

The Liverpool Blue Coat Brotherly Society

NEWSLETTER



AND 173rd ANNUAL REPORT



MAY 2011

BEAUMARIS MEMORIES



Joan Evans, Barbara Owens and Grace Johnson in the early war years at Beaumaris - in our special feature on pages 4-10, Barbara shares her treasured memories with us,

NEWS AND INFORMATION for all 'OLD BLUES'

THE BROTHERLY SOCIETY

At our AGM this year, the Committee was "reconstructed", for want of a better word, to comply with recent legislation, in particular with regard to the status of Trustees. The people listed below will serve until the next AGM in March 2012.

President/Treasurer

Stan Livingston

Vice-President

Keith Ashley

Secretary

Tony Salmon

Patrons

Eddie Ardren
Doreen Owens

Colin Flynn
Peter Healey

Kenny Jones
Steve Parry

Trustees

Keith Ashley
Steve Elliott
Stan Livingston
Ron Richardson

Keith Caulkin
Ernie Foulder
Richard Morris
Frank Towler

Peter Clarke
Dave Kesterton
Les Page

Committee Members (Advisory)

Eric Baldwin
Colin Hanson
Ray Livingston

John Barker
Peter Heatley
Tony Salmon

Malcolm Goodman
Charles Hodgson
Sandy Tittershill

Parents' Association Rep

Keith Caulkin

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Put these dates in your diary!

THURSDAY 9th JUNE – 7.30 pm
Brotherly Society Quarterly Meeting

FRIDAY 17th JUNE – 5.30 pm until late.
Brotherly Society Informal Reunion Evening.

If you are planning a reunion with your form or year, this is the night to do it. Or if you just want to come along and show your partner or family where you spent your formative years, this informal evening will be the ideal occasion.

There is no charge for this event. A buffet will be available, and the school will be open for guided tours, or for you to wander around and reminisce. There will be no dress code or formalities, just a chance to relax, meet other Old Blues and have a great evening. There is no need to book in advance, but it would be helpful for catering purposes if you send us a message to let us know you're coming.

SUNDAY 10th JULY – 1.30 pm.
Parents' Association Summer Fayre.

THURSDAY 8th SEPTEMBER – 7.30 pm
Brotherly Society Quarterly Meeting

THURSDAY 1st DECEMBER – 7.30 pm
Brotherly Society Quarterly Meeting
(This date is likely to be changed to co-incide with the School Christmas Dinner)

DECEMBER - The next **Newsletter** will be published

THURSDAY 8th MARCH 2012 - 7.30 pm
Brotherly Society Annual General Meeting

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Barbara Owens (pupil: 1938-1945)

Following the deaths of my mother in 1934 and my father in 1937 I entered the Blue Coat Hospital, as it was then known, in October 1938 at the age of nine. Two others were admitted with me, Eva Ellison and Enid Purkiss. Eva's father had been killed in an accident at the docks and Enid's father had been in the Royal Navy. I had been to the school twice before; once so that my sister could look round and then for an interview with the Trustees in the Board Room. I think this last was a standard procedure. I had to read an extract from "The Water Babies" and then answer questions about my journey to Wavertree. I had come by bus, ferry and tram from Moreton in the Wirral. Next came some mental arithmetic; the sort of thing your uncle asked you.

The actual day of admission was quite frightening; first of all your clothes were stripped off, then came a bath and a hair wash in a huge bath with wooden slats to stand on when you got out. All this took place in a large, echoing room. My hair was already short and cut in a fringe but Enid had long plaits and they were chopped off. She cried bitterly. However, I seemed to settle in. My dormitory was small and I remember showing off, doing an imitation of Tarzan. I enjoyed the first term because I was given a part in a play, "Make Believe" (by A. A. Milne, I think). I liked the company of the older children when we were rehearsing. However, by the end of my first year, I had been moved into a long dormitory and wasn't feeling very happy there so, ironically, the war came as a welcome relief, providing a change of scene for me.

In September 1939 I was on holiday in Gwaenysgor, North Wales, with my elder sister Jean when we heard on local radio that I had to return to school. Once there, the local children were allowed home for the night but those from some distance away had to stay in school. We slept downstairs with cloaks and gas masks at hand in case of an air raid! The following day we all made the trip to Beaumaris, Anglesey, by train, the girls wearing their second-best bonnets and all carrying a gas mask and a bag of food, which included a large bar of Bourneville chocolate.

In Beaumaris we were allocated to billets; it all seemed to be the luck of the draw. I, with Lilian Thompson, Lily Ennis and Joan Evans, went to stay at "Rock Nest" with Mrs Stockdale, a widow with a five-year-old daughter and her elderly father, Mr Hughes. We girls shared a room, two single beds and a double. I lived there for about three years and whilst the number of children rose from four to thirteen the number of beds remained the same, plus an extra single after Mr Hughes died, so obviously there was a good deal of doubling up. This expanding billet must have been a boon for the school authorities when they had difficulty placing a child.

I loved the freedom of those first few months in Beaumaris. We were given boundaries; Gallows Point on the West End and Friars; where Saunders Roe had their seaplanes moored, on the road to Llangoed; the pier was forbidden territory. I think that initially a curfew was rung on the church bells to tell us when to go home, but I am not sure about this. We walked along the footpaths, Short Round and Long Round over the fields and played on the wide expanse of grass at the seafront, known as the Green; next to the castle wall was a playground with swings, see-saw and an exciting piece of equipment called a "shaddle," which would be regarded as too dangerous today. There was also the rocky shore, a bit of sandy beach and a grassy cliff above the swimming pool, which was built jutting into the sea.. Add to this the excitement of the views over the Menai Straits and the variations of the sea and the weather, and you have a wonderful environment for a lively ten-year-old. How lucky we were!

At first schooling for the girls was in the Council School, but very soon a house near the seafront, "Bryn", was acquired and used by the whole school for the duration of the war. I remember thudding of shoes on wooden floors, the boys singing "Boney was a Warrior" as we climbed the stairs, (they must have had another tune in their repertoire but I never heard it), and me gazing out over the Menai Straits as a break from geometry and Mr Watcyn's eagle eye.

At the age of thirteen I was moved to another billet with a Mr & Mrs Mervyn Roberts and their toddler son, John. Mervyn worked in the bank and this was a somewhat grander house than "Rock Nest".

Mrs Smith, our senior mistress, had explained to me that Mrs Roberts was willing to take an eight-year-old girl, Jean Braithwaite - a new entrant to the school, but only if she had an older girl who would care for Jean and help in the house. Was I willing? I said I was and spent a year there, until eventually all the girls moved to "Red Hill", a large house belonging to Sir Richard Bulkeley, where we led a more organised existence until the end of the war.

I enjoyed the year looking after Jean. We shared a large bedroom. I read to her, cut her toe nails and made up stories about a giant who liked toe nail tea. I took John for walks in his pushchair, often accompanied by Lily Robinson who live nearby, and babysat when Mr & Mrs Roberts had an evening out. My main job was cleaning the breakfast room and the small sitting room before breakfast; nothing very arduous, just using a carpet sweeper and a duster. I remember one morning I had finished early and was asked by Mrs Roberts why I hadn't started on the stairs. I replied that I didn't know that it was my job and was told, "You girls, you've got no initiative!" with a South Walian accent. This has been a saying of mine ever since.

We used our spare time in various ways. The first winter brought snow drifts down the sides of the lanes; wonderful to jump into, wearing long black stockings! Early in our stay at Beaumaris we were organised into collecting rosehips to be made into syrup. There was also a short burst of shell-collecting for use as grit for hens. Blackberry picking was a perennial activity.

Joan Evans' brother Stan lived at the chip shop, which meant some treats from there for Joan and me. He was in the school cadet force and was patient enough to pass on some of his skills. Joan and I became adept at propelling ourselves along on our stomachs, using our elbows. This took place in a field, so we must have looked scruffy for much of the time. Grace Johnson lived with a Miss Thomas and her family, where they had a couple of dogs, so I often joined Grace walking them across the fields. I also went to the Welsh Chapel with Grace and Miss Thomas occasionally, where Grace and I recited short texts in Welsh.

The School used the Parish Church for worship each Sunday morning until it took over a disused chapel. Memories from the latter include a visit from Sir Henry Wood and making a programme for the BBC with Hugh Morton; each service in our chapel ended with the last verse of "Eternal Father" sung as a prayer. This was very moving and meaningful in a time of war. I also remember that a service was held there on D-Day, 6th June 1944.

I visited most of the Sunday Schools in Beaumaris to get a taste of them, and some of us attended the Band of Hope occasionally, mainly because we knew that a drink and biscuit would be on offer. We usually had to sing for our supper and I can recall singing "Ye Banks and Braes" with one of the boys.

Indeed, because Mrs Smith had a leaning to drama, the girls in particular spent hours rehearsing for and presenting musical shows. The boys had the school band and the army cadets, but all we had was darning the boys' socks and looking after the little ones, so we were lucky that Mrs Smith fed our creativity whilst also helping us to get rid of some surplus energy.

The first show was a play written by Mrs Smith with music by Dr Dickerson, and they later produced one based on the story of the "Willow Pattern Plate." Others were song medleys accompanied by appropriate dancing; a few remembered titles are "Up Housewives and at 'em" wearing turbans and wielding rolling pins, "The Fleet's in Port Again" and "The Sailor with the Navy Blue Eyes", sporting what passed for naval uniforms. All jolly fun! A bigger production was based on the music and dances of Czechoslovakia, which we all enjoyed doing. I can still sing the Czech national anthem (in English, of course). I can also sing the Welsh national anthem in Welsh because we sang it so often on these occasions!

The really big production was of "Merrie England" (an abridged version) and for this the boys joined us as the Yeomen. It was performed inside the castle and we paraded through the town showing off the wonderful costumes made by Miss Byers, the school seamstress.

I left school in 1945 and Mrs Smith died shortly after the school's return to Liverpool. I believe she was only in her forties. I have always felt that we owe her a great debt of gratitude as she appeared to give her whole life to the care of the Blue Coat girls during those war years. The responsibility must have been enormous and we were very fortunate to have her. Other staff members came and went, but she was always there.

I was ten when the war started and able to cope with the change, but I feel that younger children must have felt very lost and bewildered. At first no one was allowed to return to Liverpool for holidays because of the danger of bombing, so the only contact with families was through the post and when relatives managed to visit. I was lucky. Both my sisters came at various times as well as friends, and other parents often included me in meals and outings. My sister Jean, a nurse, had been drafted into RAF nursing and was stationed in Northants. She arranged lodging for me and I was able to visit her there in the summer when I was twelve. From there she got a job in Duston, near Northampton, in charge of a home for London evacuees whose health meant that they needed special accommodation, so I was then able to go there for every holiday until I left school. This meant travelling alone from Chester to Rugby by train, in the care of the guard. I had sixpence ready to tip the porter. Sometimes I changed trains at Crewe and can remember sitting in the waiting room by a cosy, open fire.

We moved to Red Hill and the boys to Woodgarth when I was fourteen; the little boys lived with us where they had a more homely atmosphere with the older girls looking after them. I found being at Red Hill somewhat confining after the freedom of the previous years and, as the oldest girls, we were given a lot of responsibility. There was no electricity when we first went there, so those of us in charge of a dormitory were responsible for the oil lamps and the safety of the other children. We helped with all the household jobs, cleaning, preparing vegetables, buttering bread etc. as well as looking after the younger children. It was a lovely house with a beautiful entrance hall and a curved front staircase. When the electricity was finally installed we had a party to celebrate and did the conga all over the house. There was also lots of outdoor space to play. On VE Day we had races with dried fruit as prizes! Life was very simple and treats rare.

Of course, if we had still been in Liverpool, at the age of fifteen we would have finished our education and become "house girls" and been given a training in all aspects of housekeeping, so the war provided an opportunity for change in this regard. My sister asked the headmaster, Mr Heritage, if I could take my School Certificate and this was put in hand, meaning some of us were able to leave school with a qualification. My sister got a job in Liverpool where I could live in, and after leaving the Blue Coat School I went to Queen Mary High School in Liverpool, and then on to teacher training in Lincoln. My first job was at Sudley Road School in Aigburth; at that time the probationary year was done in the town or city which had provided the further education grant.

The war brought about changes in our clothes. Although we still wore the traditional uniform of navy pleated dress, long black stockings, starched white tippet and straw bonnet and cloak for chapel and special occasions, our everyday clothes became more normal, probably because we spent more time in the public eye. I have a photograph of myself just after the evacuation wearing a "pinny" or smock, which we had worn in Liverpool over other clothes as protection. I don't think they were worn much in Beaumaris. We had blazers, navy skirts, grey jumpers which we knitted and woollen ankle socks for which we designed and knitted turn-over tops. We also had gabardines, but I think we still preferred our cloaks.

Now, just a list of pleasurable events to round off this saga; a circus on the green, watching elephants being fed and watered; visits by travelling theatre groups - they performed "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and "East Lynne". Walks from Red Hill to Llandonna beach on a hot summer's day and a walk to Penmon with Mrs Smith's daughter Hilary in my last term at school.

To finish I want to say thank you to the people of Beaumaris for welcoming us and putting up with the invasion of their lovely town. My friends and I hold memories of our time there as very precious and love to revisit when we can. My only regret is that I didn't live with a Welsh-speaking family, so I did not learn Welsh. I can count and utter a few common phrases, but no more.

This photograph was taken at the Tricentenary weekend in 2008. Barbara is sitting between Joan Evans (now Gordon) and Lilian Robinson (now Jones). Friendships made at Beaumaris have stood the test of time.



Mrs Barbara Greensmith is now retired and living in Lincoln - we are very grateful to her for sharing her memories in this newsletter.

OUR WEBSITE

Regular updates on news and events are posted on our website, along with loads of photographs and memories, as well as links to the websites of the School, the Foundation and the Parents' Association. Check it out on [**www.bluecoatbrothersociety.co.uk**](http://www.bluecoatbrothersociety.co.uk)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer's Report to the Trustees of The Liverpool Blue Coat Brotherly Society for the year ended 31st December 2010

I report on the accounts of the above society for the year ended 31st December 2010, which are set out on pages 12 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and treasurer

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 43 (2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act), and that an independent examination is not needed.

It is my responsibility as treasurer to prepare the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act, and to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43 (7)(b) of the 1993 Act.

All original documents and records of transactions, including computerised items, have been securely retained, and may be examined upon application by any subscribing member of The Liverpool Blue Coat Brotherly Society or any other person with reasonable cause or authority to do so.

Stan Livingston

(Treasurer)

8 February 2011

Statement of Honorary Secretary

I have examined the accounts prepared by the treasurer, and assisted in the compilation of this report. No matter has come to my attention that gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the 1993 Act, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met. Furthermore, no matter has come to my attention to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Anthony Salmon

(Secretary)

8 February 2011

LIVERPOOL BLUE COAT BROTHERLY SOCIETY

Statement of Financial Activities (General Fund)

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Voluntary income - subs & donations	1,688	1,137
Sales of goods	291	906
Investment income (see note 3)	4,123	3,187
Gift Aid	92	0
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>6,194</u>	<u>5,230</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Costs of generating funds:		
Secretary's honorarium (see note 3)	250	250
Treasurer's honorarium (see note 3)	250	250
	500	500
Fundraising trading:		
Costs of goods sold	0	937
PayPal charges	16	12
	16	949
Investment management costs	1,458	665
Charitable activities:		
Grants & donations	2,099	1,553
Annual football match v First XI	395	393
	2,494	1,946
Governance costs:		
Printing, stationery & postage	805	2,026
Telephone	331	374
Motor expenses	570	235
Independent examiner's fees	0	611
Depreciation (office equipment & camera)	129	172
Sundries	82	214
	1,917	3,632
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>6,385</u>	<u>7,692</u>
Net expended resources before transfers	<u>(191)</u>	<u>(2,462)</u>

Balance sheet as at 31st December 2010

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets: (see note 4)		
Camera, computer, office equipment	389	518
President's chain of office	12,380	
	12,769	518
Investments:		
Cost as at 1st January	79,013	74,281
Additions	21,061	4,770
Redemptions & sales	0	(38)
Cost as at 31st December (see note 6)	100,074	79,013
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	<u>112,843</u>	<u>79,531</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stock of goods	4,468	4,899
Cash at bank and in hand	4,257	9,119
	8,725	14,018
Current liabilities: (see note 5)		
Creditors (falling due within 1 year)	(570)	(861)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>8,155</u>	<u>13,157</u>
Total of assets less liabilities	<u>120,998</u>	<u>92,688</u>

The funds of the charity (Reconciliation)

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
	£	£
Restricted income funds		
Bequest fund	88,541	70,717
	88,541	70,717
Unrestricted income funds		
General fund	11,533	8,296
Income & expenditure account	4,257	9,119
Liabilities	(570)	(861)
	15,220	16,554
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>103,761</u>	<u>87,271</u>
Plus non-monetary assets	17,237	5,417
	17,237	5,417
TOTAL VALUE	<u>120,998</u>	<u>92,688</u>

Notes to the accounts

1. Accounting policies.

In preparing the accounts the following accounting policies have been complied with:

- a) The accounts have been prepared on the historic cost convention. The accounts are in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Charities SORP (2005) (Accounting and Reporting by Charities) and comply with the charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2005 issued under the Charities Act 1993.
- b) Investment income is recorded when receivable.
- c) Expenditure is included in the accounts on an accruals basis. Irrecoverable VAT is charged to the SOFA as incurred.
- d) The cost of managing investments is charged against investment capital, reflecting the total return approach to investment management. Any costs associated with the sale or purchase of investments are accounted for as part of the sale or purchase price of the investments.
- e) Quoted investments have been valued at cost.
- f) Realised investment gains and losses are shown net in the statement of financial activities.
- g) The General Fund of the charity is regularly increased by donations. The trust deed allows this fund to be spent as income or retained as capital at the trustees' discretion. The income arising from the General Fund is unrestricted.
- h) Depreciation on office equipment is charged on a reducing basis of 25% per annum.

2. Taxation.

The Trust is a registered charity and accordingly is exempt from taxation on its income and gains where they are applied for charitable purposes.

3. Related party transactions.

None of the trustees were paid any remuneration or expenses by the charity during the year, other than as disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities.

4. Tangible fixed assets.

	£
Net book value at 1st January 2010	518
Additions	0
Disposals	0
Depreciation charge for year	129
Net book value at 31st December 2010	<u>389</u>

5. Analysis of creditors.

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
	£	£
Independent examiner's fee	0	611
Printing of Christmas Newsletter	570	0
Other creditors	0	180
TOTAL	<u>570</u>	<u>791</u>

6. List of securities as at 31st December 2010.

Holding	Book value or cost (£)
BEQUEST FUND	
Narrow range	
7000 Treasury 4% stock 2022	7,243
2500 Treasury 2.5% stock 2016	7,889
753 £ Capital	753
	15,884
Wider range	
900 BP plc	4,190
220 BHP Billiton plc	5,612
700 Spectris plc	9,177
1200 Wincanton plc	2,088
112 Wolseley plc	2,292
600 Smith & Nephew plc	4,059
700 Compass Group plc	4,067
1500 Northumbrian Water	4,965
960 Barclays plc	2,512
1668 Lloyds Banking Group plc	1,096
1350 Intermediate Capital Group	4,494
4000 Albany Investment Trust	10,840
3000 Ignis Asset Management	3,108
2500 BNY Mellon Asset Management	4,301
4000 UK Commercial Property	3,290
6567 £ capital	6,567
	72,657
	<u>88,541</u>
GENERAL FUND	
Narrow range	
4000 Treasury 4% stock 2022	4,139
639 £ capital	639
	4,778
Wider range	
3000 Aberford Geared Income	2,933
1000 Alliance Trust plc	3,725
98 £ capital	98
	6,755
	<u>11,533</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>100,074</u>

THIS IS THE END OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT