

THE

OLD

BEDAN

1955

# The Guild of Old Bedans

President	...	...	...	...	...	Miss W. J. E. Moul.
Vice-President	...	...	...	...	...	Miss E. R. Shearer.

## Office Bearers and Committee for 1955-56.

Chairman	...	...	...	Margaret Turner, 109 Alexandra Road.
Vice-Chairman	...	...	...	Mrs. Hodgson, (Joyce Galloni), 6 The Craiglunds.
Joint Secretary and Treasurer	...	...	...	Mrs. Kirkwood, (Elsie Davidson), "Michaelford", South Boldon, Co. Durham. Tel: Boldon 7224
Assistant Secretary	...	...	...	Olga Wright, 7 Ettrick Grove. Tel. 56126

## COMMITTEE:

Alberta Asher, 13 Cuba Street; Miss K. M. Carrick, Bede Grammar School for Girls; Mrs. Crowe (Anne Mitchell), 31 Victoria Avenue; Gwen Grace, 47 Cleveland Road; Minnie McMillan, 7 Ashwood Street; Mrs. Sculby (Betty Fowley), 11 Ridgeway Crescent; Lena Thompson, 9 Wooler Square; Mrs. Wallace (Esther McLachlan), 4 Woodstock Avenue.

CO-OPTED MEMBER AND EDITOR OF "THE OLD BEDAN":—

Mrs. Thomas (Winifred Scott), 11 Orange View.

## INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

Annual Subscription: 2/6d. for 1955-56, due on September 1st, 1955.  
Life Subscription: £3-3s-0d.

MEMBERSHIP: On 31st August, 1955, the membership was 470, including 232 Life members, but 30 have not yet paid 1954-55 subscriptions.

The Winter Re-union will be held in School on Friday, 3rd February, and a Dinner on Friday, 13th April at the Seaburn Hotel.

The Secretary asks every member—

1. To notify her of any change of address.
2. To give (a) her full Christian name, not just initials, and (b) if married, both maiden and married names.
3. To get her ticket for any Re-union by the date stated on the notice.
4. To ask, if she is not sure her subscription is paid. Any member of Committee will pass on her request.
5. To note that, to save postage, receipts for subscriptions will be enclosed with the first notice after payment.

For easier identification we use maiden names. The married name is usually given in brackets, or, if mentioned earlier, omitted.

## GUILD ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS.

**Winter Re-union.** Seventy-five Old Bedans met in the Art Room in a slightly quainter atmosphere than usual. Conversation was more thoughtful in avoiding the words "Yes" and "No" when greeting acquaintances. The penalty for using those words was one dried pea—some Old Bedans were soon without all their dried peas! Meanwhile a "Guess the Town on the Photograph" competition was going on. A riotous game of "Happy Families" came next, then a Ping Pong Ball and Spoon race and an "All-Sorts-Quiz" preceded supper. Committee members served refreshments on individual plates and as usual the company was very appreciative of the Committee's efforts to feed them well! After supper we had a Treasure Bag Race—oh! the agony of fumbling in a large pillow case for a thimble, yet finding a safety pin, tape measure, duster, hair-curler—anything but the thimble! Ions were enjoyed before the party ended with "Auld Lang Syne".

**Dinner.** April 1st. As our usual meeting place in Mang's was no longer available, the annual "supper" was promoted to a "dinner" and held at the Seaburn Hotel. After an excellent meal served quickly and efficiently to the 155 guests, the Chairman, wearing the new Chairman's ribbon and badge of office, made a few brief remarks, and the "April Follies" took the stage. An opening chorus in best "Television Toppers" style was followed by a Tyneside slootch "Paris in the Spring". Margaret Turner as Geordie and Mary Mackintosh as Meggie were the sightseers in Paris and kept meeting with Jimmy Compronga (Je ne comprends pas). Still following the fine arts (!) the next item was a spring cleaning ballet danced by Mary Mackintosh and Joyce Gallon as the two Harpies (clean round the bend!) to the music of William Walton's "Popular Song". The Follies troupe followed this by singing an Old Bedan version of "D'ye Ken Elsie Marley Hinnay" (words copyright to Old Bedans). A musical extravaganza was the pièce de résistance of the evening—"In a Persian Market" with Caliph, Princess, snake charmer, beggars, camel drivers, jugglers and CAMEL portrayed by Margaret Turner, Joyce Gallon, Lena Thompson, Mary Mackintosh and Jennie Hay to Eastern music provided by Winnie Scott. The camel was quite a hit! The chorus "There's no Bedans like Old Bedans" brought the entertainment to a close and another happy Old Bedan re-union ended with the singing of the School Song and "God Save the Queen".

**Summer Re-union.** Was it a coincidence that for the fourth year we had a gloriously fine summer evening for the 1955 Old Bedans outing? Or are we truly blessed? Two full bus-loads of chattering Old Bedans (sixty-three) sped along the leafy lanes towards Lanchester and Burnfield. The bus drivers steered the buses skillfully around the twists and turns of the road and with glorious views on either side, finally came to a stop on the road to Muggleswick. Some people chose to settle by the wayside, others chose a buttercup meadow on the side of the road—all were visited by midges at some part of the evening. Everyone seemed to enjoy supper, which consisted of sandwiches (made by Committee members), meat patties, cakes and biscuits. There was a brisk sale for Nibbits in the buses returning to Sunderland, and the happy re-union ended when the friendly bus drivers dropped their passengers at convenient places on the journey home.

**Loan and Scholarship Fund.** This year there were no applications for loans. Scholarships were not awarded because any monetary award given to a girl is deducted from the Ministry grant given by the local education authority. During the course of the year £65 has been repaid to the Fund.

K. M. CARRICK,  
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer,  
Bede Grammar School for Girls.

**Social Service.** Since the publication of the last Old Bedan, the Committee has carried on its usual work in a steady quiet way.

A. At Christmas we spent £24 0s. 6d. on 20 parcels of groceries for needy and deserving people, at Easter £7 12s. 0d. on 19 parcels. In October we spent nothing, but we delivered 20 baskets of vegetables and fruit kindly given by Hylton Road Junior and Barnes Junior and Infant Schools. The recipients are nearly the same people each time. Sometimes, we regret to say, the numbers are depleted by death; sometimes new folk are recommended to us. They are so pleased with their parcels and those who are able often send us little notes of thanks; one such, full of blessings, from an old man was read at the Business Meeting. Often old gifts are made between times. Quite recently a helper felt she could not let a 95th birthday pass and took flowers and fruit to help the celebration. The old lady was delighted. A dress, a cape for use indoors, thrilled two others. Two Old Bedans visit lonely old ladies at "Wayside". To mention helpers by name would be irreligious, but we feel that special thanks are due to Elsie Wilson who is most generous and regular in visiting our almost blind and terribly crippled protégée. This needs much patience and often seems unrewarding as the old lady is sometimes very quarrelsome. The money for our gifts has been raised thus: The 1934 Annual Business Meeting voted us £5, by individual members' money donations we got £15 19s. 3d. and from special efforts, parties and gifts £19 11s. 2d. A coffee morning on October 8th has added £8 to our funds. This last was also a very pleasant Old Bedan Re-union; we hope to have another in the spring.

B. The Red Cross Library run at Ryhope General Hospital solely by Old Bedans led by Jessie Ridley (Pickard) and Cathie McCree has flourished. Unfortunately in the summer we lost Jessie who has left Sunderland, but Margaret Chapman has taken her place and all is well. The patients are mostly very grateful and look forward to the visits.

C. On October 12th a Guild of Old Bedans Stall at the Guild of Help Autumn Market raised £30. Your Committee is often tentative about undertaking this stall, but your support has always been generous. The reputation is: "The Old Bedans never let you down".

Further ideas and help are invited and will be welcomed by your Committee: Margaret Chapman (Hunter), Elsie Davidson (Kirkwood), Rene Halfday (Dwons), Vera Harmaid, Kathleen Muir, Cathie McCree, Anne Mitchell (Crosse), Joan Newby (White), Betty Peters (Spencer), Betty Powley (Scalby), Ethel Thompson, Gladys Thornley (Miller), Elsie Wilson (Hooker) and

D. S. ARKLE, (Convener),  
40 Ashwood Terrace.

**The Hockey Club.** Due mainly to the very bad weather conditions we had an unsatisfactory season. The results were as follows:—played 10, won 7, lost 3, goals for 30, goals against 20, cancelled 17. Again we were very short of players, but were represented on the 1st County team by Vera Jenkins. Joyce Wilson was also chosen, but was unable to play in the County Tournament at St. Anne's.

May I express our sorrow at the death of one of our kindest members, Edna Wright, which took place at the beginning of the present season.

JEAN BREWIS, Hon. Secretary.

London Guild of Old Bedans. Both our Re-unions this year were at the homes of Old Bedans.

On 11th December, 1954, we visited Nancy Lawther (Hubicka) at 22 Tharke Street, S.W.7 for tea and chatter. Those present were Miss Ewart, Miss Franklin (our last Re-union before going to Africa), Joyce Habron (Ayles), Dorcen Ward (Macrae), Rita Craggs (Young), Brenda Metcalf (Taylorson), Doris Clayburn (James) and myself.

On 14th May, 1955 we visited Dorcen Ward (Macrae) at 39 Birch Grove, W.3. Those who attended were Mrs. Nicholson (Miss Thompson), Joyce Habron, Joan Habron (Toon), Edith Broderick (Barge), Gladys Wilson (Stephenson), Doris Cooke (Smith), Nancy Lawther and myself. Nancy had received an open letter from Miss Franklin giving her early impressions of her Africa visit, which we all found very interesting. We were all delighted to meet Mrs. Ward once more.

PHYLLIS TENNANT (Mrs. Beck),

Hon. Secretary,

172 Plumstead Common Road, S.E.8.

#### SUMMARY OF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

September 28th, 1955.

46 members present.

Members welcomed by the President, Miss Moul.

Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports. Gist appears in various places in this "Old Bedan".

Election of Office-Bearers and Committee for 1955-56.

Retiring Chairman's Remarks.

Reports on the Branch Clubs, Social Service Activities and 'Old Bedan'.

Allocation from Funds: One guinea for School Prize, one guinea for 'Bedan' Competition, five pounds for Social Service Activities.

Future Meetings: Winter Re-union, a Supper Re-union and a Summer Outing.

#### The Lily A. Hutchinson Memorial Fund.

A plate bearing the following inscription has been affixed to the shelf of books in the School Library:—

"Given to the School in grateful memory of Lily A. Hutchinson, by Old Bedans who remember her as an inspired teacher and loved guide and friend."

Three further volumes have been added recently: "Oxford Companion to Music", "Comedies of Congreve" and "Thomas Hardy"—a critical Biography by Evelyn Hardy. A final selection of books needed by the School are to be added.

four

#### LETTER FROM MISS SHEARER TO THE SECRETARY:—

"On March 6th I handed over to the Chairman a ribbon with bars bearing the names of the various Chairmen of the Guild since 1928 and clasp for attaching to the Guild Chairman's badge. There is also an extra bar, not engraved, for the name of the next holder of the office. Will you ask the Guild to accept these from me as a small "Vice-President's Gift". They bring my good wishes to all office-bearers, members of committee and ordinary members. I hope they will all have as much joy from their association as has their one-time Secretary."

ELSPETH R. SHEARER.

#### Chairmen of the Guild of Old Bedans since it was formed in 1928.

Catherine E. Mallon, 1928-31; Mary Mackintosh, 1931-33; Missie F. McMillan, 1933-35; Alice K. Munn, 1935-37; Mollie K. Maddison, 1937-39; Ethel M. Thompson, 1943-45; Gladys M. Beesey, 1945-47; Catherine I. McCrea, 1947-49; Irene Downs, 1949-51; Winifred D. Thomas, 1951-53; Lena M. Thompson, 1953-55.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE RETIRING CHAIRMAN.

My best wishes go to Margaret Turner as our new Chairman. I am quite sure that she will have as happy a time in office as I have certainly had, for I know of no more friendly and helpful folk than Guild members.

The happy atmosphere which is always in evidence at our Guild meetings is something of which we can be very proud, and is a tribute to our founder Miss Shearer, and to the loyalty felt by successive generations of Bedans for their old school. It is my firm hope and belief that this will long continue.

No Chairman could have wished for a more co-operative Committee than I have had, and I want to thank them all for their unflinching help. Our particular thanks are due to Winnie Thomas, who leaves the Committee as ex-Chairman. Winnie has done—and is still doing—irreplaceable work for our Guild in so many capacities, so willingly and so whole-heartedly. Then too, we all know how much we owe to our tireless and hard-working Secretary. That the Guild is going from strength to strength is largely due to Elsie's unremitting care and attention. We are indeed fortunate to have members of such calibre as these two, and with whom it is always such pleasure to work.

#### SCHOOL NOTES

##### STAFF CHANGES FROM JANUARY, 1955—

Goodbye to: Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. Twigg.

Welcome to: Mrs. Canney, Miss Crosby (Old Bedans).

Chairman of P.T.A.: Miss Metcalf (Staff).

Vice-Captain: Mr. Henderson.

School Captain: Rita Truman.

Vice-Captain: Joan Johnson.

G.O.B. PRIZES: Bedan Essay: Senior—Barbara Watson,  
Junior—Dorothy Keenlyside.

Art: Beryl Smith.

SPORTS CHAMPIONS: Senior: Brenda Barlow.

Middle: Hilary Whelan.

Junior: Maureen Elliot.

JUNIOR COUNTY HOCKEY: Edith Osborne (C. Half),  
Gillian Garnsworthy (Goalkeeper).

An anonymous gift to School of two annual prizes to be known as "The Lily Hutchinson Memorial Prizes" has been accepted by the Sunderland Education Authority.

## FROM NOVEMBER, 1954, TO NOVEMBER, 1955.

These have become Life Members:—Joan Alexander (Clarke), Mabel Alexander, Una Broadley, Mary Brydon, Doris Clayburn (James), Miss L. Crose, Rita Cragg (Young), Joan Crompton, Gwen Donald (Purdie), Emily Durrant (Lawson), Miss L. Franklin, Lillian Galloway, Elsa Garbutt (Positer), Marjorie Jackson (Stagden), Nora Johnson (Wilson), Evelyn Lawson (Morton), Constance Leonard (Jones), Doris Miller (Cuthbertson), Miss P. M. Peters, Joyce Plomper (Westwick), Frances Sharp, Gladys Shewan, Irene Sigsworth (Johnson), Elsie Smith (Spence), Annie Souzer, Gladys Stewart (Sidney), Gladys Thornley (Miller), Nancy Whitehouse (Alexander), Irene Wilkinson, Doris Wilson, Jean Wilson (Dobson), Constance Wray (Reed).

Married are:—Margaret Banks, Dorothy Bercarr, Shirley Bennett, Jean Brewis, Sheila Brown, Elsie Cairns, Dorothy Caslow, Audrey Chambers, Freda Chapman, Meira Cucklford, Dorothy Dell, Audrey Fletcher, Ethel Foreman, Daisy Gettins, Jean Hamilton, Hilda Hartley (the Second), Jean Hassell, Betty Hedderburgh, Christine Holt, Dorothy Jackson, Irene Kirton, Lottie Kirtley, Winifred Latham, Joyce Logan, Annie Maddison, Betty Mitchell, Marjorie Newham, Sylvia Poynter, Joyce Plomper, Joyce Plompton, Audrey Pons, Enid Pritchard, Audrey Robson, Jean Rosenstein, Josephine Shaw, Sylvia Simpson, Joan Smith, Margaret Summerside, Margaret Sumner, Dorothy Wager, Isabel Wilkie, Greta Young, Elsie White, Gladys Sydney.

Babies to:—Margaret Anderson, Hilda Andrew, Kathleen Bell, Joan Brooks, Polly Carter, Elaine Caves, Joan Charlton, Margaret Chumney, Mabel Cottars, Joyce Curtis, Eileen Deaford, Emily Durrant, Eileen Easby, Joyce Ferrwick, Sheila Fenwick, Helen Garrick, Rita Gettings, Marjorie Goodall, Dorcas Graham, Frances Grant, Lorna Groom, Pauline Humphreys, Pat Kendall, Cecilia Lakin, Lillian Lawrick, Maureen Las, Eleanor Munton, Marjorie Milner, Jean Mitchell, Margaret Moore, Betty Patterson, Maureen Richardson, Joyce Richardson, Jessie Ridley, Miriam Robinson, Joan Sandison, Margaret Sim, Ida Smith, Marjorie Smith, Gwenne Spain, Doreen Thompson, Freda Tadberry, Jean Turnbull (the second), Margery Wild, Evelyn Wilkinson, Denise Wood, Teresa Wordingham, Ileanne Hetherington, Olwyn Nader, Audrey Stocks.

In Memoriam:—Miss M. L. V. Hughes, Lottie Fake, Phyllis Rapley (Mrs. —), Edna Wright (aged 21), Emily Booth (Mrs. Durrant), (May 1954), Agnes Horsdon (Bateman).

Mistresses. We learnt with regret that Miss M. L. V. Hughes died in hospital in Darlington in February. An appreciation of her by one of her old pupils appears in this Old Bedan. Many of us who had not known her as a mistress or as a colleague had the pleasure of meeting her at the Old Bedan Week-end in 1929 when Old and Present Bedans united to celebrate the entry into the long-awaited "new school". On that occasion Bedans were proud to sing in the presence of its author, Miss Hughes, their new School Song.

Old mistresses resident in Sunderland meet us and each other from time to time. Miss Lloyd is now settled in her new home and may come to our next Re-union. Miss Harris still does some teaching occasionally; she again met Miss Birchall while on holiday in Kern. Miss Arkle and Miss Shearer are told they are "ladies of leisure"; they may be! Mrs. Beasay (Gladys Littlehales) continues to teach Domestic Science but has a change of pupils this year. Miss Stirk is still at the Technical and Miss Briggs at the Training College. We hear that Miss (Mary) Parfior who retired a year or two ago has recently returned from a cruise, as has also Miss Lamb.

Miss Franklin is in South Africa. Of Mrs. Anderson (Muriel Bruce) we had a short glimpse as she passed through Sunderland on her way to and from Scotland on holiday. During a few hours she spent here she met Minnie McMillan, an old schoolfellow, Gladys Sims (Hopper), and Amy Hussey (Demper). Amy brought us news of Mrs. Judson (Miss Herbert) whom she had met in York. Miss Ewart visited Miss Arkle and Miss Shearer while she was spending some time at Gosforth; she was regretting having had to miss the last two meetings of London Old Bedans. With these Mrs. Nicholson (Miss Thompson) has got into touch and she attended their May meeting. She is now settled at Thornton Heath and teaches two days a week at a school "under Croydon authority who welcomed me with open arms. It was most enjoyable".

In May Miss Arkle spent an afternoon with Miss Haggart at her flat in Edinburgh and exchanged news though Miss Haggart writes since "How D.S.A.'s cars were besieged! I talked shamelessly yet after we parted there were innumerable questions left unasked". We suggest that she comes to Sunderland, meets the Guild of Old Bedans and lets its members answer some of the questions. She would be welcome.

**Miss M. L. V. Hughes.** As I was probably the last Old Bedan to see Miss Hughes, it is perhaps fitting that I should try to give some impression of her. She came to the Bede Collegiate Girls' School in the first years of Miss Boon's headship, that sunny time before the first World War. Unused as she was to the rough North of the School Song, she may have found life hard as Classics Mistress to somewhat unresponsive fifths and sixths. Yet, in December 1954, of difficulties or hardships she seemed to remember nothing. Small, fair-haired, determined, but yet curiously defenceless, she still burned with the flame of scholarship. Her study of Plotinus, accepted for publication by *The London Quarterly*, she did not live to see in print. It will recall to her many admirers her fine book on Education, "Citizens to be" (Constable.) Of her devotion to the cause of peace, her passion for reconciliation and disarmament it is more difficult to write. Bedans will remember her chiefly as the author of their School Song and will never cease to respond to the refrain that meant so much to the writer,—"After darkness, light". *Post Tenebras Lux.*

GRACE A. WOOD.

#### NEWS OF YOUNGER OLD BEDANS

**In Training:**—Jean Petch, doing her third year in Domestic Science at Hedham. Joan Crompton, at Birmingham University taking an honours course in Mathematics.

**Honours Won.** Joan Bellon—B.A. (Hons.) English at Liverpool University now doing Education at London.

Rosemary Richards—B.A. (Hons.) English at Durham University.

Jean English—B.A. (Hons.) German at Durham University.

Joyce Clasper—Only student to get Division 1 in all three subjects at Sheffield University. Awarded a State Scholarship on result; now taking M.A.

Shala Wilson (the second)—M.B., B.S.

Margaret Berry—B.Sc. at Durham University, now working at Royal Infirmary.

Grace Ervehistle—B.A. in Psychology and Social Welfare at Tarkio College, Missouri, U.S.A.

Celia Pipe—M.Sc. with honours in Physical Education at a University in Texas.



## CAREERS.

Since graduating Grace Entwistle has joined the therapy staff of the world-famous Menninger Institute, Kansas. Before leaving Tarkio College she was voted "woman of the year" by the male students! Sheila Wilson is a horse surgeon at the Royal Infirmary. Emily Durrant (Lawson) is a physicist on Building Research in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, East Kilbride. Thelma Green is a radiologist at Sunderland General Hospital. Mary Waggott is Superintendent of Health Visitors in Sunderland. Margaret Brown is nursing at the Children's Hospital. Florence Wilson (Hudson) has resigned her post at Kettering High School. She went for a term to help out, and stayed five years. She is now taking a G.C.E. Cookery Class at the Technical College, Kettering, and for the past two years has helped with the marking of the G.C.E. papers.

Nellie Mee is now headmistress of a school in Crawley. Elizabeth Knott is headmistress of Plains Farm Junior School. Edith Hornsby is a deaconess in Salford. Flora Cook is Chief Librarian for the County of Lancashire. Mary Alexander is Assistant Director of Education in Northampton.

## Arts.

Emily Durrant as a member of Glasgow Choral Union sang in "Elijah" and "The Dream of Gerontius" under Sir Adrian Boult in St. Andrew's Hall.

Evelyn Blacklock is vice-chairman of Sunderland Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society.

Patricia Jackson:—At the 1955 Darlington Musical Festival won the Festival Championship with two first and three second prizes. She was awarded the Gold Medal of London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art for acting. She is holder of the premier award of the Poetry Society—the Shakespearean Plaque for acting. She also won the soprano solo competition at Langollen International Eisteddfod and won a 2-year scholarship at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, London.

Marie Anderson won the Vocalist Championship Trophy at Harrogate.

## In Public Life.

At the moment we have three Old Bedan sisters at the head of town affairs—this must be unique. Evelyn Blacklock is the first pupil of Bede School to be Mayor. Mary Blacklock (Smith) is Mayoress, and Nellie Blacklock (Hedley) is a Councillor. Elsie Prosen has started a lot of holiday accommodation at Sunderland Information Centre in John Street. Miriam Earnshaw is one of a volunteer team for the Meals on Wheels service for old people, while Marjory Smythe is going to become one of its drivers.

## Notable Occasions.

Audrey Midwood attended a banquet at the Royal College of Surgeons as representative of the St. Mary Abbott Hospital. A Golden Wedding celebrated in September was that of Nellie Jarman, wife of Sunderland's oldest organist Mr. Percy F. Watson. Martha Potts was invited to a Buckingham Palace garden party. Minnie MacMillan was presented with a wrist watch, travelling case and a bouquet on her retirement after 14 years as headmistress of Barnes Infants' School. Irene Stephenson (Marple) was commended by the Judge

at Durham Quarter Sessions on acting with "a promptitude and courage which did her very great credit" when she found two men barging her dining room at the Rectory at West Boldon. Dr. Elizabeth Neil, who was the first woman medical practitioner in Sunderland, was invited to the luncheon for "The Women of the Year" in the Savoy Hotel by Lady Antonella Lothian, Lady Georgina Coleridge and Mrs. Odette Churchill. It was attended by many famous women each one famed in the arts, professions, sport, industry or politics. Gwen Magrill commanded the women taking part in the Jewish Ex-Service Annual Remembrance Parade in Whitehall. She is honorary Secretary of the Sunderland Branch of the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and women.

#### A Memorable Afternoon.

In Ballater at the time of the Sale of Work at Balmoral, Gertrude Veitch set out to try to buy from Royalty. Twenty minutes after she had seen the Royal party arrive at the marquee, her part of the crowd surged inside. Twice the struggle and the atmosphere vanquished her; twice she came out. By the third attempt she was acclimatized and stayed in. While most of the throng was round the Queen at the Church Stall, Gertrude eventually reached the front row at the Queen Mother's stall. The box of chocolates she bought was handed to her with a charming smile. Then, braving the ordeal of the crowd at the Church stall, she found herself at last in the front line, looking at the Queen over a completely empty table! She "had a wonderful view of the Queen". Undaunted, she followed the Queen and everyone else back to the other stall. In time, patience was rewarded; she succeeded in asking the Queen for d'oylies and serviettes. These were handed to her most graciously. She could not get near enough to buy from Prince Charles, though she saw him very clearly, nor could she pierce the throng round the Duke of Edinburgh whose throne was much laughter and joking, but she did succeed in buying serviettes from a very busy Princess Anne and sweets from Princess Sophie of Hanover. Next, she reached Princess Margaret. She asked for nylons; there were none in her size, so she bought some small thing and was turning away when stockings reinforcements arrived and she heard her size mentioned. "Someone wanted that size," said Princess Margaret. "Was it you?" she asked Gertrude, and found the nylons for her. At this stage, our persevering Old Bedan decided to go to her bus while she could still walk!

#### Sport.

**BOWLS.** Evelyn Blacklock is President of Durham County Women's Bowling Association and a member of the English W.B.A.

**FENCING.** Sheila Wilson was Captain of Durham University Women's Fencing Team 1933-34.

**HOCKEY.** Verna Jenkins on Durham County First Eleven. Jean Brewis on Durham County Second Eleven.

**NETBALL.** Jean and Sheila Bagley on Durham County Netball Team.

## Meetings.

There was a real re-union of old friends at the Summer Outing in June when Marjorie Cosway (Snowball) arrived almost direct from British Columbia. She was here on a short visit—her first for 25 years—and what a lot of reminiscing there was on that bus trip! The following week Brenda Bryson was a hostess to a group of Marjorie's old school friends—Doris Saphron, Elsie Wilson (Hooker), Winifred Hutchinson, Doris Wilson, Maudie Curry, Ethel and Lena Thompson. For part of her visit Marjorie stayed with Elsie and Marion Proom.

Nancy Welch from Basingstoke has been in Sunderland staying with Minnie McMillan. She visits, and is visited by Marion Wilson who retired about a year ago from her Domestic Science post in a Gloucestershire school and lives in Cheltenham. At an Antiquarian outing, Minnie introduced Winnie Graham to Thelma Henderson at Appleby Castle, both hockey enthusiasts. Margaret Chapman (Hunter) has again stayed with Evelyn Thompson (Mrs. Pitt) in Plymouth and met Rose Johnston (Neal).

Mary Bess keeps in touch with Gwen Lloyd who still lives and works in March, Cambridgeshire. Miss Ewart met Lena Anderson (Mrs. Plumpton) while on holiday in Scarborough and Miss Shearer came unexpectedly upon Joyce Hebron (Ayles) who was spending a few days in Sunderland and is sure she saw Gladys Wilson (Stephenson) from the back window of a car! Both of these she had met last at a 1954 London Old Bedans' gathering. She and Miss Arkle have, after many years come across Bertha Berger (Forman) and Olive Sopp (Whitfield). They have also had short visits from Erid Crowe from London and Amy Hussey from York. They missed each other by a fortnight, but Amy met one or two Old Bedans including Muriel Bruce (Anderson) while Erid had some time with a few of her contemporaries and renewed her acquaintance with Miss Ewart. Erid visits Lilian Bowe frequently in Rugby and there meets Ada Bardred (Bowe). Florence Jackson has seen Laura Thatcher (Bickerton) in Alfordale.

When Joyce Gallon (Hodgson) called in her doctor to examine her small son who had developed whooping cough, the locum was sent who turned out to be Jean Rosenstain (Turpin) (now an assistant to a doctor in Ferryhill). The last time they had met was when Joyce was Brown Owl for Jean's Brownie Pack. Ivy Whorlton (Ball) was delighted to meet Miss Shearer again after so long and thought the years had passed over her very lightly and she had altered so very little since Ivy's schooldays.

Miss Arkle on library duty at Ryhope General Hospital found Mildred Raine (Ellison) there—secretary to one of the surgeons. Minnie McMillan and Winnie Gibson (Milburn) met in a quiet spot in Cambridge. Winnie Elatoh met Mable Young (Martel), after many years, in Biers' lift. Mable now lives in St. Peter Port, Guernsey and is very keen to gather news of Old Bedans friends. Thelma Richardson met Shirley Sinclair in London at a Camp Re-union. Dorothy Metcalf (Hirst) visited Helen Reed (Perry) at her home in Sanderson, Surrey. Audrey Midwood had a meal and chat with Miss Franklin before the latter left for South Africa. Erid Potts (Wilson) waiting for her husband "outside" an Old Boys' meeting in London, spoke to another woman also waiting in a car—she turned out to be Mary Fainclough (Harrison). Anne Mitchell (Crowe), and Edith Broderick (Haige) spent a day together in Reading. Christine Morgan had coffee and a long gossip with Agnes Weare (Clarke) who lives at Byford, Hereford. Joan Boswell (Rough) visited Hilda Andrews (Moore) in Kendal. Hilda lives in a 400-year old house which still has its original Adam staircase. Kathleen Bellamy (Ditchburn) met Christine Hartness (Carr) and Doris Saphron (Crichton) while on holiday in Eggleston.

## News of Bedans Abroad.

Enid Noble is teaching in Germany. Evelyn Phillips went as leader of a party of 22 Sunderland schoolchildren to Torsherg, Norway, under a scheme arranged by the International Help for Children Trust. Mary Albion, emigrating to Canada, was presented with a picture and powder compact by members of the Blue Peter League in appreciation of her services in commanding the Sea Ranger unit. Betty Crows (Moore), too, is going to Canada. Mary Bess took a party of 21 schoolgirls from Sunderland to St. Nazaire at Easter for a holiday. Dorothy Harsden has gone to Takoradi (Gold Coast) to become Colonial Office organiser of Domestic Science for 2 years. Margaret McLaughlin (Steel) set off in October on a world business trip with her husband. Their itinerary includes the Philippines, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and the U.S.A. Rosalie Walker (Banker) after spending last year's wet summer in Sunderland is settled again in Las Vegas in a new home filled with labour-saving gadgets which her husband had had built in her absence.

Ethel Freeman has married in Nigeria. Sylvia Hood is in Germany for 3 years' teaching under the British Families' Education Scheme. Freda Potts who was in Sunderland last December after two years' as the owner of a private school in Nairobi, has now returned to Kenya to teach in a missionary school. Lucy Fosgate (Nichol) in Cullinan, South Africa, now a grandmother, was very busy when we last heard, preparing to have all the family with her for Christmas 1954. Elsie White (the first) in Vancouver keeps us up to date with news of herself and her sister Winnie. Margaret Langham teaches in Germany, Jean English is in the Saar for a year at Volklingen teaching English to German students, many of whom are older than she is.

Jean Bagley is leaving her post at Monkwearmouth Grammar School to become gymnastic mistress at Marsden Church of England School for Girls at Bathurst, Australia. She will be missed at Christ Church, as for a number of years she has been Superintendent of the Kindergarten Sunday School and Brown Owl of the Brownie Pack. May Metcalf is leaving her job in the Sarnax Department, London, to take up a 3-year post with the Rhodesian Civil Service. Margaret Gray has gone to teach in Uganda.

A great many Old Bedans have holidays abroad now, too many to enumerate; but we must mention Mary Mackintosh (Alderson) who went camping in Normandy and Brittany. From her account of the holiday we think her meeting with the French people must have been very different from the one she acted so cleverly at the Old Bedans' dinner—remember Jimmy Comprompa?

Married Bedans Abroad:—Margaret Banks, Rhodesia; Mabel Cottam, Okavua; Jean Charlton, Bulawayo; Audrey Fletcher, Capetown; Maureen Lax, New Zealand; Joyce Logan, Sweden.

Homes of Married Bedans: Hilda Andrews, Kendal; Miri Borham, and Betty Gillis, Bristol; Kathleen Bell, Radbill; Mary Byfield, Newcastle; Eileen Easby, Manchester; Joyce Fenwick, Kingston-on-Thames; Sheila Fenwick, and Margery Wild, Edinburgh; Helen Garrick, Loughborough; Dorcas Graham, Keighley; Lillian Hulss, Croydon; Agnes McIndoe and Ella Sedley, Banstead; Sheila Renwick, London; Joyce Richardson, Warcham; Dorset; Jessie Ridley, Ilford; Rhoda Robinson, Todmorden; Joyce Robson (the second), Middlesbrough; Jean Rough and Dorcas Thompson, South Shields; Dorothy Wilson (the third), Wiltshire; Denise Wood, Orpington; Elsie Scott, Durham City; Gladys Scott, Beotle; Ivy Whorlton, Clitheroe; Ray Lock, Little Simon, Wirral, Cheshire; Elsie Graham and Winnie Tate both at Ilford; Jean Richardson Sydenham.

**Changes of Address:** Annie Shield (Hill) Bardney, Lincoln; former member of staff Miss Doris Thompson (Mrs. Nicholson) to Thornton Heath, Surrey, from Glasgow; Joyce Robson (Warwick) from Newcastle to 40 Hepsworth Terrace, South Shields; Doreen Sharpe, Gravesend, Kent; Irene Sigworth (Johnston), Leadgate, Durham; Elsie Cairns (Mrs. Tingle) to Stockton; Gladys Sim (Hopper), to Callarcross; Joan Sigworth (Cassworth) to Pontefract; Ella Young (Cove), Newbiggin; Jean Richardson (Gurney) to Silksworth; Mary Wilson (Ferry) to West Hallam, Derbyshire; Flora Cook at Kent Bank, Grange-over-Sands, has bought herself a bungalow "with one of the loveliest views I know in England". Flora has been most generous in offering to share with her friends her joy in her new possession.

#### FROM YOUR LETTERS

From our President, Miss Moad, on receipt of the two guineas for a School Prize and Essay Prize: "I shall be glad if you will tell all members of the Guild of Old Bedans how much the Staff and I, as well as the whole school, appreciate their generous and continued interest in us".

From Peggy Donville (Reynolds) whose home is in Southampton: "I was so glad my beloved French trio E.R.S., D.S.A. and Miss Seddon are still very much alive. I so remember practising phonetic vowels with a small hand mirror anxious to satisfy E.R.S."

From Audrey Midwood at St. Mary Abbott's Hospital, Kensington: "I had to copy and produce one of Mr. Vogue's models to attend the banquet held at the Royal College of Surgeons as one of the representatives of the Hospital. It was the occasion of the National Council of Nurses' fiftieth year celebration, and Princess Marie Louise was a guest of honour. Lady Mountbatten also attended and many notable nursing representatives. We also had a garden fete in the Hospital grounds this year; it was opened by Prince George of Denmark. He bought a cake from our stall."

From Eileen Brown in Shotley Bridge Hospital (July 1955): "What a delightful surprise I had yesterday afternoon when Nancy Harrison brought me the lovely roses from the Guild. I feel my words are very inadequate for expressing my appreciation of your very kind gift and accompanying good wishes."

From Lily English (Hutton) at Huddersfield, Yorks: "I am still kept busy with Women's Institute, Cubs and Sunday School. At the moment I have another activity in the form of a W.I. gardening course. I go to the Institute of Agriculture near York once a fortnight—six times for lectures and demonstrations and then take a test. It's like being back at school! However, I am very fond of gardening and thought all that free expert advice was too good to be missed."

From Doris Clayburn (James) at Hurlingham: "I was interested in hearing of Miss Trout, now at Southampton College. She gave me my first real interest in cricket which my children have inherited. I still have the book she gave me for doing the hat-trick against Chester-le-Street in 1915."

Lilian Thompson (Marley) at 103 Craigcrook Road, Edinburgh, 4: "I should welcome a visit from any of my generation of Old Bedans—I am sure most of them must come to Edinburgh some time."

From Doris Miller (Cathbertson) in Newcastle: "I do greatly enjoy having news of Old Bedans and their activities especially as I seem to have been unlucky as far as meeting them in unexpected places is concerned."

From Joyce Prince (Ayles) in Meerut, U.P.: "I have just spent a very happy week-end with Pat Campbell. She is taking her first language exam, and came here for a break between oral and written. I never in my wildest dreams at school ever thought the day would dawn when I would teach Teacher Training Class Students in a foreign tongue, yet that is what I am doing. This is a fascinating place to work, right out in the wilds and catering for the poorest children who would probably not be taught at all if we did not do the job."

From Calla Lakin (French) in Nairobi: "We have just come back from six months in Dar-es-Salaam. On our way back to Nairobi we went into Uganda and spent two enjoyable days in the Queen Elizabeth National Park where we saw elephants, buffaloes, hippos, all kinds of buck and wart hogs. There are lions, but we were unlucky. I have come to the conclusion that lions are a myth as I have been in the National Park here in Nairobi scores of times and have never seen one yet. We also saw pygmies in the Ford Portal area and while we were in Kampala shook hands with the Prime Minister of Buganda. We didn't know who he was at the time!"

From Nancy Voss-Bark (Suggott) whose home is at Walton-on-Thames: "I have been away for several months this year with my husband on a business trip which took us to New York, Jamaica, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentine and Chile. The high spot of this trip was undoubtedly flying into Buenos Aires Airport at 12-30 p.m. on the 16th June (a date which coincided with the opening phases of the revolution in Argentina) to find the airport in the hands of the rebel troops! Fortunately we had left the airliner before it was machine-gunned by Government planes but nevertheless we have several bullet holes in our suitcases as souvenirs. When the Airport was finally 'taken' by the Government troops an hour or two later, we had the distinction of being 'interned' together with nine other passengers and about 350 marine rebels for five days in the Airport. We were, however, very well treated as our only crime was that of being a great embarrassment to the Army who didn't know what to do with us until Civil flying started again."

#### EDITORIAL POSTSCRIPT

To those members of the Guild who have been very ill we offer our congratulations on their return to health, remembering especially Hilda Lever, Vera Duffell and Margaret Brown and we send our very best wishes for a speedy recovery to Eileen Brown and Miss Ewart.

We are very grateful to those Old Bedans living out of town who write to our Secretary or Vice-President giving us news of themselves. Their letters are invaluable in compiling this magazine. Our thanks go at once again to Olga Wright and Winnie Graham who have helped with typing and to Mr. Taylor our auditor.

A small wedding gift was sent to Joyce Plemper on her marriage in appreciation of the typing she has done for the Guild in the past. To all those who have sent news items for this 1952 edition, many thanks, and please do it again!

W.T.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS ON 31st AUGUST, 1955.

Summary of Balance Sheet for the Year—1st September, 1954, to 31st August, 1955.

	RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURE	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Subscriptions ... ..	...	...	Stationery, Printing and "Old Books"	23 12 2
Interest ... ..	...	...	Postage and Telephone...	8 3 2
Balance from Meetings...	...	...	Gifts ... ..	11 11 0
	...	...	Memorial Gifts ... ..	27 17 0
	...	...	London Branch ... ..	0 12 2
	...	...	Cheque Book ... ..	0 4 0
	...	...	Balance on Year's Working ... ..	31 1 5
				<u>£103 0 11</u>

TOTAL FUNDS

	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance on 1st August, 1954	...	...	Made up as follows:—	...	...
Balance on Year's Working ... ..	514	18 0	24% War Stock	98	7 2
	...	...	31% Defence Bonds	75	0 0
	...	...	Balance in Bank:—	...	...
	...	...	On Deposit Account	240	11 10
	...	...	On Current Account	31	0 5
				<u>£545 19 5</u>	

I have examined the Receipt Books, Stock Receipts, Defence Bonds Receipts, Current and Deposit Bank Accounts and I certify that everything is in order.

J. M. TAYLOR, 17th September, 1955.

ELISE I. KIRKWOOD, Hon. Treasurer.

THE GUILD OF OLD BOLDONS

The Winter Re-union will be held in the Art Room at School on Friday, February 3rd 1956 from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m.

Tickets, priced 3/- each, may be had from any member of the Committee or from the Secretary before January 31st.

Preliminary Notice. The Winter Re-union will be held on Friday, April 13th 1956 in the Seaburn Hotel. Details will be sent later.

Subscriptions (2/6d). for 1955-56 are now due.

"Michaelford",  
South Boldon,  
Co. Durham,  
Tel: BOLDON 7224

E. I. Kirkwood  
(Hon. Secretary).



