

Old Beaumontians Newsletter

June 2007

Issue 51

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Editor's comments.

With our newsletters now being available on the Beaumont School web site, we hope that those of you, who have access to the Internet, will have taken the opportunity to view the site and in particular have had a glance at the Old Beaumontians' page. We would like you to email us with your views and offer suggestions for improvements. It would also be helpful if you would advise us of your email address; this will provide an opportunity to let you know when the latest issue newsletter has been posted on the site, and perhaps save us postage. Email your details to djlowe@ntlworld.com

The article regarding the Great Northern Railway St. Albans/Hatfield branch line appears to have generated considerable interest as Mike Neighbour's letter on the subject has resulted in yet more correspondence. I'm sure there are many more memories concerning the old branch line to be brought to the surface and sent to us! Do you have any old photographs that could be copied and printed in the next issue newsletter?

I was interested to read in a February 2007 edition of the St. Albans Observer that city councillors have voted for proposals to turn part of the ground floor of the St. Albans Town Hall into a restaurant. There are additional suggestions to upgrade the old courtroom and basement prison cells, to make them available for filming TV dramas. I am sure that there are many of you, who like me, have happy memories of Thursday evenings at the Water End Barn and Saturday night dancing or listening to the live bands at St. Albans Town Hall or Harpenden Public Halls. Do you happen to know who those popular dance bands were in the mid fifties?

A Word from Elizabeth Hitch (Head Teacher Beaumont School).

It was lovely to see so many of you at the reunion last summer at Beaumont. It seems such a short time ago but it's nearly a year. It was then that we talked more about the celebrations for 70 years coming up in 2008. That seemed so far ahead but it's just over a year away now. So we are planning on a celebration for Saturday 5th July 2008 at Beaumont to which I hope as many old students as possible will come. Plans are also afoot within the

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Beaumont School Association (the equivalent to our PTA) for a possible anniversary ball; keep a look out on the school website for information.

Thank you all for sponsoring our new inter-form competition. We began this in the last academic year and this year we expect to award trophies to the winning form in each year group, as a result of your sponsorship. I had offers from individuals too – thank you. Could you please contact Jackie Turner if you would like to make a specific contribution? Thank you very much.

Life at Beaumont continues to be full and rewarding with lots of success for the students; I am pleased to have such a wonderful staff, both teachers and support staff, who give so much of their time to ensure the students achieve their best. This is my sixth year at Beaumont, my third as Head Teacher; the job keeps me very busy but it is a privilege to lead such an outstanding school.

My best wishes to you all and thanks to Don and the committee and to Jackie Turner in school for all their hard work.

Your Letters

Jill Little (nee Driscoll) comments on Mike Neighbour's Letter, regarding the St. Albans/Hatfield GN branch railway line. Jill tells us, that after leaving Beaumont school she worked in the accounts office at Campfield Press in St. Albans. These printing works, owned by the Salvation Army produced many publications including The War Cry, Young Soldier and The Musician. The factory was sited alongside the railway line, thus making it possible to move the baled copies of the magazines to the platform and load them onto the train (the Abbey flyer), then to be taken to St. Albans (Abbey) station, to be transported to London for onward countrywide distribution.

Was this stop known as Sanders Sidings (later to be renamed Salvation Army Halt)?

Hello Don, *(An email from Tom Banfield)*

In reply to Mike Neighbour's article about the G.N. branch line that ran through Hill End. I have one or two pieces of information on that subject.

1. As for placing coins on the line, I can assure him that we did just that and kept putting them back on to see how thin we could get them.
2. The Level Crossing. As I lived in the houses next to it I can tell you that the gates were made of wood and that there was a small hut next to them, but there was no gatekeeper. When a train approached from Smallford, it would be held by a signal (more or less where Homebase

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is today) and a porter would be sent down to operate the gates and the same procedure happened before the train left the station.

3. As for Hill End hospital they probably had some military personnel there during the war and as my father worked there and we lived in one of the hospital houses, I often went in to meet him. After D-Day there were so many wounded soldiers there that they were on stretchers in the corridors. These facts are from my personal memory and are correct. Passenger trains ran daily then and freight ran in between and I was a passenger several times. *Tom Banfield*

Hi Don, (*An email from Anne Bailey*).

Thank you for the latest issue of the Newsletter and once again interesting reading.

Re. the School in Hatfield Road, I went down recently to have a look and it is still there and my recollection is it was the Girls Grammar school, then Sandfield and now Fleetville Infants school. Perhaps someone else might know.

Sylvia Turner who wrote to you in the last issue, was she Sylvia Orchard? From what she said she lived near me and was in the same classes. It would be very interesting to know!

Well Don, thank you once again and keep up your very good work.

Don, (*an email from Doug Welch 1948 - 1952*)

This is my first Look at the "Old School" web site.

Interestingly I have retired to the village of Beaumont Cumbria. The locals call it Beemont – Beautiful Hill (pronounced Beemont) that being the original French spelling.

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Dear Don, (*Writes Marion Manley from Clare, Suffolk*).

Sorting through some old papers in the attic I found the enclosed form magazines, which you might find interesting. I was fourteen at the time we started the "3rd Former" which was 1949. Miss Ellis was enthusiastic and was happy for Miss Wilsdon, her secretary to type it for us. I left Beaumont after two editions to go to Watford Grammar School to become a nursing cadet, I don't know if the magazine continued after that.

My daughter has printed the enclosed from the original copies, as I would like to keep them. They are funny sizes, however I'm sure you will be able to decipher the pages if you wish to print in the Old Beaumontians newsletter.

I enjoy my copy of the newsletter with a coffee every time it "plops" through the letterbox. Long may it continue?

*Yours sincerely
Marion Manley*

We have managed to read most of the "3rd Former Journals" and we have retyped and included one or two articles as shown below. The facing pages of the magazines have been reduced in size and shown as inserts. It would be interesting to hear from any past "3rd Formers" who might remember this magazine.

The Journal of the 3rd Form, Beaumont Sec. Mod. School for Girls, Oakwood Drive, St. Albans. (May 1949).



Editorial

The staff and I extend to all our readers a hearty welcome to this, our first number of the "3rd Former". We hope that you will like it and the subsequent editions, which will be published monthly. Criticisms and suggestions will be welcome and carefully analysed and where possible adopted, so please tell us what you like and dislike. Contributions from all members of 3A are required, so now budding writers here is your chance to see your name in print. We will print the best of everything – stories, serials, and poems articles of interest or what have you. In conclusion, I personally, would like to thank everyone who has made this first number possible – the staff, the contributors and last but not least Mrs Ginn for her generous and unstinted help in all directions.

We do hope you will like the 3rd Former. The editor

Sports Section

This term we are playing tennis and rounders. Every week many girls go to Clarence Park with Mrs Ginn to play tennis. While they are there the other girls stay at school and play rounders with another mistress. If it rains we play tennis in the gymnasium. Later we hope to extend our sporting

activities in other directions, news of which I shall give you in the next edition of the 3rd Former. Meanwhile happy sporting days. Janet King.

Gossip Column

It has been suggested by members of the form that we should act a pantomime. If anyone decides that this is a good idea will they please let me know. A party from the form went on a hike several weeks ago to Hemel Hempstead from the Town Hall, St. Albans, a distance of seven or more miles. Included in the party were Maureen Cannon, Margaret Stanton, Marie Crouch and Marion Ball. Future hikes are planned – anyone wishing to go should contact

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the editor. Mrs Ginn has given us permission to photograph Mr Ginn in his bee helmet. We are looking forward to this providing the bees agree. The Gossiper. Jean Reeves.

Swap Corner

Through the Swap Corner you may exchange anything. There is no charge for your advertisement but please keep it as short as possible. No responsibility can be accepted by the publishers for bargains or otherwise. Hand your advert to the "Swapper" in good time

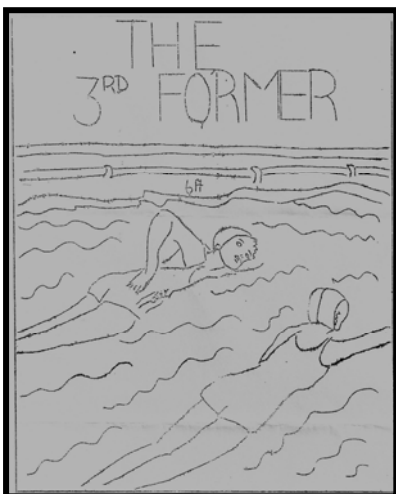
- Six knockout comics to exchange, good condition. Six comics, or girls' papers in return. *Maureen Cannon.*
- Girls Crystals, for schoolgirls magazines. *Marie Crouch*
- I have a book "What Katie Did" in good condition to swap for a girls' adventure book. *Hazel Jump.*
- Collection of "Picturegoers" (10) all clean and new – what am I offered? *Marion Ball.*

Two Recipes to make your mouth water

As sweets are hard to get this recipe might help. It is **treacle toffee**. Ingredients. One knob of margarine. Two ounces of sugar. Two large tablespoons of treacle. One tablespoon of vinegar. Method. Melt the margarine in a saucepan, when melted slowly add all the ingredients. Let it simmer for about ten minutes. To test when it is done, pour a little onto a tin plate, if it sets it is ready, if not then boil up the mixture again. Pour onto a well greased plate and leave to set.

Another recipe for the sweet-toothed person is **honeycomb**. Ingredients. Exactly the same as above but this time you must add a teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda. Method. When you have the mixture as above for the toffee you must stir in the bicarbonate of soda. Beat well until it becomes very frothy. Pour into a greased tin and allow set. Maureen Cannon.

The Journal of the 3rd Form, Beaumont Sec. Mod. School for Girls, Oakwood Drive, St. Albans. (June 1949).



Editor – Marion Ball, Sub Editor Betty Lancaster, Art Editor – Joan Dorling, Sports Editor – Janet King, Secretary – Jean Reeves, Treasurer – Alison Watson, Associate Editor – Mrs Ginn. Special thanks to Miss Ellis and Miss Wilsdon for their help in making this magazine possible.

Editorial

I start this, my last Editorial for the "3rd Former" with rather mixed feelings. That is to say both a little sad but at the same time feeling a good deal happy. Sad because I must leave you and the "3rd Former" to go to Watford. On the other hand I am happy because I know that I am going to another good school. Secondly I know too, that the 3rd Former is passing into a pair of very capable hands. This brings me to your new editor, who will be taking over this magazine from the next issue.

Therefore I take great pleasure in introducing to you your next editor Sylvia Dixon.

Sports Column

On July 12th the school sports were held. It was very hot and exciting. There were many competitors from the four different houses; Beechgrove, Elmstead, Oaklands and Pinewood. Every girl was on the

field supporting her own house. The full results are to be announced at the end of term and I shall be able to print them in the next issue.

On June 30th the Town Sports were held in Clarence Park where competitors came from every school in St. Albans to compete against each other. As everyone knows by now that the Beaumont Girls did not do too well this time, although we were glad to know that the boys did a lot better. Never mind, better luck next time.

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The Girls School has a tennis team now and they are to play a match against the Beaumont boys. By the time the 3rd Former goes to press the match will have been settled and I hope that I can report a win for the girls next month in this column – Good sport Janet King.

A Canadian Girl's Day

The following is an extract from an article written by a Canadian girl and she is anxious for pen pals from Britain and the Dominions. Her name is Buelah Ziebell of Ottawa. We hope that some of you will write to her, as we are sure that she, Beulah, will be pleased to hear from you. Ed.

My name is Buella Ziebell and I am twelve years old and live in Ottawa the capital of Canada. This year I enter High School. There are four grades in high school – five if you want to take first Year University at school. At present I am studying reading, spelling, arithmetic, health habits, English and social studies. I want to be a stenographer when I grow up. Here is what I do most school days. I get up about 7.30 and get dressed. In summer I wear cotton and organdie dresses or slacks and blouses, or play suits. All the girls wear sandals and bobby socks. In winter I usually wear a wool skirt and a sweater, a heavy wool coat, galoshes and a wool kerchief over my head.

For breakfast I have a grapefruit, then cereal, toast and a glass of milk. In winter I have a hot cereal – some kind of porridge and in summer a cold one like corn flakes. At school we have games and I play baseball and basketball. I sing in the school choir too. When I come home from school I play for a while and then help mother. I do the dishes and help vacuuming the floors, dusting and doing my own washing. We have supper about six, it is a light meal a salad or something like that. I go to bed at nine o'clock. On Fridays I go to a movie or the community centre for a singsong. In summer we go on picnics quite often. I have bicycle and sometimes go on all day hikes with some of my friends. I play tennis and swim. In winter I skate and ski and go sliding on my toboggan. At school we have hockey teams. I have several hobbies, stamp collecting is one; we all take our stamp books to school and trade with each other. I collect pictures of movie stars and I have a photograph album for pictures of my family and friends. I would like to get letters from Britain and girls in other countries. If I have too many to answer I will give them to my friends to answer. Beulah Ziebell.

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The next issue will be published in September 2007.

Please let me have your contributions by the latest 14th August 2007.

Email Don Lowe dilowe@ntlworld.com

To access the Old Beaumontians web page; on your PC type www.beaumontschool.com the "search results page" lists "Beaumont School – St.Albans" click this heading, you will then have accessed the school web site. Click on the tab "about us" scroll down to the "Old Beaumontians" click on this tab to access the OB's pages.