

# The Old Bedan

2011

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2012

### FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2012

#### WINTER REUNION IN BIDE CENTRE

From 4.30pm to 7pm

Tickets £7

Please bring a cup. Plates provided.

Dinner tickets will be available on this evening.

### FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2012

#### ANNUAL LUNCH in the Sea Hotel, South Shields

At 12.30pm for 1.00pm. Tickets £16

Payment must be made by 20<sup>TH</sup> April.

### TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2012

#### SUMMER REUNION at the Marriot Hotel Seaburn

Buffet Lunch (optional) at 12 noon

### THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012

#### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING at 2pm

This will be held at 38, Shakespeare Street, Leafields, Sunderland.

The home of our Chairman, Sylvia Pratt (Hill) SRS 2PL

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 2011 – 2012

### 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

Sylvia Pratt (Hill)  
38, Shakespeare Street, Leafields, Sunderland. SR5 2PL Tel: 5485801

### Magazine Printer

Pat Marley (Blinding)  
7, Corby Gate, Ashbrooke, Sunderland. SR2 7JB Tel: 5227383

### Secretary

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

### Editor

Moira Cuddeford (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  
Eileen Brass (Atkinson) Tel: 5496316  
Dorothy Jobling (Singleton) Tel: 4153649

## EDITORS COMMENTS

For any members who are interested, Mr Phillip Phipps, of Whitburn, has kindly set up a website ([www.durham-images.org](http://www.durham-images.org)) which will enable members to view old copies of the School magazines. There are also a few class photographs, and some photographs of the School itself. If anyone has photographs, which they would like to have added, Mr. Phipps is willing to do this.

We are grateful for his interest and help.

We repeat our thanks to John Broderick for his invaluable help in the production of this magazine. We would find it difficult now to manage without him!

Kind thoughts and good wishes to all our members and their families.

## M.S.CUDDEFORD (DIXON)

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you to everyone for supporting our gatherings, at Bede in January and The Sea Hotel in May. The committee hope you will be able to attend our reunions in 2012. Thank you for your donations to the funds.

## JUDITH ROSENSTEIN

## SECRETARY'S REPORT 2011

The year began well in 2010. At our A.B.M., everything was set and ready – then the “slings and arrows of outrageous fortune” turned on us.

Unexpectedly, our benevolent caretaker, Alan Wales, retired, and our carefully laid plans for the Winter Reunion, were severely in question – they do not do Fridays! It was his own kind offices to open up and attend to us. After negotiations, he again stepped into the breach, and persuaded his replacement to accommodate us, and all was well!

Whilst this was ongoing, a further problem was an enormous blip in the November weather, which cancelled the magazine assemblage, and the

## SECRETARY'S REPORT 2011 (cont)

meeting at which we appointed the incoming President. The discussion on recruiting assistants to train as future officers, also went by the board.

The printed magazine was snowed up in a different town.

Finally the actual work on the magazine was done by a few souls who were able to collect and assemble the magazine. They should all have medals for fortitude! My contribution was futile chirping on the telephone, being totally snowed in!

The Winter Reunion, at the new time of 4.30pm, was enjoyed by all, with the added bonus of clear roads. The Spring Lunch, once again was a delight, with our special menu holders enhancing the whole affair.

At the Spring Committee meeting we had to compensate for the missed business in November. Sylvia Pratt (Hill) was appointed Chairman in absentia. Fortunately, when informed of our vote, she was delighted and, of course agreed.

Our earlier decision to incorporate some younger assistants to aide, and eventually replace officers, became lost in the years tribulations, but the actual events of the year clearly points to this being necessary.

The Summer Reunion clashed with a lot of holidays, and not a few illnesses, so it was not quite so well attended as in recent years, but there were enough members present to make it a very pleasant occasion.

Sadly, injuries and illness in the Committee circle have beset us.

Brenda Liddle (Fleming) had a bad fall and required an operation. Eileen Brass (Atkinson) was greatly troubled by an impending knee operation. Pat Cruddas (Snell) was very ill, and we were all concerned greatly, then came the "11<sup>th</sup> hour" (so favoured by Miss Moul), with the illness of our Chairman, Dorothy, diagnosed with a severely inflamed gall bladder, with complications. I promptly communicated an idea to Sylvia, who agreed to take the load of worry from her shoulders, by hosting the forthcoming ABM at her new home. We were all delighted that Dorothy could attend to install Sylvia, and to thank her for stepping into the breach.

I am sincerely hoping for a much smoother year ahead, and take this opportunity to thank all the committee for rising to all eventualities in sterling fashion.

Good health and every good wish to all our members.

**DOROTHY STEPHINSON (HARPIN)**

## ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING 2011

The sudden illness of our Chairman Dorothy Jobling (Singleton), meant a change of venue for our A.B.M. Our incoming Chairman Sylvia Pratt (Hill), having been appointed in absentia, in the first instance, was now confronted to have an opportunity of a practice run for the next year! She rallied to the cause, despite being in the process of organising the new house, into which she had recently moved. A multitude of surprises for Sylvia! Fortunately the hospital procedures reduced Dorothy's severe inflammation, and she was able to attend and install her successor with grace and decorum, and also to thank her for rising to our needs at such short notice.

Everyone thanked Dorothy for a very successful term of office, and for her hospitality over the period. Thanks were also given to Sylvia for her kind accommodation of the group. The meeting was a great success.

Everyone was delighted with the printing done by Barbara Swift (Broderick's) son, John, and a vote of thanks is recorded..

It also seemed that the lowering of the key led to a successful rendering of the School Song.

A small difficulty arose re our next meeting, when we are due to assemble the magazine. Due to the absence of our Editor, who hosts the meeting in magnanimous fashion and spurs everyone to work hard at assembly, the magazine meeting is pending. A further, more serious difficulty concerns our stalwart Pat Marley (Binding), who, is beset by family illness and the demands on her time. Very fortuitously, in this instance, she is relieved of the actual printing, by John's kind efforts, but she still has all the typing and setting to do. Our thoughts are with her.

Let us hope that the weather is kinder this year.

## DOROTY STEPHINSON (HARPIN)

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello Everyone,

It will be my pleasure and privilege to serve as your chairman for the next two years.

I promise I will do my best.

My first task is to thank, on your behalf, the outgoing chairman, Dorothy Jobling (Singleton), for her hard work during the last two years. She will be a hard act to follow.

Also thanks to the whole of the committee, who, in the words of the song, are always, Ready, Willing and Able, to do whatever is asked of them.

As far as keeping the Guild alive is concerned, at our Annual Business Meeting the discussion turned to the age and recent health problems of some of the Committee members. There have been no resignations because they are happy to devote their time keeping the Guild alive.

However with the best will in the world, this cannot go on forever. We desperately need new members on the committee. Otherwise in a few years time, the Guild of Old Bodans will simply cease to be, and that will be a sad loss to many members not only in this country but all over the world, who look forward, so much, to receiving their magazine, which enables them to keep in touch, and helps also to keep alive their memories of our wonderful school.

So, come on you younger ladies, out there in and around Sunderland! You will find us to be a jolly, friendly group, who will whole heartedly welcome you. Anyone willing to join us has only to ring any committee member (numbers in magazine) or speak to one of us at any of our reunions, and you will be welcomed with open arms.

It only remains for me to say, I look forward immensely, to the next two years, when I will do my best to keep up the standards set by my illustrious predecessors. I look forward also to welcoming you to our reunions next year, and must add here that if anyone has any suggestions for improvement please let us know.

I wish you and your loved ones a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

SYLVIA PRATT (HILL)

## WINTER REUNION 2011

Our 4pm January reunion was a welcome event in a prolonged severe winter. We entered the warmth of the school hall, passing present day students on their way home.

Tickets, cups and raffle prizes in hand, we sat down at our 'year' tables to meet the challenge of Barbara's quizzes, with whispers of 'co-operation'. A number of regulars were missing, perhaps on account of the Arctic weather, but it was good to see some new faces.

As always, the buffet, served by the committee, was appetising and plentiful. The well supported raffle raised £105, next year the Winter Reunion is scheduled to start at 4.30pm (finishing at 7pm) to allow students to clear the building.

### DOREEN STANFORTH (SIMM)

The Winter reunion was held on January 28<sup>th</sup> 2011, but instead of the usual night time, it was rearranged for the afternoon at 4pm. It was a beautiful, crisp afternoon as we cheerfully made our way into the old hall. Forty nine members attended, but to hear the chatter and laughter as everyone caught up on the news, it sounded like many more!

We were soon seated, pencils pointed and quiz papers handed out, (the SILENCE EXAMINATIONS notice posted on the hall doors does not seem so irrelevant now!) Is it my imagination or do the "fun" quizzes get longer and more fiendish? We all conferred and queried, scratched our heads and dragged up some dim and distant facts. Fortunately, someone always seemed to manage to conjure up an answer. Thankfully, time for a break, and the usual excellent selection of sandwiches and cakes were handed round and very quickly dispatched. Many thanks to the helpers who never fail to keep our plates and cups filled, A proper 5 o'clock teatime tuck in! One more puzzle to solve and then the raffle was drawn. It seemed everyone had a lucky number and each table seemed to be covered in prizes. The total profit raised was £105, all due to the hard work of the committee, and the generosity of the members. Now it is time to go, and it is still light as we headed for the gates. It was lovely to hear the eternal goodbye calls echo out "See you next year" and so we shall!

I think the afternoon reunion was a great success and hopefully we will be able to continue at this earlier time.

### MARY WEBB (JACKSON)



### THE SPRING LUNCH 2011

Our Annual Lunch at the Sea Hotel, South Shields is proving to be understandably popular. The original date this year was altered on account of the Royal Wedding.

We made our selection from the varied menu and enjoyed good service. Perhaps like Tommy Tucker, we should sing the thoughtfully transposed school song before indulging!

These occasions create opportunities for us to look forward to, and then enjoy, relaxing with old friends, and hearing news.

The committee's work on our behalf is greatly appreciated.

### DOREEN STANFIRTH (SIMM)

#### SUMMER REUNION 2011

For someone who spends most of her time watching cricket and attempting crosswords, it was a pleasant change to be driving north, on the A19, on route to Peterlee to stay overnight, with Audrey White, before heading off to the summer Reunion the next day, for another session of gossip and nostalgia. As we turned the corner from Roker Avenue next morning, and saw the whole of Roker and Seaburn stretching out before us, I was immediately transported back over more than half a century, when we used to parade along the sea front on Sundays, in our elegant suits and stiletto heels!. When we arrived at the Seaburn Hotel( old habits die hard), and looked across the road at the sweep of Whithum bay, with a bright blue sky overhead and the sun shining on the clear blue sea, it seemed to be a good omen for the forthcoming meeting with old friends. After missing last year's reunion, I was really looking forward to this one, and there we all were, eight of our year group had managed to get there, all instantly recognisable, and full of gossip about other friends, families, exploits and nostalgic memories. The years slipped away and we were girls again. We enjoyed a buffet lunch and some of us a glass (or two) of wine.

We talked constantly throughout the meal, to our immediate neighbours, then some of us changed places and chatted some more. It was so enjoyable that I am looking forward to June already. I had such a good time catching up with the girls from our own year, that as we were leaving I realised that I had not talked to the Old Bedans at the other table. I think there were twelve at their table. I apologise for not making time to meet them and to chat, perhaps I will be able to make amends in 2012!

Long Live the Guild of Old Bedans

### GWEN GRACE (ANDREWS)

## SUMMER REUNION 2011

Once again our lunch was held at the Sea Hotel, and again it was a great success.

We were welcomed by our Chairman Dorothy Jobling ( Singleton), who particularly welcomed May Teasdale (Cook) who at 91 years old was the oldest Old Bedan present. May said that she hoped to visit her sister and family in Canada later in the year, health permitting.

Dorothy read a monologue to us in local dialect, which was very well done. She apparently had been a member of a local amateur group in former times.

After a good lunch and 'catch up time' with old friends, the raffle was announced, the proceeds of which amounted to £100.

Thank you all!!

There were 60 of us Old Girls there, and everyone seemed to enjoy the afternoon, and I as one of them ,would like to thank the committee and all those who made it such a memorable occasion.

We again sang the School Song, accompanied by Joyce Robson (Bagley) on the keyboard provided by Sylvia Pratt (Hill).

## JUNE THOMPSON (BIRLISON)

## GARDEN GATHERING

When some of us realised that we were all approaching, or had actually reached our 80<sup>th</sup> year, we decided to celebrate reaching this phenomenal age!

Twenty one of us met at the home of Moira Cuddeford (Dixon). The weather was glorious, so we were able to spread out and use the attractive garden, as well as the house. We could not have chosen better weather – remember the lovely sunny period at the beginning of June? – Weren't we lucky?

Those of us who arrived early were able to see Alan Dixon, waiting for his lift from June's husband Eric, to escape the forthcoming mayhem.

Many of us settled in the beautiful garden, which surely must have been in "Homes and Gardens Magazine"

Mullers provided some of the delicious catering, but we also enjoyed luscious homemade chocolate and ginger cakes made by Moira and Barbara Swift (Broderick)

Many photographs were taken, and many friendships renewed and memories enjoyed.

Because everything was so enjoyable, we would like to make a date again when we are 90!!! How about it Moira?

## MAUREEN THOMPSON (YOUNG)



### GARDEN GATHERING (CONTINUED)

We all enjoyed our reunion, and were pleased to enrol three new members to the Guild. Gwen Spain who came up from Redcar, also Margaret Taylor and Audrey Swan. Members also gave us £40 in donations for the Guild, for which, many thanks. I would particularly like to thank Brenda Snowball, who stayed with us for a couple of nights and whose help was invaluable, and also Barbara Swift, who helped with the catering. Also all the washers up who willingly gave a hand!

Unfortunately, due to a variety of reasons, the following were unable to come at the last minute.

Joyce Wilson (Craig) Sylvia Hood (Briggs) Elizabeth Sweeting (Jenkins)  
Jean Harrison (Morrison) Joan Forcer (Rutherford) and Pat Marley (Binding).

YES WE WILL HAVE ANOTHER DO WHEN WE ARE ALL 90!!

### MOIRA CUDDEFORD (DIXON)

Those present were

Barbara Swift (Broderick)  
June Thompson (Birlison)  
Olwyn Marshall (Acklam)  
Muriel Heptinsall  
Pauline Veitch (Crozier)  
Maureen Thompson (Young)  
Joyce Worthy (Gaskin)  
Dorothy Sutton  
Audrey Swan (Richardson)  
Margaret Taylor (Spoors)

Mary Reed (Lawson)  
Hilda Cousins (Barclay)  
Mildred Boutflower (Waters)  
Avril Trembath (Ridley)  
June Cowell (Wharton)  
Doris Henderson (Wilton)  
Brenda Snowball (Trewitt)  
Jean Currie (Darwin)  
Marjorie Calvert  
Gwen Spain (Ross)



### GARDEN GATHERING - AS THEY WERE!!

#### Back Row

Connie Howe	Audrey Kidd	Moina Cuddeford
Jean Sangster	Margaret Laidlaw	Margaret Marlee
Winifred Smith		

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Row

Connie Mattingly	Hurta Laster	Norma potts
Barbara Swift	Elizabeth Thew	Pat Cutchie
Ann Lamming	Jean Wilson	Mary Cameron

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Row

Rhona Slater	Irene Hugill	Irene Jameson
Sheila Henderson	Joyce Wilson	Avril Trembath
Betty Coulson	Jessie Reed	Rose Barrett
Joyce Archer	Margaret Pounder	

#### Front Row

Hilda Cousin	Pat Marley	Isabelle Stothard
June Cowell	Teacher	Maureen Lax
Eva Crinson	Isabel Hall	Margaret Taylor

### 39 ER'S REUNION 2011

We had our reunion on the last Friday in August, 2011 as per usual. As expected we were our usual glamorous selves with senses of humour at the ready. We completed the compulsory form with the usual mutterings of "Whatever can I say " There were eight of us this time. Perhaps the chore of travelling is beginning to take its toll! Rita Manning had sent Marjorie Harris a letter from hospital, explaining that this years reunion was out of the question. Four days after moving into a new home, she slipped in the shower, and broke her shoulder blade. We all wish her a speedy recovery. Joyce Townes (Morrison) sent her apologies, as did Sheila Snowball (Richardson).

EDNA CLEMENT Two artificial hips, two artificial knees, and eyesight problems. Apart from that I am perfect!

MARJORIE BAILES (WEBB) Enjoying the company, looking out at the rain!

MURIEL STADDON When asked how I am, I usually say "Too busy to think about it" The "busyness" is Save the Children. Who will save the O.A.P's?

MARJORIE HARRIS (STOTHARD) Once again I have my usual visitor staying with me, namely Joyce Spoor, I enjoy the reunion and being able to catch up on the gossip.

RHENNETTE ELLISON (LOTHOUSE) Lovely to be here! My hairdresser could not believe that my school friends were from 72 years ago, and that one of them I have known for 78 years! Is this a record? A happy reunion despite the weather.

JOYCE SPOORS (STRUTI) Another glorious day ! This rejuvenates me. I feel about 32. We discussed everything. Sex (I got some surprises!) drink, old homes and my tin bath!

BETTY SCOTT (GLANCEY) I never want to come to the reunion, but when I do, I really enjoy it. The company and humour is a great tonic.

JOAN LIDDLE It is great to see everyone, no matter how frequently or infrequently. The years just slide away.

After a lot of consideration, it was decided by the group who were present, that this would, unfortunately, be the last meeting of the 39er's at the Ramside, so there will be no meeting in 2012.

JOAN LIDDLE

## 39ers QUESTIONNAIRE A LA SAGA MAGAZINE

For fun the 39ers filled in the following and a team of experts worked out their virtual ages!

### QUESTION ONE

When did you last open a tin of wild salmon? What was its reaction?

#### ANSWERS

1. Never
2. Yesterday, 25<sup>th</sup> August. It was lovely!
3. Prefer Fresh
4. Never
5. I prefer tinned!
6. Two days ago. Very bad tempered. Muttered something about lawyers.
7. Always buy fresh.

### QUESTION TWO

What do you feel about Archimedes? After all he seemed to have spent all his time watching bodies in water

#### ANSWERS

1. Up to this moment, nothing!
2. Never knew him personally.
3. Who?
4. Didn't know him.
5. I have only heard of an Archimedes Screw!
6. I feel that he should have had a proper job.
7. Did he play for Arsenal?

### QUESTION THREE

When did you last swim naked off Seaburn Beach?

#### ANSWERS

1. Never.
2. About eighty years ago.
3. Last night – in my dreams
4. About seventy years ago. My bikini top was sucked off by a very large wave.
5. Never. I am too much of a lady.
6. Never off Seaburn! Yes in Blea Tarn!

My team of experts decided that the participants were very youthful Old Bedars, with their sense of humour still intact.

## NEW MEMBERS

Gwen Spain (Rees)  
Margaret Taylor (Spoors)  
Audrey Swan (Richardson)  
M. Anderson (Clayton)  
Margaret Beston (Reah)  
Joan Kirkaldy (Easton)

## DEATHS

Jennie Garrett (Chester)  
Maureen Wallace (Hilton)  
Jeannie Hey (Smith)  
Marjorie Suffield  
Nora Johnson (Wilson)  
Maureen Lofthouse (Hanson)  
P. Davidson  
Effie Crowe  
Clare Mosley (Masterman)  
Irene Joyce (Shays)  
Connie Mattingly (Walton)  
Marjorie Stockdale (Rennie)  
Joan Squires (Buchanan)  
Elsie Colling (Swannack)  
Karen Lamb (Keith)  
Doreen Stoddart (Bayfield)



## OBITUARIES (cont)

### NORA JOHNSON (WILSON)

Nora has been a long standing member of the Guild, and was for many years a committee member. She married Jack, a widower with a small daughter. Her own daughters are barristers in London. Nora was a Civil Service Executive Examiner, during her working life, and for 61 years did voluntary work in the community. During her retirement she cultivated a fruit garden and was able to make jams for charitable donations. She was part of Triumvirate of Muriel Woodruff (Heron)/

### EMILY DURRANT (LAWSON)

JENNIE SMITH (HEY) At Bede Jennie merged academic and sporting ability, (particularly hockey), before going on to gain first class honours in Botany (Durham). When a RAF Flight Lieutenant she married, and later multi tasked, managing a family and a teaching career. She taught juniors, secondary, and in further education, covered subjects from English to Sciences. She kept her interest in Botany creating at the family homes wonderful gardens which were a haven for the birds she also loved, She kept up with sport too, becoming a successful golfer, Captain then Secretary of the Ladies section at Boldon Golf Club, and then the President of Durham County Ladies Golf Association. She had been unwell for some time before her death, but she died peacefully. she was a long standing member of the Guild, and counted many Old Bedans among her friends, and she always looked forward to receiving the magazine.

## FAMILY, VICKY, ARTHUR AND PAT. OBITUARIES

## CHILDHOOD RAMBLINGS

I lived in a three bedroomed terraced house in Alice Street, Southwick, with my Dad, Mam and two brothers. There was a washhouse attached, down the back yard, with a tap at the bottom. That was our source of water. Also at the bottom of the yard there was the lavatory, next to that there was the coal house. Opposite that we had a great big water barrel, fed by the guttering in the wash house. I always washed in rain water and my hair too. It was the best my hair ever was!

There was no electricity in the house, we had gaslight. Outside our front door there was a street lamp, a man came every night to light it and returned in the morning to turn it off.

We had a tiny scullery in the alcove behind the back door. My Mam used to turn the gas on for the cooker and then wander round looking for matches! She blew herself out of the scullery many times, to our enjoyment. We made our own entertainment, my Father was marvellous. I realised he was educating us, and did the same with my own children. His stories were wonderful, he could make us laugh, and he could make me cry. "The Little Match Seller" would have me sobbing.

The games he played with us were educational, but great fun.

As children we all played in the street. (very few cars!) We had long ropes and skipped "Swing, swing, kettle and pan, over goes Mary Ann" The rope followed the actions of the rhyme. We used to fasten one end of the rope to the top of street lamp, lifting our feet off the ground until we banged into the lamp. Another game was "Knockie nine doors" We used to run up the street banging on doors! We looked forward to Saturdays, as we got sweets and a comic as well! But only on Saturdays!

When my sons came to Mam's, they thought it was the height of luxury to have a bath in front of the fire and watch television!

My Mum used a poss stick and a poss tub to do the washing before the war. Eventually I bought my Mam a Hoover twin tub. Once when I was up there with my boys, I got out of bed, to find my Mam, Dad, Chris and Alan washing away with a poss stick and tub – old mangle and all!! Chris was splashing away with the stick and Alan was turning the heavy wooden rollers with the handle, after rinsing the clothes in the tin bath, under the tap! They were soaked to the skin, having a whale of a time! I asked my Mum what was the matter with the twin tub, and she said she liked to give the clothes a good wash at times!!

JOYCE SPOORS (STRUTT)

### JENNIE GARRETT (CHESTERS)

Jennie passed away in hospital on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

She was brought up from birth by her grandparents, her mother having passed away in childbirth. She was devoted to them, as they to her.

She had a successful teaching career, holding positions of Head Teacher in various primary schools in Sunderland, Durham and Blackburn.

She moved to Blackburn when her husband was made Bishop of Blackburn and, as Bishop's wife was involved in all aspects of church and cathedral life in the Blackburn Deanery. On retirement, she and Alan moved to Chester, where eventually Jennie succumbed to a serious and life threatening illness, culminating in the loss of her sight and being virtually housebound. In December 2010, Alan and she moved to a flat for retired clergy in Surrey. Sadly within a few months Jennie died, remaining cheerful, positive and steadfast in her faith. Her husband Alan, and her son David and his family survive her. A celebration of her life and Requiem Eucharist was held in Blackburn Cathedral in April, presided over by the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, who summed up Jennie's qualities in three words – Faith – Fortitude and Friendship.

May she rest in peace.

### BRENDA SNOWBALL (TREWITT)

## LETTER FROM ABROAD

How the years fly away. Time for my letter from abroad. Presently I am into my 4<sup>th</sup> week with my daughter, in Johannesburg, specifically here for medical treatment. In doctors' waiting rooms, there is time on my hands to address my annual letter to the Old Bedan Magazine. This year has provided little news of interest. Disappointedly no Marine Education or Conservation, voluntary work has manifested itself except for Observers sighting from the mountain sides, great white sharks near the swimming beaches. When sightings occur, an alarm is sounded and all swimmers must leave the water immediately. On separate occasions a man and a woman, swimming up to their waists in the sea, were taken at Fish Hook and their bodies never found. The woman swam daily all year round. The man was a holiday maker with his fiancé, from Zimbabwe. She was watching him in the sea and saw him disappear. Horror!!

My son, a chartered electrical engineer, works in the oil facility at Cabinda, Angola. He works four weeks and then returns to Cape Town for 4 weeks rest and recuperation (Cabinda is on the equator and conditions are therefore trying) In addition it is an extremely dangerous area of Angola. There are many bands of almost inhuman terrorists roaming the forests. You may remember that the whole of the Spanish football team, training in Angola was wiped out by terrorists at the time of the South African World Soccer Cup. Constant beach and marine security patrols are the order of the day. My 'raison d'etre' is to look after my son's needs on his R & R in Cape Town making his life more relaxed on R & R. Conservation and the saving of scores of endangered wildlife, continues to be of primary interest. Extinction is forever irreversible. Huge efforts are required to save terrestrial, aquatic and airborne creatures, from the brink of disaster. Let us all do our little bit!

JOAN BROOKS (RICHARDS)

## ANOTHER EVACUATION MEMORY

Rosa Cutter had psoriasis very badly. She passed for Bede in 1939 and originally the doubt was whether she could join the evacuees in Richmond. However she was in a coach which dropped her at the gate of an outlying farm cottage and she was told she must tell her host family about her skin disease. Rosa dragged her suitcase along the path, when a gentleman opened the door she said ! "I'm Rosa Cutter and I have psoriasis!" dropping to his knees the gentleman gave her a big smile and said "Well you'd better bring it in with you", Rosa immediately felt welcome and they remained life long friends.

Recently the papers have mentioned a change in teacher training, to make it more "hands on". In the 1940's Bede had a wonderful scheme. Instead of going on to the Upper sixth, trainee teachers could spend 4 days a week in an appointed school and return to Bede on Fridays for lectures etc. Perhaps there are other Old Bedans who remember this scheme?

## ALICE WALTON (KILBUERN)

## A GEORDIE'S EXPERIENCES OF EVACUATION

It was a dull day in 1939 when a train load of children from Heaton Junior School left Newcastle Station for Spittal via Berwick. From there we were taken to our new homes, literally next to the sea, with only barbed wire to protect us from the enemy! War had been declared!

From being an only child for ten years, it was a bit of a culture shock, sharing a room with four other unknown evacuees, and having bread and dripping every day for tea! Once ensconced in this luxury hotel, we took our scholarship in the local church, much more interesting than an ordinary classroom! From there we were taken to our new accommodation on Tweedmouth, just two of us and a much happier environment. We had wonderful foster parents, with whom I kept in touch, until they passed on.

I spent two idyllic years there, where our leisure activities were spent in the fields, hills and woods surrounding Kendal. Quite a change from Smiths Crisps factory and the main railway line between Newcastle and Scotland. Our lessons, 5 of them English, Maths, History, Geography and Music, were taught with real enthusiasm and this continued in Bede School, where I spent the next few years.

To say I was terrified was no exaggeration, waiting outside Miss Moul's room, for admittance. However she did make me feel very welcome and proceeded to deliver me to the classroom, standing out in my 'old 'uniform. Like the proverbial sore thumb!

As Dorothy (Young) was nearest to Miss Moul she was delegated the dubious pleasure of looking after me! I am delighted to say we have remained firm friends ever since that day.

The teaching staff (as at Kendal) were excellent, including Miss Briggs, Miss Wilman, Miss Clarke and Miss Hardy, to name but a few.

I often wonder how different my life would have been had there not been a "World War Two", a thought, no doubt held by many of you.

## FAY TWITCHETT (KEMP)

## LETTERS FROM HOME

My name is BRENDA CARTLEDGE (EDWARDS) an Old Bedan from 1933 to 1940. I receive your magazine every year, and follow the names with great interest. Unfortunately, over the last few years, there have been very few names I have recognised.

I have been intending to write to you for some time, but you know what happens to good intentions!

The only Old Bedan friend I have been in touch with in recent years, has not written to me for a long time, years in fact. I wonder if anyone has had news of her? Her name is Anne Pace, of Sidecliffe Road, Sunderland.SR6 9JP.

As today is my 88<sup>th</sup> birthday, Anne would have been 90 Years old, I suppose. She was, in her day, a fine sports girl, and very popular. She was a good friend of Jenny Hey, another very sporting girl, and well known at Bede. She would be about 92 years old.

I have not seen either of these ladies mentioned in obituaries, so I wonder what has become of them.

I have lived at first in Sussex, and now in North London area for many years, and have not been back to Sunderland since the last of my childhood family died. However I often think of Bede and the many friendships I had there. I send you all my best wishes and would be glad if you could give me any news of Anne or Jenny

### BRENDA CARTLEDGE (EDWARDS)

Following receipt of this letter, I visited Anne at the above address, let Brenda know I had done so, and she intended dropping Anne a line.

I also contacted Jen's daughter, who got in touch with Brenda.

Unfortunately Jen died in May, but the contact had been made.

Brenda sent a further note, saying that she was sad to see that an old classmate of hers, Vera McBain (Whitehouse) had died. She wondered who still remembered her as she said "there cannot be many of us left!"

## EDITOR

## MY (not so Magnificent ) OBSESSION

Do any of you have ,or have ever had, an obsession? Not with a person, a place, a great piece of music or work of art. Not as in the film, an act of great goodness, and if I remember correctly, anonymously. Not with a well loved hobby, such as painting, singing, playing a musical instrument, gardening. Not with the attempt (at my age anyway) to keep one's mind active, with crossword puzzles, Sudoku, playing freecell on your lap top. If I feel myself getting 'worked up' about anything (frequently on picking up a newspaper, or listening to a news broadcast) I try to remember to ask myself 'Is it a matter of life or death?' Usually the answer is a definite NO! though, sadly, these days, not always.

This should work with my obsession, which, I admit is definitely not in the category of life and death, but it does not.

I am talking about the humble apostrophe, or rather the widespread misuse of the apostrophe.

Have you not noticed it? You must have done, you are Old Bedlars' It is everywhere, in the newspapers, the magazines, books. It is in shops, where produce is listed e.g. apple's, orange's, pear's.

I have seen it in Medical Centres, where "repeat prescription's may not be ordered online" I have seen it in Council Offices, Post Offices, Banks.

What is so difficult about remembering the difference between a plural s and an apostrophe s ? I know everyone didn't have the privilege of a Bede education, and such illustrious teachers as Miss Waggott, but I know there are many, many good teachers out there, so what is going on?

I am often tempted to say something on these occasions, but never have. However, the day might come, so if you ever pick up the Sunderland Echo, and see the heading "Elderly, retired teacher receives a black eye in local greengrocers", it could well be, that yours truly has given in to temptation!

SYLVIA PRATT (HILL)



## EIGHT WORDS THAT COULD HAVE BLIGHTED MY LIFE

What a year 1945 was! At last the war was over and the future looked brighter for everyone. For a family in Newcastle Road the future looked very bright for two members of the family. My eldest brother Frank had won a scholarship to St. John's College Cambridge, followed by a state scholarship and I had passed the 'Bede Exam'

My first term at Bede in form 1C went pretty well. Sometime during the second term the whole form were summoned to Miss Moul's room where we stood in a semicircle round her desk, while she asked each of us our name and address. If memory serves me correctly the object of this exercise was to pair us off with older girls who lived in the same locality, and send us out to sell flags for the Guild of Help. When my turn came and I had responded to her questions, she fixed her gaze on me and asked "Is that your brother who has won all those scholarships?" to which I very proudly replied "Yes Miss Moul". She then uttered the words which sent a chill down my spine. "You poor child, I will be on your tracks" My instant (unspoken) reaction was - I'm not as clever as him. I can't do that- I think my unconscious mind took over at that point, and decided that no way was she going to be breathing down my neck for the next six and a half years. (I also knew that my other brother Stan, one year younger than Frank, had suffered so much adverse comparison throughout Redby Juniors, that I am convinced that he failed the Bede Exam deliberately) Thereafter I did just enough work to get by, got myself demoted from 1C to 2B and steered a middle course where no one would notice me.

I have occasionally thought back and wondered what would have happened if I had ignored her remark, and just got on with things the way they were, however I have come to the conclusion that maybe she did me a great favour. I had a successful career in teaching, which I enjoyed and where my mantra to other teachers was "never compare children from the same family, hey are all individuals, Never have the same expectations"

I might not have been in the right place to meet the man to whom I was happily married for 50 years. My son and daughter (if they had existed) would not be the persons they are, likewise my grandchildren. So perhaps I should say a belated "Thank you" to the shade of Miss Moul.

P.S. The next time I encountered Miss Moul was long after I had left school and she had retired. Gwen Grace and I had decided to learn Italian

## EIGHT WORDS (cont)

to prepare for a forthcoming holiday so we joined a night class. Who should we find among the students but Miss Moul, who greeted us like long lost friends. I had heard that she had, or was preparing to convert to convert to Roman Catholicism. Presumably she was learning Italian in preparation for a chat with the Pope when she went to Rome.

One night she swept into the class, sat down behind us, leaned forward and said "My dears I haven't had time to do my homework, just let me have a quick look at yours". We both felt as if we were 12 years old again and meekly handed over our pathetic efforts. After marking and when the time came to say how we had scored, Gwen and I scored six out of ten, and Miss Moul scored ten. Clever woman that she was she had been able to correct the mistakes we had made as she copied our work.

Cast your minds back girls, to those days of navy blue tunics and blue square necked blouses and remember if you will the consequences of being caught copying homework!!

We should have given her an order mark at least!!

## AUDREY WHITE (NICHOL )

## LETTER FROM ABROAD

Eric and I used to live in Rosedale Terrace, Fulwell, before emigrating to Australia in 1964. We have moved home and now live in a retirement village. We have settled well and now have a much smaller garden. I have very little news of Old Bedans, but I have kept in touch with Doreen Stoddart (Bayfield), who now lives in Wiltshire and has gone into a nursing home. We left Bede School in 1936 and I do not think there can be many of that era around now!

I have been blessed with good genes, and have always been active. Hiking, table tennis and Scottish country dancing.

I can still play table tennis and teach Scottish dancing but cannot dance myself, which is amazing at 92 years old!

My memory is not so good now and can only remember the first few lines of our School song, and I would love to see it printed in the magazine.

My writing is now getting smaller and smaller, so I cannot write much about Australia, except to say it is a lovely country, and we have been very fortunate to end up here!

### LILY JAMESON (DAVISON)

1643 JARVIS ROAD, ELIZABETH VALE

SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5112

I sent Lily a copy of the words and music of the School Song, and she replied that it had all come back to her. She also stated that Doreen had died in July 2011 in her sleep at the age of 91

## EDITOR

## LETTERS FROM HOME

My ambition to attend another old Bedpan dinner/meeting looks totally thwarted, now that we are moving to a downstairs flat in this clergy complex in Surrey. We are both disabled now, me with two replacement hips due to falls/muscular degeneration, and Alan with arthritis. The college is a wonderful place however, and we feel we have made a good choice to retire (once again), this time in the South, near to our son, David and his family. Do please share this letter (sometime) with any of our year that remember me.

Any of you are welcome to come and visit us, providing that you phone earlier so we can make plans. There are fairly inexpensive guest rooms in the college where you could, if necessary, spend the night. We have all our meals in a shared refectory, and laundry is done for us!!

The flat is small, but sufficient for our needs – ‘downsizing’ is now my least favourite word in the English vocabulary! It remains to be seen if we have been ruthless enough.

The courtyard around the college is wonderful, but as a somewhat snobbish friend of mine states ‘you are moving from the Surrey of the North to the Surrey of the South’ – Well done!! I gently reminded her that since Kate and William were engaged, surely the best southern county is now Berkshire.

I was ill when the old Bedpan magazine for 2008 arrived so I did not get round to congratulating you on your marriage – what a splendid photo! You both look in your 50’s rather than your 70’s (I presume that John is 70 at least!)

I think that I may have Life Membership of the ‘Old Bedans’ but if not I owe money, and certainly would send it for a magazine. You may remember, my mother died when I was born, my father had a good job in the City of London, so my grandparents brought me up and then they lived with me until they died in the 1970’s. Alan and I married in 1975 and David arrived when I was 43 in 1977!

This letter was sent to Dorothy Harpin

## JENNIE GARRETT (CHESTERS)

### SNIPPETS 2011

Having recently moved house, I am letting you know my new address, in advance of the Old Bedan magazine, which is always a pleasure to receive. My house overlooks Loch Brusda, which is inhabited by a large number of swans. Beyond the Loch is the machair and then the Atlantic, with St. Hilda visible when the weather is good.

I wish to pass on very grateful thanks to all members of the committee for all their hard work in the organisation and management of the Old Bedan.

### RITA MANNING (DIX)

1939-1944

P.S. This is an extract from a letter to Dorothy Stephinson (Harpin)

My mother Joan Squires (Buchanan) an Old Bedan, passed away in November 2010. She died peacefully in a retirement home just down the road from us here in East Yorkshire. She moved there in 2008 when remaining in her own house was no longer realistic. She was 91, which is the longevity record for our family as far back as I can detect.

### SHELAGH BUCHANAN (JONES)

Kathleen Robson (Munds) living in Virginia, joined five other British ladies for a champagne breakfast to watch the Royal Wedding. They joined in the singing and stood up for the National Anthem, Feeling very proud to be British. She has always said, you can take the girl away from England, but you can never take England away from the girl!

### JOYCE BAGLEY

One of Elsie Lynn (Turner) 1937, grandsons, Andrew, married an American girl, in Long Beach, California, in March, and intends to settle there. Elsie is expecting her second great granddaughter in June. The father to be, is Ian, Andrews brother. They live in Oxford.

### UNKNOWN SOURCE

BALANCE SHEET SEPTEMBER 2011

INCOME

Subscriptions	56.00
Donations	271.00
Interest	5.64
Raffles	211.00
Winter Reunion	343.00
Annual Lunch	<u>863.00</u>

EXPENDITURE

Postage	128.81
Winter Reunion	282.50
1 Luncheon Return	18.00
Gifts	25.67
Raffle	
Prizes	37.45
Annual Lunch	852.15

1391.34

Credit on Year 378.50

1769.84

1769.84

Total Funds September 2011

Balance Sheet September 2010  
Credit on Year

3422.95  
378.50

3.50%  
Wor  
Stock  
TSB A/C  
Barclays

98.36  
3630.49  
172.60

3801.45

3801.45

Checked and verified  
signed Joyce M. Lowe  
Sep-11

JUDITH ROSENSTEIN  
Treasurer

*Guild of  
Old Bedans*

