

**THE
OLD
BEDAN**



1957

The Guild of Old Bedans

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

Office Bearers and Committee for 1957-58.

Chairman	...	...	...	Mrs. Hodgson (Joyce Gullon), 12 Birchfield Road.
Vice-Chairman	...	...	...	Mrs. Scaulby (Betty Powley), 11 Ridgeway Crescent.
Joint Secretary and Treasurer	...	...	Mrs. Kirkwood (Elsie Davison), "Michaelford", South Boldon, Co. Durham. Tel. Boldon 7224.	
Assistant Secretary	...	...	Olga Wright, 7 Elrick Grove. Tel: 56126.	

COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Bolton (Kathleen Scott) 1 Askrigg Avenue; Miss D. Harding, Bode Grammar School for Girls; Joan Liddle, 3 Linden Terrace; Mrs. Reed (Connie Gray), 46 Deepdene Road; Mildred Ross, 90 Ormsode Street; Margaret Turner, 101 Alexandra Road; Mrs. Wilson (Elsie Potts), 27 Park Gate; Mrs. Wilson (Connie Warburton), 24 Ridgeway Crescent.

Co-opted Member and Editor of "THE OLD BEDAN":

Mrs. Thomas (Winifred Scott), 11 Grange View. Tel: 57985.

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

Annual Subscription: 3/6d. for 1957-58, due on September 1st, 1957.
Life Subscription: £5 Jn. Od.

MEMBERSHIP: On August 31st, 1957, the membership was 342, including 241 Life Members.

The Winter Re-union will be held in school on Wednesday, January 29th, 1958, and a Dinner at the Seaburn Hotel on Friday, April 18th.

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 ask, if she is not sure her subscription is paid. Any member of Committee will pass on her request.
4. To note that, to save postage, receipts for subscriptions will be enclosed with the first notice after payment.
5. To note that the Annual Subscription is now 3/6d.
6. To note, that for easier identification, maiden names are used. The married name is usually given in brackets.

GUILD ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS

Winter Re-union. On the evening of January 25th, sixty-eight Old Bedans met for their Winter Re-union. Margaret Turner had been at work with some Anagrams, and everyone was soon guessing busily, and noisily! Speedy musication of an Energen Roll was necessary before even starting a paper-bag bursting race, when a good pair of lungs was the chief requirement. A steady hand and nimble fingers helped us next in a "Pegs on the Line" Competition; then we needed a lively mind for an A-Z quiz. (How clever were the folks who thought of 'rebec' as a musical instrument beginning with 'Y'—the hambler souls managed 'reorder'). Supper was served by the Committee on individual plates, as in previous years, and seemed to be enjoyed amid the crumbing chatter. Appropriately enough, the game which followed supper was called "How're you feeling?" In the dark we felt and guessed a prune (horrible!) walnut, cork, chalcostone, potato, capsule (horrible again!) sugar lumps etc. etc. A musical quiz and ice-cream rounded off the evening. We were sorry Miss Moul was unable to stay for the whole evening, but were delighted to have two members of staff—Miss Harding and Miss Bernard, with us.

The Dinner was held on April 5th at the Seaburn Hotel. Our President, Miss Moul, was unfortunately unable to be present, but 177 Old Bedans gathered, amid a babel of greeting old acquaintances and enjoyed a good and well served meal, followed by a hilarious entertainment an account of which appears on a later page. Those responsible for this last, Mary Mackintosh, Kathleen Carr, Margaret Turner, Winnie Scott, Joyce Gailton, Jennie Hey and Lena Thompson, were loudly applauded, and a basket of Easter soap eggs from the Guild was handed to them at the end by the Vice-President, with a few words of appreciation. The evening ended with the School Song.

Summer Outing. The Clerk of the Weather having decided that a charge would be lightsome, Old Bedans had a daff, and later wet evening for their Annual Summer Outing this June.

Spirits, however, were not damaged, and to judge by the chatter and laughter in both buses, the weather did not really matter. Our guide, Margaret Turner, led us through various Durham Villages by Castle Eden and Sheston till we reached our picnic spot—a broad grass verge with a back-cloth of trees and shrubs. Again we enjoyed the appetizing sandwiches made by the Committee members. Their efforts on our behalf are always greatly appreciated.

Our after-supper strolls were curtailed by the gathering of black storm clouds overhead; so, into the buses all the sixty-seven scrambled. On our homeward journey we passed through the new township of Peterlee, but unfortunately, heavy rain and a thundery blue-black sky prevented our seeing very much.

A welcome visitor this year was Ida Walker (Earl), on her first trip back Home since 1940, from Johannesburg. To many of her friends, this outing was a splendid opportunity to see and talk with Ida, to hear news of her family and also of another Old Bedan—Lucy Postgate, whom she sees frequently.

Loans and Scholarship Fund. As there were no applications for loans the Committee decided once again to award school-leaving prizes to the total amount of £44 to those girls in Scholarship VII who had given outstanding service to the school. This still left £65 19s. 9d. to meet any emergency which might arise from girls asking for loans in the course of the year.

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

The Social Service of the Guild has carried on as usual. Its funds up to date for the year have been £58 3s. 1d. made up as follows:—

It has spent £50 10s. 11d. in the following ways:—

In October last, thanks to the generosity of Barnes Junior and Infant Schools and Commercial Road Infants School at Harvest Festival time, we were able to send parcels of fruit, vegetables and groceries to 20 old people.

We had 29 needy old people on our list, but 4 have died during this year and several have had to go to Hospital. To the latter we sent suitable gifts, e.g. slippers or dressing jackets.

We always give part of our parcels in the form of money for fuel.

We raised £31 14s. 2d. at our stall at the Guild of Help Market in October.

The Red Cross Library, run by Old Bedans, at Ryhope General Hospital, has increased very much and is much appreciated. The librarians really need more accommodation. Their little room is too small now.

We had hoped to run another Coffee Morning to raise funds as last year, but we were unable to get a suitable room. Can anyone help?

Missie McMillan and Joyce Errington have joined our Committee, also Margaret Turner as Chairman was asked to join our members.

We wish to thank all who have done anything to make the Committee's work easier. All your help, financial and otherwise is so encouraging.

D. S. ARKLE, (Convenor).

40 Ashwood Terrace.

The Hockey Club. The past season 1956-57, has proved a very difficult one for the Club. Membership has fallen, and we have not always found it easy to field a team. During the season we played eleven matches—won 5, lost 5, drawn 1.

We attended both Tournaments, and enjoyed meeting and playing against the other club teams in the County. It was with regret that we said good-bye to Muriel Blair (Levitt) and Joyce Nisbet, who are now living abroad.

We would like to thank the Guild of Old Bedans for their continued support and also Miss Moul for the use of the school playing fields. The Club would extend a warm welcome to Bedans about to leave school, and to any Old Bedans who would like to join us.

MARGARET A. PARKER,
5 Markham Av., Whitburn
A. P. KIRTLEY,
41 Mount Rd., Sanderland.

} Joint
Secretaries.

London Guild of Old Bedans. The December Re-union was held on 8th December, 1956, at the home of Doris Clayburn (James) at 193 Riverbank Court, S.W.6. Those present were Joyce Hebron (Aylett), Dorcon Ward (Mason), Eleanor Wilson (Titherage), Brenda Metcalf (Taylorson), Nancy Lawther (Hubicka), Doris Clayburn and myself. Although the numbers were very disappointingly small, we had a very happy time, chatting. A regular feature of our Re-unions here are the delicious meringues made specially for us by Doris's charming daughter, Pat. This was probably to be Brenda's last time with us as her husband is taking a post abroad.

The May Re-union was held on 18th May, 1957, at the home of Dorcon Ward (Mason) at 39 Birch Grove, W.3. Joyce Hebron (Aylett), Edith Broderick (Bargel), Marjorie Baines (Kowish), Doris Clayburn (James), Jessie Ridley (Pickard), Dorcon and myself attended. All of us were very pleased to renew acquaintances with Dorcon's mother.

PHYLLIS TENNANT (Mrs. Beck),
Hon. Secretary,

172 Plumstead Common Road, S.E.18.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

12th September, 1957.

29 Members present.

Members welcomed by the Vice-President, Miss Shearer.

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

Motion passed to the Constitution—"The Annual Subscription be raised to 3/6d."

Election of Office Bearers and Committee for 1957-58.

Retiring Chairman's Remarks.

Reports on the Loan and Scholarship Fund, the Hockey Club, the London Branch, the 'Old Bedan' and the Social Service Activities.

Allocation from Funds:—One guinea for School Prizes, one guinea for 'Bedan' competition and Ten Pounds for the Social Service Funds.

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

SCHOOL NOTES

STAFF CHANGES FROM JANUARY, 1957:—

Goodbye to:—Miss P. Metcalf (now Mrs. Wilson).

Miss M. Powell (now Mrs. Shrimpton);

Mrs. D. Alderson, and Miss A. Tweed who has gone to teach in France for one year.

Welcome to:—Miss M. E. Balloch, Miss N. Bratt, Miss E. Jackson,

Miss E. G. Butler, Miss A. Simpson, Miss A. Thompson.

Miss C. Watson, for one year is replacing Miss Tweed.

Chairman of P.T.A.:—Mr. R. C. Taylor.

Vice-Chairman:—Mr. M. Barry.

School Captain:—Norma Walsh.

Vice-Captain:—Gillian Collins.

G.O.B. PRIZES:—Bedan Essay: Senior—Margaret Webb.

Junior—Joan Webb.

Biology: Valerie Stafford.

LILY A. HUTCHINSON MEMORIAL PRIZE:—

English: Shirley Butler, Kathleen Tagg.

French: Valerie Cuthbertson, Joan Lister.

LOAN AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND PRIZES:—

Kathleen Carnes, Valerie Cuthbertson, Laura Howard, Dorothy Kestlyside,

Joan Lister, Valerie Stafford, Kathleen Tagg, Marjorie Tweedle, Joyce

Wilson, Margery Young.

SPORTS CHAMPIONS:—Junior: Marjorie Makel.

Middle: Maureen Elliott.

Senior: Marjorie Tweedle.

FROM NOVEMBER, 1956, to NOVEMBER, 1957.

These have become Life Members:—Doris Beattie, Miriam Earnshaw (King), Eva McCrick (Millan), Audrey Midwood, Mary Robson, Freda Smith (Phillips).

These have become Members:—Marjorie Bales (Kewish), Anne Blackwell, Margaret Robinson (Kirkwood), Marion Brown (Catt), Mering Brown, Ruby Brown, Pat Carty (Turnbull), Enid Claxton (Harrison), Shirley Crosscroft, Edna Davidson (Stewart), Norma Duxbury, Marjorie Fairbridge, Elsie Hall (Miles), Margery Holland (Slater), Joan Hunt (Wilson), Verna Jenkins (Dore), Jocelyn Johnson, Jacqueline Judge, Pat Kirtley, Anna Laws, Stella Laws, Stella Lawson, Marjorie Las, Ethel Lethe (Leckonby), Joyce Logan (Blades), Anne Macfarlan, Nora Mason (Charnley), Dorothy Mearns (Hirst), Eileen Milburn (Doxford), Maggie Moore (Hodgson), Laura Nelson (Hutchinson), Joyce Newcomb, Joyce Nisbet, Valerie Northcote, Edith Osborne, Margaret Parker, Marian Powley (Munday), Moyra Prior, Marjorie Prust (Douglas), Dolly Reed (Rogerson), Sasic Robertson, Maureen Savage, Alice Score, Margaret Short, Audrey Smith (Plumpton), Caroline Smith (Eggleston), Jennie Smith (Syrett), Jessie Smith (Priest), Marguerite Smith (Young), Joyce Young (Allen), Marjorie Walker (Garbutt), Dorcen Waring, Valerie Williamson.

The following Members of Staff have recently joined the Guild:—Miss M. E. Balloch, Miss N. Bratt, Miss D. E. Fall, Miss A. Kitch, Mrs. M. Froud, Miss A. Thompson.

Married are:—Muriel Anderson, Jean Brown, Joyce Cadow, Violet Cooper, Dorothy Crane, Alma Goswold, Bessie Lamplugh, Jean Maidment, Colin Pipe, Anne Ransome, Dorcen Reay, Lilian Robertson, Joyce Smith, Shera Spencer, Pat Swart, Sylvia Tait, Grace Turner, Joyce Walker, Dorcen Waring, Sheila Wilson (the second).

Babies are:—Audrey Bew, Joyce Bradley, Marjorie Burn, Grace Caldwell, Vera Cartledge (Twins), Dorothy Cadow, Doris Crosby, Rhonetta Ellison, Mary Ferry, Brenda Gibson, Hilda Hartley (the second), Joan Hebron, Brenda Heddie, Betty Hedlinsburgh, Lilian Hulse, Joan Hunt, Joan Isley, Beryl Johnson, Kathleen Joney, Jean Kerr, Rita Knowles, Winifred Latham, Maureen Lax, Joyce Laithes, Bessie Maccolly, Maureen Mahoney, Eleanor Marston, Anne Mitchell, Margaret Mitchell (twins), Mauna Owsdon, Dorcen Pearson, Enid Prichard, Mildred Raine, Edna Richardson, Brenda Riddles, Isabel Rolfe, Barbara Rose, Joan Russell, Rita Simpson, Dorothy Snowden, Beryl Shaw, Audrey Spensley, Jean Straghan, Joan Teasdale, Averil Trembath.

In Memoriam:—Hilda Bird, Kate Coburn (Mrs. Johnson), Mildred Francis, Nellie Hildrey (Mrs. Cartledge), Doris Lees, Elsie Reah (Mrs. Groves), Lily Scott (Mrs. Young), Maude Wilson.

Missresses. It is with sorrow that we record the death this year of Miss Coburn (Mrs. Johnson). An appreciative note on her appears elsewhere in the magazine.

We had hoped to have Miss Ewart with us at the Business Meeting in September, as she was at the time having a short holiday at Gosforth. She did not feel equal, however, to coming and we learnt later that she had been afraid that she would not know many of the Old Bedans present. She need not have feared, need she? The backbone of the Guild is still made up of the same loyal Old Bedans as in her day!

Miss Birchall in Sevenoaks wrote the note on Miss Coburn for us, although our letter to her found her in bed suffering from "flu." We hope she has long since recovered.

Miss Shearer was glad to see in July Miss Huggart in her new home which has a vast view of all the hills of Edinburgh from its windows. She was not so robust as one would have liked her to be, but she was vivacious as ever and glad to pick up the threads "as if we had parted but twenty-four hours previously", although she refused to "come to Sunderland and see for herself".

Miss Arkle has visited Mrs. Anderson (Maricl Bruce) in Birmingham and found her, after a series of happy family events and re-unions, as much occupied as ever with her important work in connection with Hospital Libraries. She is greatly interested in the Old Bedans' work at Ryhope General Hospital.

Miss Scaddon is Acting Principal at Sherstone Training College and very happy in her work.

Mrs. Nicholson formerly Miss Doris Thompson writes from Surrey: "My husband and I have joined the London Philharmonic Choir and are having the time of our lives practising modern works and singing in the Festival Hall. The Stravinski Symphony of Psalms this week under the Rumanian conductor Silvestri was a spiritual experience and quite unforgettable". Mrs. Nicholson whose address is 49 Carolina Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey, is now helping with the music at the Rosa Bassett School in Streatham. It is a Grammar School of about 600 girls, and comparable with Bede in many ways.

Miss Joan Wedderburn who left Bede last December is now teaching Physical Education at Bishop Anstey High School in Port of Spain, Trinidad. She is playing a lot of hockey and was chosen to represent the Trinidad team in a tour of Jamaica when they met the British Guiana touring team.

We were glad to welcome Miss Martin to our Summer Outing, and to have Misses Lloyd, Harris, Arkle, Shearer and Peters at the Dinner.

Kate Coburn (Mrs. Johnson).

Another link with the beginnings of Bede School is broken by the death of Mrs. Arnold Johnson (Kate Coburn). One of the first of its pupils, she went on to the Durham College of Science at Newcastle and became one of the earliest woman science graduates in the North. She returned to Sunderland as a member of the school's staff and was there until her marriage.

A highly skilled teacher and an indefatigable worker, she made her subjects smooth-going to relays of Bedans and won their warm affection. While at school she was Chairman of the Old Bedans Girls' Association, but as the years went on her care of her invalid sister and her own ill-health had to curtail her school interest.

School has lost a distinguished Old Bedan and one of the best beloved members of its Staff.

BEDANS AT WORK.

Joan Crompton has an arduous job—programming for an electronic computer. Elise Long has qualified as a Pharmaceutical Chemist. Edith Gibson is Mission at Rampton Mental Hospital, and Ruth Richardson at Cromer Convalescent Hospital. Dorothy Richardson (the first) has a home keeping post. Sheila Henderson is working for the Ministry of Health at Starmore. Isabel Caldwell has left her post in a bank and is taking a six months course at the Teacher Training College in Glasgow. She hopes at the end of it to teach commercial subjects in a day school or at a Further Education Centre. Edna Horndy is a Wesley Deaconess at Billingham, an interesting post which entails visiting, various forms of Sunday School work, and youth activities. Her friend Lily Grant, after four and a half years as a ward sister in Leeds, and fifteen months as a Queen's District Nurse in Sunderland has been accepted as a medical missionary, and is now having further training at Selby Oak. She hopes to go to India next year.

Kathleen Watson has left Maidenhead and gone to live at West End, Southampton, where she has a pleasant teaching post. Ann Jeffrey is teaching Art at Acomb School. Mary Brydon, to whom we are indebted for several news items, says her friends seem to have more exciting lives than hers, but she enjoys her teaching at West Park School and her service as a Methodist Local Preacher. Although Vera Bosch has retired from teaching she has found a most interesting hobby this year, providing "infinite variety, plenty of work, but never a dull moment". It is that of helping on the staff of the Y.W.C.A. hostels. The Y.W.C.A. generally, is concerned with providing hostels where students and young girls can obtain good living conditions at very moderate prices. There are twenty-five hostels in London alone. Since January, Vera has been little at home, for she has been helping out at hostels in Birmingham, Leeds and London. Many of the residents are foreigners—Chinese, Pakistan, Turkish, Italian, Portuguese, French, German, Austrian, Finnish, Jamaican, Nigerian, American, Australian, and from almost every County in the British Isles. "One listens, and sympathises, or else laughs with them. Sometimes they have to be made to behave themselves, and at other times they have to be 'mothered', especially when they are poorly. These are a few cases but generally they are a lovely lively set of girls facing up to life with courage and gaiety, and are well worth helping."

Also retired from teaching are Annie McDonald and Nora Hunter. Evelyn Blackett (Brown) is teaching again and 'enjoying the change'.

At the beginning of her teaching career is Sheila McIlain who is enjoying the College life of a three year Domestic Science Course at Tetley, Sheffield. Recently qualified at Leeds University are Ann Heald, Maisie Hunter, Norma Miller, Julia May Reed and Elizabeth McLaughlan.

The Arts.

Patricia Jackson has now completed her two year course at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, and gained an honours diploma. As a result of her performance as the female lead Gruscha, in Berthold Brecht's "Caucasian Chalk Circle" at York Drama Festival in June, her acting gained her not only high praise from the critics, but an offer from a Northern Repertory Company and the services of a London Agent. At a recent concert given by the St. Peter's Choral Group, Marjorie Jackson was the guest artist, and was praised for her performance in a wide range of songs.

Audrey Amis has had a picture, a portrait in oils, accepted for exhibition by the Royal Academy, where she is in her third year as a student. Dorothy Amis, Audrey's sister, has been in France for a short time this year to study music.

Jean Daniels () was on the judge's panel at a Regional Dancing Contest on television.

A performance of Handel's "Messiah" in the Boys' School Hall in April was of interest, as taking part were Old Bedans Joan Elwin, and Marie Anderson, present members of staff, Mr. Hartley, Miss Bernard, Miss Harding, Mrs. Lewis, and Mr. Rogers, and pupils from boys' and girls' school in a choir of ninety seven voices.

In Public Life.

Marjorie Walker (Cuthbertson) was in charge of a party of seventeen Sunderland school children who went to Tonsberg, Norway, as guests of Tonsberg families under the International Help for Children Organisation.

When Boldon and District National Savings Committee held its 40th anniversary celebrations at Whitburn, Jane Ducey (Mrs. Whitting) and her husband were presented with 40 years service awards by Lord Lawson, Lord Lieutenant of County Durham. She was one of the founder members of the National Savings Movement in the Boldons and has been secretary of the street groups committee since 1940.

Eva McCormick (Millican) is a delegate of the Harrogate Branch of the Women's Gas Federation. Joyce Bagley is president of the Sunderland and District Sunday School Union.

Many representatives of the Scouting Movement recently attended the funeral of Hilda Bird. She had been an active member for 40 years, and was District Commissioner of Wolf Cubs for Sunderland. Major Pelham Kayll, Sunderland District Commissioner for Scouts, said of her "Miss Bird was dedicated to the movement which was her main interest throughout her life. She was a tremendous power in the Offerton Group, and was particularly interested in the Girls' and Old Scouts Association. She did a tremendous amount of good work for Scouting."

Notable and Interesting Occasions.

Dorothy Morrison (Petersen) who lives at Sønderborg, Denmark, was invited to a reception in Copenhagen to meet the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on the occasion of their visit in May, 1957.

When the Princess Royal opened the Queen Elizabeth School for Girls in Ilorin, Northern Nigeria, in November, one of the teachers presented to her was Pat Swan (Peltoe). School Authorities pleaded with Pat to continue teaching after her marriage, as teachers are so scarce in Nigeria.

Jessie Smith (Priest) visited School in December, 1956, while on a visit to the North-East from South Australia. She retired from her interesting teaching job in March, 1956. Her work was that of looking after the education of children living on sheep runs and farms, and the pupils in her classes lived thousands of miles apart. She had to do a certain amount of broadcasting, giving talks and presenting plays and sketches with an educational content. It was a great thrill to Mrs. Priest to meet again her school friend of long ago, Mrs. Whitting, from East Boldon. Together they visited their 'old' school although the building was entirely 'new' to them. Miss Moul and Elsie Kirkwood welcomed them back to the school, and Elsie promptly enrolled them as Members of the Guild! Our latest news is that Mrs. Priest is again teaching, by Correspondence Course, those children living in very remote parts of Australia.

Hockey.

Two Old Boldons are playing on Durham County Hockey First Eleven:— Jean Brewin (Pillans) and Verna Dent (Jenkins).

Meetings.

During the year, Elsie Kirkwood, has had a visit from Phyllis Tennant (Beck) our London Branch Secretary — Laura Nelson (Hutchinson) who stayed at 'Michaelford', was visited by Lydia Newby, (Chappell), and Marjorie Porgate (from Alnmouth). Anne Mitchell (Crowe), visited Edith Broderick (Bargo) in her new home in Reading, and had tea with Miss Ewart. Anne in turn was visited by Maisie Kirby. Joan Bamborough (Washington) spent a night with

Joan Simpson at her home in Liverpool. Susie Wright, who now lives at Sandwich, was at a performance given by the Sandwich Memorial Society and found herself sitting next to a very pleasant sociable couple, and in the course of conversation found the lady was an old Bodan. She was Greta Raine, (Ruddock-West), who lives near Canterbury. An invitation to tea from Susie followed, so that their reminiscences could be continued. If anyone would like to contact Greta, her address is:—Mrs. T. Ruddock-West, St. Benets, Beach Hill, Bridge, Canterbury.

While Margaret Turner was in hospital after an accident to her leg, library books were brought round by Amy Laws and Dora Metcalf. In the bed next to Margaret was Nancy Oldfield (Barnes) and opposite was Nan McGuinness. Margaret had met Nan about a fortnight before their hospital "meeting" at the home of Allie and Mabel Barron (Brazell). Mabel had recently moved from Nottingham, and she and Allie have set up house together.

Annor Hudson (Humphreys) called to see Connie Wray (Reed) while on holiday in Sunderland, and she in return has visited Dorothy Coulsey (Hardman) in Market Harborough and Joyce Logan (Blades), in Lincoln.

Joan Jopling (Kirten) met Margaret Edwards home on holiday from Nairobi.

Dorcas Aird (Dalby) visiting Sunderland told Joyce Gallon that she keeps in touch with Ena Barton and Janet White. Florence Jackson stayed with Edith Crowe in London in October. Bessie Taylor spent some time at the home of Flora Anderson (Quinn) in Liverpool, and saw Mary Robertson while she was there. Flora is a Medical Officer of Health, and Mary Principal of the Calder College of Domestic Science. Bessy Powley (Southby) too has visited Mary. Heather Gardner (Dalton), home in spring from British West Africa, met quite a number of her old form-mates, including Mary Bryden, Nancy Middleton, and Dorothy Williams (Hudspeth). Mary Bryden and Lily Grant stayed for a week at Wareham with Joyce Richardson (Anderson) and they had wedding cake from Bessie Lamplugh.

Ida Walker (Earl) home for a short time from South Africa was able to meet old friends at the Guild Summer Outing.

Miss Lloyd keeps in touch with Jerry Vincent (Dod) in Montreal, and Miss Nicholson with Maura Shield, now an architect in London. Miss Shearer visited and later along with Miss Arkle, was visited by Florence Wilson (Hudson) in Northamptonshire. Amy Hussey, seeing a friend off at York Station was startled to see Miss Arkle waving to her from a train. They had a very short conversation, and later Amy spent a few days with Miss Arkle in Sunderland; she missed Miss Shearer's return by a day or two.

Miss Shearer's list of unexpected meetings is quite long. She travelled for a short way with Margaret Capon (Edwards) in a South Shields bus, met in cafe's Doris Miller (Cuthbertson) from Gosforth, and Brenda Cartledge (Edwards) from the South of England, found Marjorie Humphrey (Mellor) and family on holiday from London, making their way hopefully to the sea one wet morning, and Jean Kerr (Burgess) from Backhurst Hill at Seaborn on a lovely blue day. Charging trains at York she came face to face with Kathleen Kelsall (Watson) on the platform, waiting for a train back to Nottingham, and later found herself sitting opposite Marjell Staddon in the Sunderland train. Finally she came on Elizabeth Mee on a lonely hillside in Perthshire.

The Ryhope Hospital librarians came upon Ann Middleton while she was a patient there. Isabel Caldwell, on a visit for the first time in nine years met Pat Potts in Binas (Middlebrough). Thelma Henderson spent a few days with Minnie McMillan in July, when she also met Nancy Welch and Dora Ben.

Jean Rosastain (Turpin) and Pat Kendall (Gilbertson) both doctors in Sunderland had a re-union with Marcelle Goodall (Gibbs) who lives in Wokingham, Berks, and Edna Brown who works in the pathology department of a hospital at Isleworth, Middlesex. Marcelle occasionally sees Miss Briggs, and Miss Abbott who lives at Yateley; Mrs. Nicholson too has been visited by them at Starwick Old Hall.

Nora Pallister (Evans) living at Workington, has had three friends to stay with her during the year:—Mary Garnett, who is head pharmacist at the R.V.I. Newcastle; Mudge Welsh, Secretary to the Consultative Council of the Northern Gas Board, Leeds; and Phyllis Parry, a State Registered Nurse, working in Newcastle. Nora says, "We are all Old Bedlars over forty years standing and found much in common."

At Cloughton, Yorkshire, in August, Audrey Stocks (Wadhams) Jean Wilson (Dobson), Audrey Smithson (Forster) and Winnie Scott (Thomas) were among the guests at the same hotel.

The notice outside said "The Guild of Old Bedlars welcomes you to coffee—now!" So Betty Moore (Hodgson), the mother of Alice Hodgson (Gowdy) went downstairs, introduced herself and was welcomed as a new member of the Guild.

The G.O.B.'s at the Dinner.

Smiling, agog with anticipation, we sat in front of the little stage. To our horror, one of the 'G.O.B.' of last year moved mournfully, and in tears, to the piano and began to play the Dead March. Following her came other weeping figures with black armlets, black veils and large white handkerchiefs. Then, "singing the blues", they wailed in chorus: "She's left us!"

"She said 'No' to our request,
So we have come as second best.
When you see what we can do,
You'll cry, cry, cry, and we'll cry too..... Boo-hoo!"

"Stop!" came a voice from the audience! Someone, sobbing loudly, mounted the stage..... It was Mary, their lost star, back to shine in their heaven again!

Seeing, she sang, 'the tears rolling down your cheeks,
I've decided to join your Show.'

This comforted and reinforced, the 'Gobs' sang, cheerfully now, to grant our request for a new score. They had "racked their brains and gnashed their teeth,

Behind a green door."

This prologue over, the Bedlarsvale Travel Agency in song and chorus, with mimed scenes, suggested holidays for us. "Come" said Margaret 'to Scotland' "fish and let y'r soul dream

Dreams that ye're hame an' tellin' the tale
O' the salmon ye hookit, as big as a whale."

We were lured to Wales by a Welsh-hatted Mary and a harp, and to Ireland, where the theme, with two friends and a reeling Kathleen Carr, was "I'll take you home again, Kathleen". How lovely in Italy to find romance with a gondolola (and spaghetti), or in Paris with Joyce and Jennie flower *or les balcons!* In Germany, the Happy Wanderers in Tyrolean garb brought the Bedlarsvale Agency an encore. They sang in what might be called pidgin German the soulful joys of roaming—the material ones too!

'Mein Sandwich in mein Haversack
'Iss filh mit Sauerkraut'.

Their crisp chorus brought the house down. Lastly in Calypso on Roker and Seaburn, we were asked:

"Why don't you try holidays at home?"

"You don't need dress a la continent,

Just a bucket and spade and you can't go wrong."

Next the Gobs came, Bringing Culture to our Town. Here some of them formed, as we did, an audience awaiting enlightenment on drama, music and art, and their itty-bitty garments and their expressions—grim, shocked, sentimental or just bored—were a caricature much enjoyed. To us all, the South Shields Shakespearean Society with excerpts in the home dialect, from Romeo and Juliet, gave an insight into Drarra. Madam Sophie Lahtidoh making much play with her suitably flowing draperies, conducted a mock orchestra, The Saint Cecilia Sextet. Its instruments were very real: piano, double bass, violin, clarinet, cymbals, triangle, drum, and we were moved to a deep appreciation of true music! Now, a drooping, willowy figure in smock and bonnet, smiling expansively on a wooden-faced stage audience, expressed himself, in a longish flowy speech, happy to be there to interpret to us examples of the best modern art illustrating his lecture on "Culture in Art".

Aided by his apt and topical comments (so typical of the Star of the Gobbs), we studied these canvases, which, alas, no mere words can make you see: Not on Speaking Terms (the tails only of two elephants back to back), and in similar vein Roker Pier from a Coble, A Mandarin with Elephants, Giraffe Passing a Window, To Strike or Not to Strike (the Town Hall Clock had stopped that week), and a picture consisting of a multitude of red dots. This was "Measles looking for a Victim". "Note", said the artist with another of his bright smiles, "the wonderful placing of this Measle—quite apart. There's something very affecting about it, don't you think?"

After lavishing on us these holiday ideas and this Culture, the Gobs ended our evening fitly in The Garden of Eden, in a closing chorus with neat wishes addressed to 'the very Old Bedans', to the 'not so Old Bedans, you beautiful women', and to all:

"Have you paid your subscription?"

"Then we'll see you next year."

ONE OF THE AUDIENCE.

Reflections after the Dinner.

It was good to have Miss Harding and Miss Bernard at the Dinner. It would give us all great pleasure to see more members of the School Staff at all our meetings and especially those among them who are themselves Old Bedans.

Among those present, we welcomed Old Bedan Mothers with Old Bedan daughters, several whose first appearance it was and quite a few from far distant homes. We were especially glad to see Doreen Ward (Macriest). She was one of those who responded in 1937 to the Secretary's plea to London Old Bedans to form a Branch there. She ran that Club with enthusiasm and success until War-time duties forced her to leave London, and since its resurrection has continued to be one of its most loyal and hospitable members.

A great many of the audience profited, it seems, by Bedarvale Travel advice, for Old Bedans have visited this year most of the places advertised, including Roker and Seaburn—"Where the wind is cold but the hearts are warm". We mention only Ethel and Lena Thompson who became Happy Wanderers in Austria and to judge by their post card to the 'Gobbs' found the real thing as published by the Agency!

"Next year we may all be on crutches", sang the GOBS. We are sorry that as we write, Margaret Turner is on crutches. We hope that it will not be too long before she is fully recovered from her accident.

Change of Address.

Vera Barr (Wilson) to Gorleston-on-Sea; Madeline Binks to Yugoslavia; Marjorie Raine (Carron) to Durham; Doris Crosby (Matahedin) to Hull; Jean Wilson (Dobson) to Robinson, Cheshire; Dr. Beryl Shaw (Wagner) to Brisbane, Australia; Betty Marshall (Scott) to Earl Shilton (Leicestershire); Freda Smith (Phillips) to Montreal, Canada; Alma Cowland to London; Jean Kent to Horsham.

Homes of Married Bedans (Not previously mentioned).

Joyce Askew (Dewey) Chelmsford; Kathleen Bell (Lambert) Leicester; Margaret Capon (Edwards) South Shields; Agnes McIndoe (King) Brixham; Grace Turner (Hayton) Clendon.

Bedans Abroad.

Muriel Blair (Lovitt) left England, Christmas 1956 for Freetown (Sierra Leone). Madeline Binks (Somerville) has gone to live in Ryka, Yugoslavia for a few years. Beryl Shaw (Wagner) is now living in Australia where she hopes to set up in practice as a doctor with her husband in Brisbane.

Brenda Taylorson (Metcalf) has gone to East Africa. Margery Robson (Hodson) is teaching hard-of-hearing children in Windsor (Canada). One daily newspaper devoted a page of pictures and text to her special class at Windsor School, where she has developed her own technique with these hard-of-hearing children.

Doreen Turnbull the second, (Mrs. Carruthers), gave up her teaching job in Sunderland to start a new life, with her husband, as missionaries in Formosa. They will work there as teachers, not evangelists. Freda Smith, the second, (Phillips), has gone to live in Montreal for two years, and Ruth McBain (Harrison) to Japan.

Agnes McIndoe (King) had been abroad with her husband on his ship for the best part of a year, during which time she celebrated her Silver Wedding. She spent much of this period in Quebec, where 'after all these years I conversed boldly in French'. She returned home in time to become a grandmother and when she wrote was looking forward to her new home in Brixham.

Mary Howitt, now living in Australia, has made a particular study of 'Australia's School of the Air'—the teaching of reading, writing and arithmetic by radio. 'The School of the Air' is one of the several aspects of education in Australia dealt with by Miss Howitt in an article in a recent issue of the Journal of the Institute of Education of Durham University.

Heather Gardiner (Dobson) has returned to Ghana after her recent visit to England. Erid Pritchard (Bergson) is living in Finland. Dorothy Hodworth (Carlin) is in Tanganyika. Grace Caldwell (Allison) is back in Kenya. Shirley Dorkin (Hoodless) was hoping to go to Canada with her husband in October. Marjorie Barr (Anderson) is now living in Zomba, Nyasaland, and was at several functions during the Queen Mothers' visit there. Jean Barr (Fox) lives in Coventry.

Joyce Prince (Ayles) has been much in the news of late. As headmistress of the Church Missionary School, Joy, Northern India, she has been facing the mammoth task of attempting, with her other workers, to repair many kinds of damage caused by the floods of unprecedented strength, which wrecked the school, houses of workers and teachers, and hospital. The main work involved evacuating people, propping up buildings, and salvaging furniture, beams, bricks and tiles. Some of the villages in the district were completely wiped out. "For three nights and days", writes Joyce, "we had 150 people living in the house, because there was nowhere else to go. The heavy rains brought snakes out of their holes to add to the difficulties of keeping order in the chaos, keeping the school running, and organising ways of getting stores from Meerut, with all the roads broken up by floods."

All Old Bedam will be interested to know that collections from Bishopwearmouth Parish Church, from Staff and Girls at Bado, Students of the Sunderland Training College, and from anonymous donors were being sent to help in the work of rebuilding the mission school.

Home From Abroad.

Calla Pipe came home from U.S.A. in July, to be married, and now lives at Beehive Farm, Maddon Lane, Little Bookham, Surrey. Betsey Powley (Soulby) was in Nigeria again this year, but has now returned 'for good'. Jean Bagley thoroughly enjoyed her stay in Australia and her 20,000 mile sea voyage, which took her to Fiji, Honolulu, Vancouver, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Trinidad, and Le Harve. She was teaching physical training at a boarding school near Bathurst, New South Wales. She found games there a little different—their summer game was called 'soft-ball', which was a women's equivalent of baseball, then there was basket-ball, hockey and tennis. Because all recreation can be taken out of doors, there are few facilities for indoor work. Although Jean did not see a fully-grown crocodile, she saw plenty of koala bears, parrots, and snakes.

From Your Letters.

In October, Elsie Kirkwood had staying with her Laura Nelson, (Mrs. Hutchinson), now 77 years old. Although she is crippled with arthritis, she is very bright and cheerful, and still has a great love for her old school. Here is the letter she wrote for publication in 'The Old Bedam':—

I hadn't realised how many recollections I had of my three years spent at the Higher Grade, (as I still instinctively call it), or how the reading about them would so touch me. Sixty-five years is a long time ago to leave an indelible mark, as I now realise had been done—and some quiet thinking has shown me that there's a lot of thanks due for work done on me, which I hadn't before realised. Though I wasn't one of the earliest pupils, yet coming to the school when it was only two years old, places many of its pioneers into my time, and those names of Ida Brewin, and Gretchen Kerner were of people I knew and mixed with. I hadn't realised that "Cloely Kidd" was there, though I was in the same class as her sister Isabel, who now lives fairly near me in Bristol, and from whom I heard only last week. All the other names in that long list are of girls I knew and constantly walked to school with, and it is a real joy to savour them again, and the companionship of these old days re-lived. It makes me regret that I didn't keep in touch with the old school,—but living in the West Country from 1910 and the cutting off of so many old ties by two World Wars, could be responsible for much. From various sources I heard news from time to time, and of the many changes taking place. It is a far cry from then to now as Time marches on—and the pupils of to-day are indeed a fortunate race, under their many activities and sports and occupations. These were unknown in those early days, work being the spartan lot, and once Standard VII was passed, one hadn't even the alleviation of singing lessons, or the occasional 'drill' lessons taken in the playground, and therefore dependent on wind and weather.

Chapter II of 'Portrait of a School' tells so admirably of how things were then, that I feel that I cannot add to it in any way. Here too, I recall as I read of those early achievements, the thrill of pride I felt as I heard at the time, of my one-time friends and school fellows breaking into professions, hitherto little visualised for women. But too there are many names who recur to me—not for their scholarship, but for forming the ordinary background in school—the players of practical jokes, the rebels against authority, and the quiet steady plodders—all of whom build up the warp and woof of the fabric of school-life. I look back into Standard VII room, and see it so plainly, over by the window sits Ethel Reeves, Florence Beckett, Jenny Watson, Alicia Wishart, Elizabeth McMillan and our dear Miss Soulby (who became Mrs. Murphy and a centre of romance, during my day), mentioned and remembered.

How I have enjoyed reading Page 18 of the 'Portrait of a School', I thought that these spine curdling recollections of term-exam results were mine only. It is even now some comfort to know that I do not recollect alone. To my humiliation was added the words "and you, a scholarship girl!" For I too had one of these South Kensington Scholarships, competed for each year. The funds for which were raised by 'concerts' given by scholars from every school in the town, in the Victoria Hall. I wonder who remembers the operetta 'Lost Dimples', the solo part and chief characters being taken by the girls and boys of Higher Grade. We loved our singing lessons, Standards V., VI and VII, combining under Miss Emma Todd's able conductorship. How we practised for Prize Day, held then in school Betty Turner singing 'When Britain really ruled the Wave' (from Iolanthe), we adding the chorus lines, Lindsay Littlehales singing, 'A magnet hung in a hardware shop' from Patience, and Roberts Rutherford singing, 'They intend to send a wire to the moon', clad in cap and gown as a student. How we enjoyed singing, 'I waited for the Lord', 'Ye Spotted Snakes', and 'My true love hath my heart', under 'Miss Emma's' able guidance.

I have always had a love of Shakespeare from these days too. We learnt to study a play intensively. We had 'Henry V', in my Standard VII days, and I link that up with the name of Gabrielle Costigan, who although a class below us, was brought in to give us the correct pronunciation in the scene when Prince Kathryn begs the help of her maid Alice, to teach her a little English. That scene, too, was given at a Prize Day.

It was with regret that I left Miss Reid and Standard VII for the remote fortresses of Ex VII's 'round the corner' of the corridor. Here all mixing with the lower school for certain lessons ceased, and we superior beings mingled only for school opening each morning. At second year in Ex VII, even this ended and (to me) life was then just an endless vista of WORK, most subjects being taken by Miss Emma or Miss Todd, homework added to occupy all one's evenings and weekends—never finished completely, owing to the claims of bed!

We sat many South Kensington Exams in May, early June, (7 to 3-30 p.m. mostly). Then came the subsequent lack of occupation and flop, until breaking-up time in July. I don't know which time was worse! But we shared our classroom with Miss Maria Abraham and her little Standard IV's. She was sweet and often let me help her teach them algebra, for we were bored-stiff with lack of occupation.

I went back once to the re-union party, and enjoyed it very much, even to seeing old 'Bonnie' dressed up for the occasion. I should have liked to go again, but studies again filled my horizon and many things intervened. So to my lasting regret, the opportunity slipped by, and never came again. There was then no Old Girls' Association to keep us in touch and together, and the visit I have recently paid to Sunderland will I'm sure be memorable to me, in the renewed memories and affection too, which your book 'Portrait of a School' has in and for me.

If at any time I can be of some small service to my old school, I will be glad to be called on.

Thank you so much for opening up for me, what has been a real pleasure to re-own from the past."

Kitty Clayburn (Cooper) writes from Egham, London, "Miss Birchall lives at Seven Oaks.... I wonder how many girls passing through Bede, have had their interest in chemistry awakened, as mine undoubtedly was, by her interesting lessons and demonstrations. Who remembers Miss Farquhar—a truly frightening person to the third form, but a most delightful and beloved form mistress of the sixth—Miss Trout and her most unselfish and enthusiastic coaching of the cricket team in my day. She must live forever in the minds of many Old Bedans.... and dear Miss Hutchinson, beloved of us all, but the pride and possession of the hockey team..... I have never visited the new Buildings, but of course 'new' is not the term to apply to them in 1957. How we used to long for them in my day, and yet what fun we had in the old makeshift accommodation when Katie Mullen and I, as joint head girls, prowled the passage and staircase together."

From Marcella Goodall (Gibb) who lives at Wokingham, Berks.: "I continue to keep my two aquaria that I started when I was a second former at Bede. The fancy goldfish in the larger tank are the same fish that I started with,

so they are now at least 86 years old!" Audrey Midwood, a Sister tutor at St. Mary Abbott's Hospital, London, "was amazed at the cheapness of the bus fares in Sunderland, as I toured round the town. Many things are very much the same after these twenty years, and many parts of the town are as nice as anywhere—the parks for instance, are really charming. What could be pleasanter than a walk across Barnes Park, even in the rain?"

Mary Robertson from Liverpool:—"This year I have been working at the old college buildings in town, but we are all in the throes of moving to a new building on the outskirts in lovely grounds. One difficulty is that it isn't a case just of building but also of re-organising the college. I'm thoroughly enjoying trying to do it, and the Authority is most helpful; altogether I have had a wonderfully happy year, for the staff are kind friendly souls."

Doreen Ward (Macrae) from London:—"I did enjoy my week in Sunderland. I thought the Re-union Dinner was a great success; my only complaint was that there wasn't long enough for talking. I missed a lot of people whom I should have liked to see—among them Miss Harris. Another year, (if I ever get up again) I'll suggest that we arrive much earlier and contact more old friends before the dinner."

Doreen has a very flourishing colony of bees at her home. They appear to range wide, and probably, having no traffic problems, arrive home regularly and punctually. She writes:—"We still have our bees, which managed even in last year's dreadful weather, to produce about 1 cwt. of honey."

Elic White the first from Vancouver:—"Many thanks for your acknowledgement of the money order I sent for the Guild—I did like to hear about the old people you helped. Our L.O.D.E. group takes care of five families at Christmas. As there are only twelve of us in our chapter, I think we do fairly well. But we get as much pleasure out of it as they do, and I'm sure you feel the same way."

Lacy Fosgate (Nichol) from the Transvaal:—"I had at last a lovely scoring holiday, pursuing my plan of seeing as much of Africa as possible, travelling south through the native territories of Transkei and Pondoland to Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown the country of the 1820 settlers, and then via the 'Garden Route' of forest and heath and lagoon and over high mountain passes to Capetown. It was the wild flower season at the Cape, with every ditch and vlei filled with acorn lilacs and vast sweeps of golden daisies and flowers, heaths and proteas everywhere. I spent five days seeing everything there and returned via Karoo, flat, hot and dry with practically no vegetation or homes. I spent a couple of days before and after my holiday with Mr. Walker (Earl)."

To conclude the post-bag the 'GOSS' (see account of Dinner Re-union) first fan letter, from Mildred Ross, who wrote after the Dinner in April:—"As I awakened this morning, my mind returned to last night and believe me I giggled all aloud..... then I thought—all those girls—what work and thought went into that 'Intimate Revue'. But what pleasure it gave to 177 O.B.'s. Now I don't know what the other 176 are doing about it, but I write 'THANK YOU ALL.'"

(Incidentally the 'GOSS' were thrilled to have some fan mail).

Editorial.

Our thanks to those who help with typing (this year Olga Wright and Lillie Wood) are by no means a matter of form—they are really heart felt! And to these, we add our annual 'Thank You' to Mr. Milner Taylor, our auditor, and Joyce Parmer, who continues to save money for the Guild by typing the notices when required. Your invaluable letters with their news items are greatly appreciated. If you have not passed on any news for this magazine, please make it one of your New Year's resolutions, and don't wait to do it. What a wonderful example is set by Laura Nelson (Mrs. Hutchinson) who was at the Higher Grade School 1893/45, and at seventy-seven years of age has written a letter for "The Old Bedar".

In case any readers are puzzled by 'the first' of the 'second' appearing after a name, let us explain that there have been two people of the same name at school, hence the need for 'first', or 'second'—(we haven't yet come across a 'third' of anyone).

Our membership is increasing due largely to the indefatigable efforts and reminders of our secretary. Perhaps before the next magazine goes to Press, we may have passed the six hundred mark.

To Margaret Turner, our ex-chairman, we send our best wishes for a complete and speedy recovery from her accident.

W.T.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS ON 31st AUGUST, 1957.

Summary of Balance Sheet for Year—1st September, 1956, to 31st August, 1957.

RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURE	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Subscriptions	43 7 6	Stationery, Printing & 'O22 Bechtel'	26 5 4
Interest	14 18 4	Postage and Telephone	64 15 5
Balance from Meetings	5 4 5	Gifts	5 1 5
		London Branch	0 12 2
		Balance on Year's Working	20 16 1
	<u>663 10 3</u>		<u>663 10 3</u>

TOTAL FUNDS

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance on 31st August, 1956	546 1 4	Made up as follows:—	98 7 2
Balance on Year's Working	20 16 1	3½% War Stock	75 0 0
		3½% Defence Bonds	—
		Balance in Bank:—	303 17 3
		On Deposit Account	0 13 0
		On Current Account	—
	<u>£566 17 5</u>		<u>£566 17 5</u>

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

J. M. TAYLOR.

ELSIE I. KIRKWOOD, Hon. Treasurer.

THE GUILD OF OLD SOLENS.

The Winter Re-union will be held in School on Wednesday January 29th, 1958, from 6.45 p.m. until 10 p.m.

Tickets, priced 3/- each, may be obtained from any member of the committee or from the Secretary before January 25th.

Please Note: At the Business Meeting in September, the following motion was passed --

" the annual subscription to the Guild be raised to 3/6".

To annual subscribers:- your subscription for 1957-58 (3/6d), is now due.

Preliminary notice. The dinner Re-union will be held on Friday, April 18th. Details will be sent later.

"Michaelford",
SOUTH SOLENS
CO. DURHAM.
Tel: SOLENS 7224

Elsie I. Kirkwood,
(Hon. secretary).
December 1957.

