

The Old Bedan



2015

GUILD OF OLD BEDANS

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The Guild of Old Bedans

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2016

Annual Lunch at the Sea Hotel, South Shields on Friday April 22nd 2016. 12.30 for 1pm. Tickets £17. Payment must be made by 12th April. Cheques should be made payable to "The Guild of Old Bedans" and sent to the Treasurer.

Summer Reunion at the Marriott Hotel, Seaburn on Tuesday June 14th 2016 at 12 noon.

(As the 2015 Summer Reunion was poorly attended, the committee decided that June 2016 could be the last time this reunion takes place.)

Annual Business Meeting on Wednesday September 14th at 2pm. To be held at 10 Viewforth Drive, Sunderland.

Autumn Reunion at the Bede Centre on Friday October 14th 2016 4.30 pm—7pm. Tickets £7. Please bring cups. Plates are provided. Dinner tickets will be available. Pay by 5th October.

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

TO JOIN THE GUILD OF OLD BEDANS

Send a cheque for £10 to the Membership Secretary. As above give your maiden name first with your married name in brackets. Also please include the dates you were at Bede and your email address stating whether you want to receive the magazine by email. If you want your email address to be included in the magazine, please email Margaret Nichol (Thompson) with the details.

Chairman

Moira Cuddeford is Chairman for the next two years.

Treasurer's Report

The accounts have been checked and they are in good order. The committee thank all members for their support and generous donations received.

Judith Rosenstein

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If you have an email address and would like it included (perhaps in order for old friends to get in touch) please let Margaret know.

Also if you have the magazine by email, you will get some of the recent photos in colour!!

Report on behalf of the Membership Secretary

Dorothy Jobling (Singleton) has continued to keep our membership records up to date. Last year's magazine was put together at Dorothy's house and we all enjoyed our usual buffet lunch.

Unfortunately Dorothy's husband has not been well so she missed our Annual Business meeting this year.

New Members

Eileen Calvert (Potts) 1955—60

Sally Swales (Rev. Canon Sally Daines) 1951—57

Call to Younger Old Bedans

We are still looking for younger ex-Bedans, who live locally, to join our happy band and maybe help on the committee.** We would love to see you.

Please think about it if you see this magazine.

Dorothy Jobling (Singleton)

***The Committee normally meets 4 times a year apart from the reunion dates.*

Editor's comments

Thank you for the positive comments I received after last year's magazine. This was down to some interesting articles I received from you and I hope I will continue to do so.

I particularly like to have biographies to see what Old Bedans from my year have been doing for the last 50 years!!

You can send me items throughout the year, as and when the mood takes you, which should be sooner rather than later.

These days I find that if I don't do something when I think of it, I then forget!! The deadline for each edition is the end of September.

You can email and post items to me. My address is on the front page. I would also like to receive photos which I will try and include. I have shown the years at Bede after each member's bracketed name (if I have been given them).

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the Old Bedan magazine, please let me know. I can send it in A5 booklet form or A4 (both in pdf), let me know which you prefer. This will help reduce costs.

For those of you with access to the Internet, you might be interested in the following website:-

www.durham-images.org

It has Bede Girls school photos from 1938—1967; not all of them but some interesting ones.

From my year, I found a photo recently of Form 1X in May 1959 with Mr Shrimpton as its form teacher. I identified Carole Kemp, Heather Wardle, Joyce Newton, Pat Stirling, Doris Hornsby and Carole Smith but recognised many others but couldn't remember their names—there's a surprise!

There's another taken in Sept 1960 of IIC with Mr Taylor as form teacher and one in Sept 1962 of VS with Miss Heslop.

Finally there is a whole school photo taken in 1965 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the school. I spotted myself next to Kathleen Hudson and I appear to have a pancake on my head!!

Winter Reunion 17th October 2014

New girl's impressions

It had taken us almost half a century to make it to a meeting of the Guild of Old Bedans. After a lifetime of hearing news of our old school from relatives—parents, aunts, siblings and cousins—we had become lazy. But the information slowly dwindled, and we then realized how important Bede had become to 2 or 3 generations of our families. So we decided to come to the Winter Reunion and experience the famous GOB (Guild of Old Bedans) for ourselves.

It seemed strange to arrive at the front entrance of our old school for the first time since getting our A level results in 1968. But a warm welcome awaited us as we approached the door of the hall. Judith Rosenstein, Doris Henderson (Wilton) and Dorothy Jobling (Singleton) were there. "Are you the ladies from the south?" "Yes. Marjorie is from Berkshire and Lynne from Surrey. We live about 10 miles apart."

As we entered the hall we were struck by the changes. No balcony where we sat as first years; no honours boards; no stage; instead, brightly painted walls and a carpet on the floor. No echoes of feet on the wooden floor nor the clatter of seats as the girls stood up and let their seats bang against the chair backs. Did we appear a bit bemused and distant? I hope not because we were well looked after, and following a few introductions and a friendly chat, the evening began.

The hall was laid out with tables for 8 people. We took our places and the word games, that were the main focus of the evening, started. All had a Christmas theme. We were amazed by the speed with which the table in front of us finished. How did they do it? Despite the help of the friendly ladies on our table, we were only halfway through when they finished the Christmas anagrams. 'Could do better' I could hear the teacher saying it in my head. So the winners went home with a fine collection of prizes, and we with the intention of practicing our anagrams.

Part way through the evening, we had supper which was excellent as might be expected from Muller's. Delicious sandwiches, savoury pastries, interesting cakes and a copious supply of tea. Then the raffle which raised £75. Lynne never wins anything at raffles but this time she came away with a lovely box of chocolates.

Winter Reunion continued

Marjorie is generally lucky. She won a scarf that matched her outfit perfectly and then returned a further 5 winning tickets.

After the event drew to a close, we had the opportunity to walk around the corridors to see what had happened to the old school while we hadn't been there to look after it. The quad, which used to be a netball court, was now covered in grass and surprisingly mature trees. Surely we can't be that old!

Opening the door of a classroom very tentatively and wondering if we really should be doing such a thing, we saw an array of lights. No desks and chairs laid out in pairs, with the dais and the teacher's desk in front of a blackboard. Instead a bright new room, full of computers arranged around the walls. Oh dear perhaps we are that old after all.

Then a surreptitious trip up the music room stairs—a surprising long flight now. We arrived at the top, breathless, only to be faced by a locked door. No strains of the school song accompanied by Mr Hartley on the piano. Meeting the caretaker on the way down, we knew we had been caught. Were we in trouble? No problem. We guiltily explained we were a couple of old girls doing some exploring, and he smiled.

Still at least the old buildings haven't changed from the outside. They look as handsome as ever, even if the hockey pitch is covered in new buildings.

All in all it was a most interesting and enjoyable evening. 28 people attended which was slightly down on previous years—a bit disappointing though not totally unexpected since it was the first time it had been held on October. Previous winter reunions had been in January and attendance had suffered badly when heavy snowfalls had prevented many from coming. Let's hope for a better turn out next year.

Let's hope some of our generation will be there. We were sad that there was no one from our year, nor any ladies who knew our relations. The closest link we could establish was with Miss Kinch, who had been in the same year as Lynne's mother and had taught us both Maths. Unfortunately she couldn't be there that evening. Perhaps we'll have better luck another time. Maybe we'll be able to contact others of our age and encourage them to come too.

Winter Reunion continued

We were very impressed by the stalwart efforts of the committee and of the members who continue to attend the Old Bedan's meetings 3 times a year, often travelling some distance to keep in touch with old school friends. Long may continue.

Marjorie Crompton (Mitchell) and Lynne Colling (Clewes)



Annual Lunch 2015

It's lovely to be here again and listen to all the cheerful chatter. It's like being back at school again.

From the 39ers

A group of 10 sat at our table—all aged 80+ I asked if I was too old to wear a fascinator—and the answer was a resounding “NO”.

Nice to keep up with the young at heart.

Winter Reunion Photos



Annual Lunch 2015

We met as usual, at the Sea Hotel, South Shields on 24th April 2015 on a pleasant sunny day. We always seem to manage to have good weather, and 41 members gathered together to catch up on news for the last 12 months.

We had plenty of noisy chatter as we assembled and were greeted by friends. Our meals were again of the same good standard, with a wide range of choices, followed by coffee and mints, and appeared to be enjoyed by all.

We sang the School Song with gusto, and it seemed that most people remembered the words without the song sheet, even after all these years!

The raffle produced £123, with many interesting prizes. Thanks to everyone who generously bought tickets.

Each year we hope to encourage new members so if anyone can encourage members to come who have not been before, please try and get them to this pleasant occasion.

See you all next year.

Moira Cuddeford (Dixon)

1958-65 table

It was lovely to meet up again with Kathleen Hudson (Hughes) and Dorothy Nelson (Stainsby), who were new attendees this year. Unfortunately Lynne Luccock (Symonds), who didn't make it last year due to the change of date, didn't make it this year either due to an adverse reaction to a injection. Let's hope a few more of our year will come next year.

My sister Helen Nichol (Scott) would like to see some of her classmates there instead of being "Billy No Mates" at our table!!

Late non attendees

Ronnie Ellison (Lofthouse) was coming today but had an early Eye Infirmary appointment. She was given a couple of injections and could hardly see by the time she got home. She was very disappointed indeed to have to cancel lunch at the last minute.

Lucy Mills (Davidson) had a fall a few months ago so was not able to drive to come to the lunch. Unfortunately because she couldn't come neither could Stella Butterly () Both were very disappointed.

Photo Corner



Some photos from
the Annual lunch at
the Sea Hotel,
South Shields on
24th April 2015

Class of 58



Annual Lunch 2015



Summer Reunion June 2015

SUMMER REUNION, MARRIOTT HOTEL.

It was a beautiful, warm sunny day on Tuesday 9th June 2015. The view from the restaurant windows was of sunshine glinting on the gentle waves of the North Sea which we all know so well. That set the mood for our summer get together. There was a little disappointment at the small number attending but all thirteen of us had a lovely time.

We gathered, as usual, in the Marriner Bar and very soon there was a lot of chatter going on. Out of the thirteen attendees, most were local girls except for Mary Scott from Castle Bromwich who brought with her an undated aerial photograph of Bede Grammar Schools. It looks like a very pre-war photograph to me. Well, Mary kindly loaned the photo to me so that I could copy it. The result will be seen in the next Old Bedan.

Food wise we were mostly well satisfied with our dishes from the bar meal menu and the service we had, supervised by Lindsey, was excellent. After the meal there was of course lots of chat and catching up. It's a sign of the ageing nature of our membership that the numbers were down from last year, but I hope that anyone who missed through illness will be able to come next year.

By the way Mary Scott sends her kind regards to anyone who knew her at Bede.

Hope to see you in 2016.

Good health and happiness to all Old Bedans.

Dorothy Jobling (Singleton)

Bede Staff October 1963



One second year class of 1959

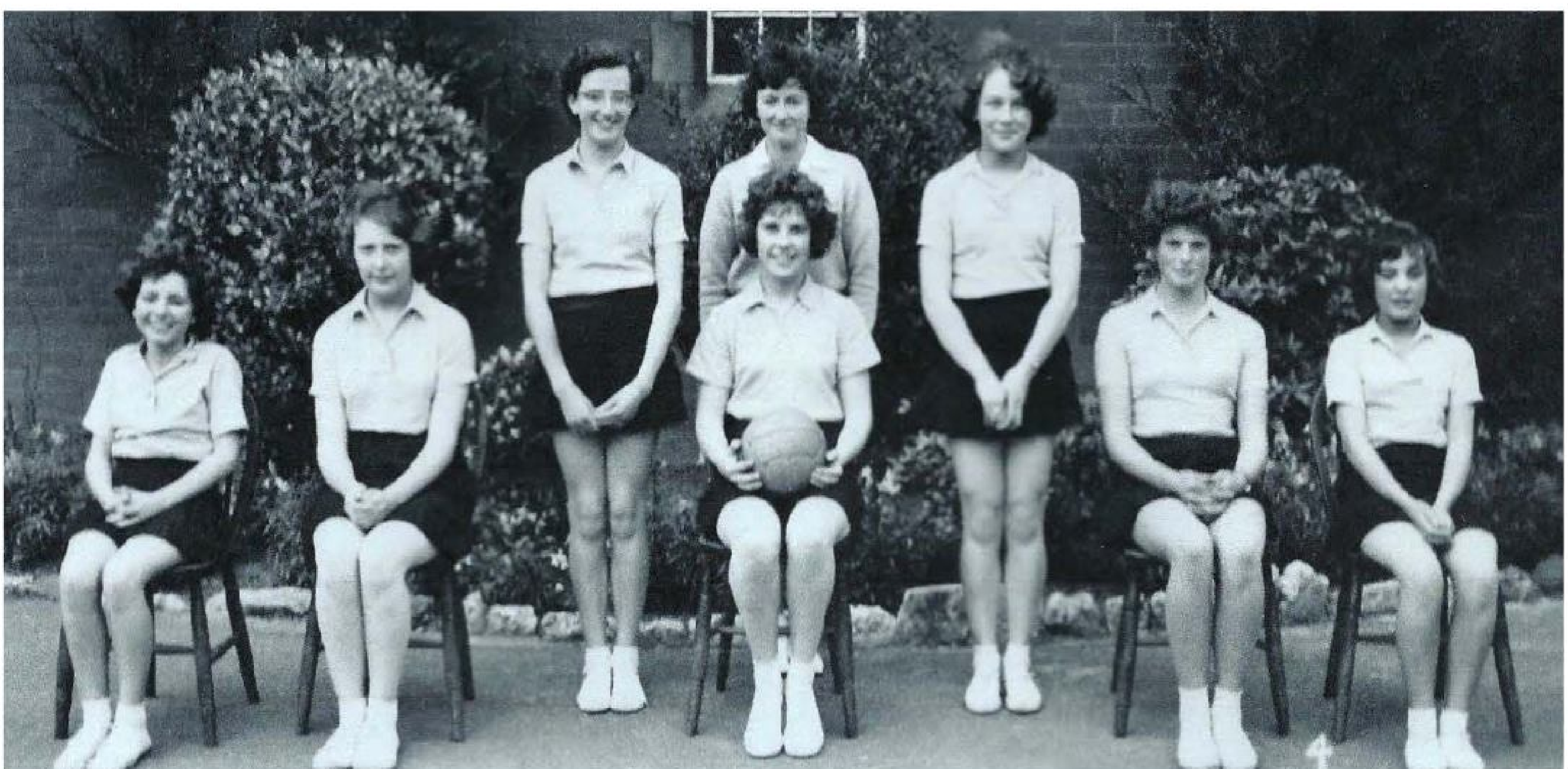


Photos—Where are they now?



Thanks to Maureen Rowntree (Jessup) 1958—65 for this photo which she thinks is Sports Day 1961/62. She is on the left in the front row.

Below— the school netball team—September 1960. Thanks to Maureen Ferry for this one



Miss Moul 1934—58?



Thanks to Maureen Ferry for this photograph of Miss Moul taken, I believe, in 1958.

Guest letter

Thank you for the Bedan magazine which, once again I have read with interest. I have to admit that I am a guest recipient as I did not attend Bede, but my mother, Nancy Mitchell (Anne Crowe) did and for many years enjoyed activities with the Old Bedans, canasta parties and the like.

As a young girl myself and my brothers used to deliver the magazines on our bikes. Later, I used to help my mother by organising the labels to be updated and printed, which is why I was sent a copy. I am happy to receive an electronic copy, if you would not mind and this hopefully will save a little on funds. I still recognise names in the magazine and enjoy speaking with Iris Harvey (Bennett) from time to time.

Margaret Crowe
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Biography

Wendy Bell (Bellamy) 1958-65

We moved to British Columbia, Canada way back in 1974 with plans to stay a year but got stuck and have been here ever since. For the first 15 years or so we lived in the central interior just south of Prince George in a small town called Quesnel. Not a very attractive town but had some good friends (ex Brits) and a great place for our 2 older sons to grow up - living by a lake with sailing, waterskiing and fishing in the summers and ice skating, playing ice hockey and skiing in the winters. Many times we would drive to the Okanagan to compete in Hobie Cat races during the summer and skiing in the winter at Big White in Kelowna and Silver Star in Vernon. Beautiful area

Chris, my husband, decided to retrain as a pathologist in a residency in Vancouver and when he was done we moved to Vancouver Island. All our kids went to UBC so we invested in apartment in the city. Best thing we ever did!. He's still working so we spend most of time here on the east coast of Vancouver Island in a town called Comox and visit the city about twice a month.

I still keep in touch with Wendy Oliver (Lewis)

Sally Swales (Davies) 1951—57

After a career as a social worker, I was ordained priest in The Church in Wales and became a Canon of Llandaff Cathedral I am married to Edward and we have one daughter. We live in Cardiff.

I would love to hear from other members from my year.

Rev Canon S I Davies
4 St Augustine Road
Cardiff
CF144BD
Email: sallydavies@outlook.com

Snippets

A surprise meeting

I was recently visiting June Cowell (now Wharton) in hospital where she was receiving treatment for a broken hip.

The person in the next bed enquired if I was Moira Cuddeford. Of course, I said I was. She said she had recognised me as I walked into the ward. She was also having treatment and when I said June was in the next bed, she said she remembered her too.

As she is 84 years old, the same as June and I, I was surprised she had recognised me so many years after our time at Bede. Her name is Betty Jenner (now Brown) and she lives in Herrington.

On my next visit, I took her a copy of the class photograph from Year 1. She was very interested, especially as the names of all concerned were also enclosed. I left her a couple of GOB magazines as she might recognise some others. She was pleased to have met two old Bedans after all this time. I hope she soon recovers.

Moira Cuddeford (Dixon)

Email

As the 2014 Old Bedan arrived I read it with interest as some of the names were familiar. Your (*the editor's*) year group was 3 years ahead of mine (1961-68), and was the same school year as a friend of mine who also lives in Crowthorne. Dorothy Britton (Bell) was at Barnes School as an infant and junior then from 1958-1965. Thus she was your contemporary. She is still in touch with many Sunderland folk as she and her family lived in the North for much longer than myself. Small world! I have sent you a scanned copy of a letter from Kathleen Ralph or McCann, (*see page 23*) who wrote to me after I mentioned working at the John Radcliffe Hospital and meeting an Old Bedan patient. I think she may have been a contemporary of Marjorie (Midge) Tweddle (Crompton), my sister-in-law and remembers my cousins Mary and Ruth Crompton. Mr Cox taught her Latin. She was also at Barnes school! So many of us have strayed or is it escaped from Sunderland?

Marjorie Crompton (Mitchell) marjoriecrompton@gmail.com

Snippets

Good to have an editor with an e mail address! I was at Bede from 53-60 (Veronica Harrison then)

I am writing on behalf of my friend from those times, Phyllis Smith now Phyllis Kirk living at 15, Penfolds Place Old Forge Mews Arundel BN18 9SA, who would like to be added to the mailing list and be sent the Old Bedan. Will this be possible please? Her email address is Tamarques15@aol.com,

It's also good to see photos in the Old Bedan and also useful to see the brackets with the dates of attendance. Its always most interesting to come across a name we know. When were you there? I am a member of U3A like you (Lichfield branch)

Best wishes

Veronica Harrison (Birkett) 1953—60

Two snippets from Antheam Minchom (Levene)

The first was when I carved my name into my desk with a compass and got double detention, firstly for the crime, and secondly for my response when asked if I would destroy the furniture at home like that. I did not mean to be rude when I said that our dining table was too good for such treatment but my answer was taken for cheek rather than an honest reply.

The second was later on in my school career, I sat on my desk when chatting to Janice Arnold and Brenda Younghusband and started to swing my legs. The next thing I knew, I was on the floor and the top of the desk had become detached from its base. Fortunately, on this occasion, my well-being was of more concern to our teacher than the damaged desk but I was extremely embarrassed - my pride was hurt more than my body!

EXPLORE

Become a Lifelong Learner!

The benefits of keeping our brains as well as our bodies active as we get older are well known, and those of us living in the North-East are fortunate to have a unique lifelong learning scheme on our doorsteps. The Explore scheme was launched in 2013, following the closure of Sunderland University's award-winning North East Centre for Lifelong Learning. It is now run by a community interest company, the Joseph Cowen Centre, on a not-for-profit basis; membership is open to anyone with an appetite for learning.

We organise a programme of over 450 classes a year over three seasons, encompassing a diverse range of topics including art history, practical art, archaeology, astronomy, classics, literature, history, mathematics, music, philosophy, science and more. No previous knowledge or qualifications are needed – just enthusiasm and an interest in learning new things. Our team of inspiring tutors includes university lecturers, researchers, writers and practising artists. Members pay an annual fee, and may then attend as many sessions as they wish. There's also an informal summer programme of walks, field trips, visits and member-led discussions. Most classes take place on the 4th floor of Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle, - it's a surprisingly lovely venue and close to Monument Metro and bus links, - classes are timed to enable the use of concessionary travel! We currently have over 200 enrolled members, from across the north-east and as far afield as Cumbria and Teesside. If you think you might be interested, then do have a look at our website where you can find full details. We run occasional 'taster days', or you can drop into a session free of charge to see if it's for you, - just phone or email our office.

Office: 0191 261 1633

Email: weareexplore@gmail.com

www.weareexplore.org.uk

Dorothy Nelson (Stainsby) 1958-65

Board Member, Joseph Cowen Centre for Lifelong Learning

Obituaries

Sheila Moore 1934-39

During the war, Sheila was part of the code-cracking team at Bletchley Park “eavesdropping” on top secret German messages. Her family only found out about this decades later.

She was born in 1923 and lived in Bramwell Street, Hendon. She won a full scholarship to the Bede, which was then a private school, but left when war broke out. After a time as an apprentice tracer, she became unemployed and then joined the Auxillary Territorial Service. She was sent on a 6 month course to learn Morse code



and then posted to Beaumanor Hall where she worked four six-hour shifts in 3 days, listening out for signals sent in Morse Code. After the war she worked for a painting and decorating firm, then Simmon’s furniture store and finally the Gas Board. She died in December 2014 at the age of 91.

Kathleen Allen (Brown)

Kathleen passed away in May 2015 at the age of 85. She was a pupil at Bede Collegiate School. She taught at Diamond Hall and Hudson Road schools before working as a home teacher for those who were too sick or ill to attend school.

She devoted her life to helping others. She was secretary of the Roker Methodist Church Women’s Fellowship for 50 years and worked on the Red Cross tea bar at Sunderland Royal Hospital for 35 years. She had also been a Victim Support volunteer and ran sequence dance classes with her late husband.

She was diagnosed with Motor Neurone disease last summer and spent the last 2 months of her life in a care home close to her home. She was a long-standing member of the GOB.

Deaths

Edna Clement 1939—44

Sylvia Hood (Briggs)

Miscellaneous

True story

My friend went into a Sainsbury small store. She took a plastic basket and filled in with groceries. Puffing with the effort of it all, she heaved it onto the counter and said to the assistant, "Whew—they talk about the weaker sex" The assistant looked surprised and said "Pardon?" My friend repeated her remark. "Oh" said the girl, "I thought you said you'd had a week of sex!"
Dorothy Jobling (Singleton)

Gwen Ross has learned to play the steel drums—but can only play "When the Saints go marching in" so she needs an understanding audience and/or set of steel drums.

Letter from Kathleen Ralph or McCann,

"What a coincidence meeting another Old Bedan at the John Radcliffe. I am another one from 1949—54

I knew Ruth Brompton whom I seem to remember was a good swimmer and had an older sister Mary. I think they had been at Commercial Road. The name Marjorie Tweddle is also familiar. Mr Cox tried to teach me Latin, I stopped as soon as I could. At that time most of the intake to Bede seemed to be from Commercial Road or Barnes School. I was at Barnes School."

Extract from "a Little Satnav"

I have a little Satnav. It sits there in my car

A Satnav is a driver's friend. It tells you where you are

I have a little Satnav. I've had it all my life

It's better than the normal ones. My Satnav is my wife

It gives me full instructions. Especially how to drive

"It's thirty miles an hour", it says, "You're doing thirty five"

I'm sure no other driver has so helpful a device

For when we leave and lock the car it still gives its advice

It fills me up with counselling each journey's pretty fraught

So why don't I exchange it and get a quieter sort?

Ah well, you see, it cleans the house, makes sure I'm properly fed,

It washes all my shirts and things and - keeps me warm in bed!

Despite all these advantages and my tendency to scoff,

I do wish that sometimes I could turn the damned thing off!

Balance Sheet
INCOME

Sept 2014-Sept 2015
EXPENDITURE

Subscriptions	35.00	Postage	4.30
Donations	180.00	Annual Lunch	653.95
Interest	5.29	Expenses	45.00
Raffle	198.00	Lunch Return	16.00
Annual Lunch	664.00	Autumn Reunion	140.40
Autumn Reunion	133.00	Gift Token/Printer	50.00
	Total		Total
	<u>1215.29</u>		<u>909.65</u>
		Credit on year's working	305.64

Total Funds Sept 2015

Balance Sept 2014	4332.56	TSB Account <i>including redemption of War Stock</i>	4195.12
Credit on year	305.64	Barclays Account	443.08
	4638.20		4638.20

Checked and verified
Joyce M Lowe

*Guild of
Old Bedans*

