

CONGRATULATIONS !!

You might want to share this with others who have had the luck to grow as kids, before the lawyers & government regulated our lives for our own good !

And while you are at it, forward it to your kids, so they will know how brave their parents were.

MEMORIES OF YESTERDAY

I enclose a copy of the Old Bede 1938 which has information about the Old Bede contained in it. It has survived so long because I originally sent it to my pen pal in America. We were originally given names of girls at High School in Rochford, Illinois, through our Teacher exchange scheme in 1937/38.

Janet and I have kept in touch ever since, 70years! We even met twice when she visited England.

Anyhow she kept the magazine and sent it back to me, years later.

My mother, father 3Aunts and an uncle all went to the old Bede between 1910 and 1928. My mother said the building they used was known as the 'Tin Tabernacle'.

I started Bede in 1937 in the second year, transferring from my school in York. I have memories of Miss Moul trying her best to help me settle in as I was not very happy about leaving my old school and all my friends.

The next upheaval was of course the war, and our evacuation to Richmond. I do not think we did much work. Assembly was in the Town Hall, with gas mask practice, and we were encouraged to knit for the troops. There were also visits to the local cinema for educational films!

These were some of my strongest memories.

JOAN ALEXANDER (CLARKE)

Ed note. We have received a copy of the Bede with thanks. Joan also sent us a donation for our funds in memory of her family mentioned above, which all went to Bede. Thank you Joan.

SIDNEY THE CAT:

I was so pleased to get the Old Bede of 2007, and to hear from Anne Masterman (McLachlan), who lived next door to me when we were at Bede. She had seen the piece about me in the magazine, and she sent me a lovely letter.

I have kept in touch with Pat Rich (Lord) and Edna Brown.

I am on my own now, as my son Richard died suddenly. My daughter Alice lives at Whitehill with her family, and my son Jeremy lives with his family in Canada.

I have been involved with animals for many years and show my cats at International Cat Shows, and have many trophies, many of them being 'Best in Show'. I have only one cat now, Sidney who is 16years old. I am very involved with the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals, because research has shown that cruelty to animals leads to cruelty to people!

I Often tell people about Bede and what a great school it was. I enclose £10 so I can become a life member.
Best wishes to you all.

MARCELLE GOODALL (WILLIAMS)

CATCH UP LOOKING BACK

As time passes, none of us gets any younger and problems always seem to be waiting around the corner. But let us remember that there are good things as well as bad!

I have had lots of health problems in the last few years, but thankfully (I hope) they are all behind me now, and there is light at the end of the tunnel. When we were younger and we were reading the *Sunderland Echo*, we would go to the public announcements page, and read of the engagements and marriages of our friends and acquaintances. Then a few years later, we would be looking at births as a priority. Sadly we now cast our eyes straight to the column marked 'Deaths'.

Meanwhile lots of us have been blessed with children and grandchildren. Then, if we are lucky enough along come the great grand children, of whom I have just had my first! She was born in June, weighing in at 9lb 11oz. Now at eight weeks old she is a healthy 13lbs (I call her the Sumo-Wrestler!) Her name is Hannah.

On a different note, my friend Dorothy Oakes (Clarke) came up north for a couple of weeks in June. She moved to Devon when we were in the third year at Bede, and we have remained in touch ever since. Now that work does not have a priority in our lives, we visit each other every year. She tries to arrange her visits to get to one of our reunions. Next year she hopes to fit in the one in April. Here's hoping.

AUDREY SKINNER SANDERSON

POETIC VERSES FROM AN OLD BEDAN

SENIOR MOMENTS

What a week! First, on the floor, undignified on hands and knees,
Because someone was at the door. I searched, but vainly, for my keys.
Dropped from my bag, but could not see,
My specs mislaid somewhere. Ah! Me.

Meeting a pal, I was aware my gloves were not a matching pair.
Later, I needed to phone a friend, could only recall her maiden name.
I searched the address book end to end. She's now called Young.
Oh! What a shame.

A Christmas gift for last December turned up on a shelf in mid-September.
The postman handed me a letter, no bill this, maybe something better.
My son's name at the top I see, But I'd addressed the mail to me!

My mind is full of memories, like apples harvested from trees.
But sharper secateurs I need, now that my brain has gone to seed.

AFTER DARKNESS LIGHT

Four-thirty and the wind has dropped, late Thursday afternoon,
And solar lights are brightening the dismal garden gloom.
Welcome bursts of colour have relieved this January day..
Winter jasmine and early rose against the sullen grey.

The deepest darkness of the year and Christmas now behind.
We move on from the carolled crib, the tree lights out of mind,
Each to find by star and sun, the path that each must tread.
Side by side and yet alone, praying to be led.
Through work and deep perplexity, through shock-waves, fear or loss,
By faith in "After darkness light" and Life beyond the Cross.

DOREEN STANFORTH (SIMM)

LETTERS FROM ABROAD

The year is passing very quickly, time to write before the closing date for news to be included in 2008 Old Bedan.

The 2007 Old Bedan was par excellence and received by me with much interest. Lots to read and absorb, including some almost forgotten names from the past, and others quite fresh in my mind. The news of Leonor Jacobs and Blossom Greenswald was well received. Thank you Pauline, I remember them clearly.

Dorothy Stephinson's (Thompson) article on the Francesco connection, found most intriguing. Is this perchance the blonde Dorothy who lived in Coniston Avenue? (Yes, it is!!! ED).

Here I am, then, basking in Durban's lovely sunshine and still doing my thing at u'Shaka's Sea World, where two weeks ago an event occurred at the Aquarium, never before attempted.

Our beautiful manta ray, Mandi, rescued as a baby from the shark nets 11 months ago, was growing too big for our facility (2 even 3 metres across). In a huge delicate undertaking, involving many divers, aquarists, scientists et al, she was captured, with great care, in a large net, then transferred to sling, lifted with a crane out of the water, into an awaiting travelling "box". A truck then transported her and her keeper, Gerry, to Durban Airport, where the plane was ready for her to fly to Georgia Airport, Atlanta, USA. Their facility is ten times the size of Durban's open Ocean exhibit. It is with delight I report Mandi is doing well, is out of quarantine, eating normally, and Gerry has returned home, mission accomplished!

Winter here is an absolute pleasure. Sunshine every day, streaming through the windows. Temperatures between 23-25 degrees C. No need for a jersey, never mind the coat!

With salaams and good wishes,
Hamba Kahle!

JOAN BROOKS (RICHARDS)

SNIPPETS 2008

JOAN LIDDLE, sporting a black eye and with her right arm in plaster, and losing pints and pints of blood, managed to attend the lunch and enjoy her meal!

DOREEN DREYER (WATSON) collapsed after a dizzy spell, on Sunderland Station, breaking her hip and ending up in hospital.

Both of the above members had lunch with the other 39er's at Toscanini's in Derwent Street. Was it something they ate or drank? We wish them both a speedy recovery back to full health.

LUCY MILLS (DAVISON)

CELIA PIPE (SHEPPERD) attended the 2008 lunch for the first time (?) and left some photographs of a hockey team of her time and of staff, and also the sixth form of the same era. Her granddaughter, Charlotte, is playing lacrosse for England. She obviously has inherited her Grandmother's sporting prowess!

KATHLEEN YOUNG (CRAGGS) and Alan celebrated their diamond wedding on July 27th 2008. Congratulations to you both.

ENID BELL (LISTER) writes 'I have been delighted for four days with the presence of a most beautiful peacock in my back garden. I don't know from whence he came, but his visit has filled us with great joy. He is magnificent! Sea View Park, Whitburn, is certainly a stately place now!' Apparently he had escaped from Whitburn Lodge on the sea front, and had been seen in one or two places before he was eventually returned to his rightful home.(ED)

ANN DUFFIELD (WIGHT)

CLASS OF 1955

Next year (2009) writes Ann, a reunion of the class of '55 will be held, and they will be pleased to welcome anyone from the years of '54 and '56 to join them. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact Ann on 01748 835 105 or eileen-calvert@yahoo.co.uk.

<u>BALANCE SHEET</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER 2008</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
<u>INCOME</u>			
Subscriptions	48.00	Printing	238.96
Donations	150.00	Winter Reunion	300.00
Interest	19.94	Clock Repair	50.00
Raffles	156.00	Gifts	68.45
Winter Reunion	353.00	Coke	52.50
Annual Lunch	<u>1355.00</u>	Annual Lunch	1139.50
		Annual Lunch Exp	30.00
		Annual Lunch returns	<u>60.00</u>
			1940.41
		Credit on Year	<u>141.53</u>
	<u>2081.94</u>		<u>2081.94</u>

<u>Total Funds September 2008</u>		3.50%	
Balance Sheet September 2007	2063.25	War	
Credit on Year	<u>141.53</u>	Stock	98.36
		TSB A/C	3490.56
		Barclays	<u>415.86</u>
	<u>3004.78</u>		<u>3004.78</u>

Checked and verified
signed Joyce M. Lowe
Sep-08

JUDITH ROSENSTEIN
Treasurer

