

# THE OLD BEDAN

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1959

# The Guild of Old Bedans

President	...	...	...	...	...	Miss E. J. Bradbury.
Vice-Presidents	...	...	...	...	...	Miss W. J. E. Moul, Miss E. R. Shearer.

## Office Bearers and Committee for 1959-60.

Chairman	...	...	...	...	Mrs. Soulbey (Betsy Powley), 11 Ridgeway Crescent.
Vice-Chairman	...	...	...	...	Mrs. Ritch (Kathleen Carr), 10 Seaforth Road.
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:

Miss M. Bernard, Bede Grammar School for Girls; Mrs. Biddlestone (Lorna Carter), 37 Grange Park Avenue; Mrs. Davison (Lucinda Mills), 17 Lingdale Avenue, Whitburn; Mrs. Henderson (Elizabeth Henderson), 70 Ormsode Street; Mrs. Hodgson (Joyce Gallow), 12 Birchfield Road; Mrs. Hunter (Glena Wright), 34 Ashwood Terrace; Mrs. Stoddart (Dorren Dent), 11 Dartford Road; Irene Wilkinson, 5 Braeside.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER AND EDITOR OF THE "OLD BEDAN":  
Mrs. Thomas (Winifred Scott), 11 Grange View. Tel. 57985.

## INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

Annual subscription: 3/6d. for 1959-60 due on September 1st 1959. Life subscription, £3 3s. 6d.

MEMBERSHIP: On August 31st, 1959, the membership was 585, including 254 Life Members.

The Winter Re-union will be held in School on Friday, 5th February, 1960, and a Dinner in Binn's Restaurant on Friday, 29th April, 1960.

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 if 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 for easier identification, maiden names are used. The married name is usually given in brackets.

## GUILD ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS

**Winter Re-union.** As we have never yet succeeded in getting together all the Old Bedans attending the winter reunion at the appointed time, our 1939 meeting had its usual guessing game as "opener" while people assembled, chatted and generally "got together". Margaret Turner gave us the names of Sunderland streets and roads to puzzle us this year; some of those that beat the Bedans were *Valgar Tiar* (Low Row), *Ove Horse Carriage* (Brougham Street), *Pile of Stones* (Carns Road) etc. However by 7.30 p.m., Old Bedans were assembled and, in addition, two charming "young" Bedans—Ursula Field the school captain, and Jane Liddle, vice-captain, who seemed to enjoy being with us. We had only time for a jig-saw scramble, and bobber and balloon race before it was time for supper served on individual plates—meat pie (à la Betty), a sandwich, cake and chocolate biscuit—all greatly enjoyed. A somewhat miscible effort followed supper. Whose were the faces leering through nylon stockings over a sheet? There was much wild guessing and laughter before the owners of the faces removed the nylons and appeared, somewhat dishevelled, in front of the sheet. By this time Audrey Jordan was ready to entertain with her ventriloquist dolls. She followed this with a "Have-a-Go" session. Miss Moul was the first victim and posed more than a match for the Questionmaster. To Audrey's question "What do you dislike most about the opposite sex?" there came without hesitation the reply "Their disinclination to marry me!" After an interval for hilarious laughter Audrey continued "Who do you admire most?" Miss Moul's reply was "Gandhi" "Why?". "Because he was so thin!" was Miss Moul's speedy retort. A second victim was Mary Mackintosh and great amusement followed when Audrey played back the "Have-a-Go" session on her tape-recorder. We then discovered it was well after 10 p.m. and after Auld Lang Syne, took hasty farewells of our friends till the next re-union.

**The Dinner.** 205 Old Bedans came to the Seaburn Hotel for the annual Dinner on Friday, April 16th. They had come from Sunderland and District, Durham City, Newcastle and Gosforth, Cullercoats, Gateshead, South Shields, West Hartlepool, Brumpton, Shipley, Chitwell, Glasgow and London while Isabel Rolfe (Featonby) had newly arrived from the Persian Gulf on her way to the U.S.A. Old Bedans were able to welcome these members of Staff: Miss Moul, Miss Harding, Miss Bernard and three who are also Old Bedans—Benny Coates (Wilkinson), Audrey Hayton and Elna Bell (the first). We were pleased to have with us two Old Bedans whom we also knew officially: Nellie Blacklock (Alderman Mrs. Hedley) who was formerly the Chairman of the School's Governors, and Cathie Mailes (Mrs. Elnas) who was the first Chairman of the Guild and who also represented the School for some years on the Board of Governors. Old Bedans ranging over a wide number of years were eventually seated at their chosen tables for dinner. After the meal, Joyce Gallon, our Chairman, welcomed all Old Bedans, and spoke briefly of the pleasant though sad duty she had to perform—that of preserving to Miss Moul gifts from the Guild to mark her forthcoming retirement. Joyce then handed over a gold big brooch set with a large opal and four diamonds, a black leather handbag, an autograph book containing the signatures of those present and of those who had subscribed to the gifts, and a bouquet. Miss Moul seemed very moved at these presentations. She made a short speech of thanks, then briefly told of some of her "Bede" memories through the years.

At the conclusion of her speech Miss Moul asked the Chairman, on behalf of the Guild, to accept a handsome silver inkstand to be used at future meetings. Cathie Mailes, the guest speaker, recalled some of the earlier days and activities of the Guild of Old Bedans. Next came the entertainment to which everyone looks forward with joyful anticipation and, as usual, we were not disappointed. After much racking of brains to find new material to present for our delectation, the G.O.B.S. had decided to give us a "peep behind the scenes" and show us exactly what took place at rehearsals.

First we saw the various members arriving at Mary's house bearing estates with which to keep up their strength during the strenuous business of thinking out a programme. Various suggestions were made and tried out—a song from Mary, "It happened on a February evening" describing the struggles for inspiration; a clever poem from Kathleen "Do you remember a 'do' Old Bedans?" (with apologies to Hilaire Belloc) recalling post G.O.B. successes and deploring the present lack of ideas; and a pianoforte solo from "Winnie to use up a little more of the entertainment time".

Then Joyce drew attention to a newspaper cutting of an interview with Miss Moul on the subject of her retirement, in which she declared, that far from settling down to a life of ease, she would welcome a job, preferably involving adventure and travel, and in those recessionary times why not a trip to the moon? After all, life begins at sixty!

This seemed a gift from the gods, and as a tribute to Miss Moul, who would be present at the dinner for the last time as our President, "Our Fair Lady" (with adaptations by Kathleen, aided and abetted by Winnie and Mary) was produced.

"Our Fair Lady" feeling somewhat at a loss after her retirement was discovered disclaiming "All I want is a job somewhere, far away from Sanderland air; a touch of danger there—wouldn't it be liverly?"....."Someone surely has need of me, with my wit and my repairs—create a Ministry, oh wouldn't that be liverly?"; and so she departed following a signpost pointing to THE FUTURE.

We were next introduced to the office of the Ministry where the Minister of Space Relations was clamouring for "someone with vim and vigour—a female fine of form and figure" whom he was sure he would find "with a little bit of back" and, sure enough, his faith was justified, when his efficient and glamorous secretary suggested a likely candidate for the position. "She was my former Head at Bede; I'm sure she's just the one you need" she intoned earnestly, to the tune of "I've grown accustomed to her face," and forthwith ushered in "Miss Winifred J. E. Moul".

"A base in space is what we have to face" the Minister informed her, and after due consideration decided that the lady was just the right person for the job, so she was put into the capable hands of the "Little Starlets" (attired in very fetching headresses devised by Jennie Hey) who affirmed that they would "get her to the moon on time" and as she went off "by space ship in the morning" sure enough, to everyone's satisfaction, she arrived safely, announcing after a careful look round—

"I have never walked in this place before  
But I've never had a journey into space before,  
I do hope that soon I'll meet Mr. Moon  
Now that I'm in the place where he lives."

Her wish was soon granted when she was confronted by a broadly beaming Mr. Moon (Margaret Turner) obviously delighted to see his visitor. As he enumerated the amenities of his domain:—

"There are birds and bees in this lunar sphere  
There are wolfans to help motherhood flourish here",

she quickly decided that she "liked this place and I'll stay just as long as I live". Delightedly Mr. Moon took her in a warm embrace inviting her to "dance all night" as, he earnestly asserted "Your merry jokes and quips will cause complete eclipse, I could not pass you by". At this point they are joined by the chorus of Little Starlets declaiming:—

"When the moon shines down at night  
Perhaps Miss Moul is its guiding light.  
She'll keep our future bright—  
Oh, wouldn't that be liverly?"

**Summer Outing.** The weather on the evening of June 19th was certainly an improvement on that of the previous year. It was an innovation to be photographed as you arrived at the bus station—indeed, Betsy Powley's cine-camera was busy for much of the evening to add to the fun. Our route lay by Lanchester to Corbridge and the two bus-loads of Bedams stopped by the roadside for supper. Once again, sandwiches had been made by the committee, "Powley's Pie" was as delicious as ever, and chocolate or cheese biscuits rounded off the alfresco meal. The candid camera whirred busily while people were eating, chatting, walking, or bending over trays (!) etc., and even followed us into the buses. We had a short stay in Corbridge before starting on the homeward journey. Another happy Old Bedam evening.

**Loan and Scholarship Fund.** The O.B. Loan and Scholarship Fund Committee held its annual meeting in July. During the course of the session 1958-59 £49 has been repaid by old girls. There were only two applications for loans, each of £20. One girl wanted help to pay for a Commercial Training and another to buy clothes and equipment before going to college. Both requests were granted.

K. M. CARRICK,

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer,  
Bede Grammar School for Girls.

**Social Service.** The Committee has worked steadily and willingly and thanks to the generous support of many Old Bedams, we can say we have had a successful year.

Money dealt with from September 1958, to August 1959, came mostly from donations, including £5 granted by the Guild, from an interesting Cookery Demonstration and Bury Sale at the Gas Office and from special efforts by individual members, such as the sale of home-made cakes, jam, chutney, meat-paste, sweets etc., canasta parties and coffee mornings.

We have spent the funds raised thus: £26 5s. 0d. on 21 Christmas parcels, £2 on flowers and two gifts for proteges in hospital at Christmas, £22 on Easter parcels, £13 10s. 0d. on 18 gifts in August for fuel, and £8 for little luxuries for "Wayside", through two Old Bedams who visit there regularly.

We also distributed to our old people groceries, fruit and vegetables kindly given to us from their Harvest Festivals by Barnes Junior School and Grange Congregational Church, and an appeal to our members produced over 30 records to help to build up the Gramophone Library of Cherry Knowle Hospital.

Our librarians carry on steadily their weekly work at Ryhope General Hospital and would welcome a few more helpers.

At the Guild of Help Autumn Market in October, 1958, the Guild of Old Bedams' stall made £35 0s. 8d. This year's stall has done well too, and we are now working for our Christmas parcels fund.

One of our old ladies, thanking the Old Bedams, ends her letter with "God bless you all always. So now, cheerio, Old Girls and best wishes from a 91-year-old young girl". Can you resist that, those of you who have not so far felt able to help your Guild's Social Service? An extra sapphire or so sent along with your Guild subscription would be put to good and rewarding use.

In the loyal Committee (maiden names only), Elsie Wilson superintends the distribution of parcels, Margaret Chapman the library work and Betsy Powley the Guild of Help stall. Rose Halfday acts as Secretary and the treasurer and convener is still

D. S. ARKLE,

40 Ashwood Terrace.

**The Hockey Club.** The Season 1958-59 was a successful one for the Hockey Club. 26 games were arranged, 7 were cancelled—due to bad weather, and of the 19 games played, 11 were won, 5 drawn and 3 games were lost. It was only on 4 occasions that we were unable to raise a full team—(this is an improvement on last year).

Once again we took part in 2 Tournaments and were responsible for arranging the September one at Thornay Close. Here we managed to win our section and were beaten in the semi-final by the Training College who went on to win the final. In the March Tournament at West Hartlepool we came second in our section having lost only one match.

Unfortunately in the middle of the season we lost 2 of our most experienced players. Vera Dent moved to Peterborough and Jean Pillans had a baby in March of this year. However Jean's husband has proved himself to be a competent nursemaid and we are pleased to have Jean playing for us once again.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Durham County Women's Hockey Association, Old Bedans' offered to have a Jumble Sale for the benefit of County Funds. This we hope to have in March, so if anyone has some Jumble any member of the hockey team would be pleased to collect it.

On behalf of the Hockey Club I would like to thank the Guild of Old Bedans for their continued interest and support.

VALERIE NORTHORPE (Hon. Sec.),  
44 Primrose Cres., Fulwell, Sunderland.

**London Guild of Old Bedans.** The faithful few turned up as usual for the Summer Re-union in May, held at Mrs. Isobel Ward's home at Ealing Common.

We were all delighted to see Miss Ewart again, as she had been unable to attend the last few meetings. She travelled up from Reading with Edith Broderick and looked as young as ever.

As usual, we did nothing but eat, drink, smoke and talk! The following members were present: Miss Ewart, Joyce Habron (Ayles), Edith Broderick (Barga), Nancy Lawther (Hubicka), Jessie Ridley (Pickard), Mary Thurlbeck (Poco), Phyllis Tennant (Beck), Cella Pipe (Sheppard), Mrs. Ward and Doreen Ward (McCrae). Eleanor Wilson (Tiberadge) was unfortunately prevented from coming, as her little girl was unwell.

Cella's baby (aged 10 months) astonished us all by walking around like a two-year-old!

Our Winter Re-union failed to take place owing to the illness of our Secretary (Phyllis Tennant). Unfortunately, we all waited to be notified until it was too late to fix up anything ourselves. We all hope she will soon be completely recovered.

May I appeal for a better response to her communications? (only twice a year). Any newcomers to London (or any backsliders!) please get in touch.

DOREEN WARD (McCrae),  
39 Birch Grove, London W.1.

## SUMMARY OF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

29th September, 1958.

54 members present.

Miss E. J. Bradbury, B.A., welcomed by the Chairman and invited to become President of the Guild.

Reply by Miss Bradbury.

Motion carried unanimously—"Miss Moul invited to become Vice-President".

Motion carried unanimously—"The Editor of the magazine be an *on-officio* member of the Committee".

Minutes of the last Business Meeting.

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

Election of Office Bearers and Committee for 1959-60.

Retiring Chairman's Remarks.

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

Allocation from Funds—One guinea for School Prize and one guinea for "Bedan" competition.

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

### SCHOOL NOTES

STAFF CHANGES FROM JANUARY, 1959:—

Goodbye to: Miss Barnes, Miss Bratt, Miss Waggott, Miss Bell, Mrs. Lewis, Miss Rutter, Miss Bullock, Mr. Hyman.

Welcome to: Mrs. Young, Miss Milbanke, Miss Brown, Miss Short, Mrs. Smith, Miss Dove, Miss Richardson, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Henderson.

Chairman of P.T.A.: Mrs. Proud.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Nelson.

School Captain: Patricia Dorward.

Vice-Captain: Patricia Hoey.

G.O.B. PRIZES:—BEDAN ESSAY: Judith Ann Harrison and Kathleen Cooper.

LILY A. HUTCHINSON MEMORIAL PRIZES:—

English: Jane Miller. French: Ursula Field.

SPORTS CHAMPIONS: Junior: Carol Kemp.

Middle: Marjorie Makel.

Senior: Joan Watson ; Tied.

Joan Wallis ;

### FROM NOVEMBER, 1958 to NOVEMBER, 1959.

These have become Life Members:—Miss E. J. Bradbury, President of the Guild Margaret Hogg (Berry), Joan Jobling (Kirkton), Eva Metcalf (Wilkinson), Audrey Myers (Mead), Isabel Rolfe (Featonby), Mildred Ross, Maureen Savage, Edith Trembath (Richardson), Jennie Vincent (Ord), Margery Wade (Smith).

These have become Members:—Joyce Bathgate (Ramsbury), Joyce Brown, Margaret Caws, May Emberton (Hyam), Brenda Emmerson, Sheila Gallon, Kathleen Goldsbrough (Horsby), Kathleen Hall, Winifred Hall (Bacon), Pat Morgan (Smith), Ruth Richardson, Connie Robson (Lidale), Margaret Short, Patricia Stedley, Lena Underwood (Collinson), Sylvia Thatcher, Audrey Veitch, Pauline Veitch (Crozier), Dorcen Walker (Lomas), Kathleen Walton (Wood), Elsie White (Bailey).

**Married are:**—Dorcas Applegarth, Dorothy Aris, Norma Bellerby, Audrey Cairns, Judith Culyer, Marian Corkhill, Ruth Donkin, Margaret Estell, Grace Erskistle, Anne Heald, Margaret Kersey, Eleanor Lennon, Evelyn Leonard, Thora Meakin, Joyce Nixon, Freda Potts, Marie Scott, Mona Spoons.

**Babies to:**—Mariel Anderson, Erid Baker, Muriel Blair, Shirley Bonnell, Margaret Boucherby, Jean Brewin, Elsie Cairns, Pauline Crofts, Marjorie Currier, Joyce Curtis, Freda Dalton, Dorothy Dell, Sheila Fenwick, Dorothy Fox, Freda Humphrey, Lillas Hansam, Brenda Johnston, Marjorie Johnston, Pat Kendall, Muriel Lowrey, Dorothy Lucas, Marjorie McCluskey, Jean Mitchell, Jean Richardson, Ruth Robinson, Lilian Robertson, Isobel Rolfe, Betty Scott, Rita Sherriff, Shona Spencer, Betty Sweeting, Doreen Turnbull (the second), Margaret Turnbull, Doreen Walker, Sheila Wilson, Elsie White, Dorothy Young.

**In Memoriam:**—Mrs. J. S. Nicholson, Jennie Davis, Mary Earnshaw, Mildred Francis, Mary Garnett, Margaret Gibbon (Mrs. Dyer), Sylvia Hardy, Gretchen Korner (Mrs. Steppat), Sadie Shacklock (Mrs. Fox), Ellen Frances Smith (staff), Jane Chapman Taylor, Marguerite Taylor (Mrs. Galton).

When Mrs. J. S. Nicholson died in August at the age of 90, the local press told of her public life and service in the town; how we want to put on record her great interest in, and many kindnesses to, Beke Girls' School when she was one of our Governors. She knew us well, attended many of our functions, enjoying especially our Sports and Games. We remember how she and Alderman Nicholson presented our School Netball Shield and how we always felt pleased and honoured that she liked to come and see it won. She was interested too, long after we lost our Governors, in the doings and magazines of Old Bedans. We remember her as one of School's good friends.

We learn, with regret, from Miss Birchall of the death last autumn of Gretchen Korner (Mrs. Steppat) one of the school's most outstanding pupils. She had a distinguished career, details of which may be found in *Portrait of a School*. About 1906, she founded and named *The Beke Circle*, and she was the guest of honour at our first Old Bedan Dinner. Her *Beke Circle* merged in 1909 into the *Old Bedans Girls' Association*, which was reborn in 1928 as *The Guild of Old Bedans*.

#### Notes on Former Members of Staff.

Miss Moul has now become one of the Old Staff, and, since the Business Meeting in September, a Vice-President of the Guild. News of the presentation made to her on her retirement appears elsewhere in the magazine.

Our chief news of Old Mistresses is that Miss Arkle and Miss Shearer had a maiden short visit from Miss Logic, who was spending a night in Sunderland on her way, in her first holiday in nine years, to visit Ruth Richardson at Cromer and then other friends farther South. She saw Connie and Winifred Wardman and Mollie Sherman (Wilcox) in Sunderland too. She asked after all the members of Staff she had known and lots of old girls by name. Fortunately, we were able to answer her enquiries fairly well. As we reminisced, she recalled the first German exercise she had had from Lucy Pogada, (does Lucy remember it?) She was interested to know we had seen Lucy so recently.

Miss Ewart went with Edith Broderick (Burge) to the London Old Bedans' Meeting and enjoyed it. On a visit to Gosforth in September, she came through to visit Miss Arkle and Miss Shearer, and heard with appreciative interest the news of Miss Logic. We hoped she might come to the Business Meeting but she had returned to Reading by then. Miss Harris has been out of Sunderland for most of the summer. She visited Miss Birchall again in Sevenoaks, and we hear of Miss Birchall's visiting Northallerton in August. In Sevenoaks too, Miss Harris met Joyce Hebron (Ayles).



Miss Seddon has retired from her post at Shemstone Training College, is living in London and hopes to meet the London Old Bedlars. Miss Lamb has retired too, we think, to judge by a circular letter she sent about last Christmas from South Africa where she was on tour. She said she would probably be settling down in Yorkshire once she returned to England. Miss Martin and Miss E. V. Clark have visited Sunderland this summer and each saw a number of old friends there.

Those old Mistresses who live in Sunderland go on their way with the usual ups and downs. At the Dinner in April, Old Bedlars met Misses Lloyd, Arkle, Shearer, Stirk, Peters and Mrs. Beasley (Gladys Littlehales).

News—gratefully received by the Editor from Miss Shearer.

It is wonderful what news one collects for our Editor if one bothers to remember. Here, omitting the names of those Old Bedlars that I see frequently, I offer my list of 'meetings'. In the past few months, in the streets, shops, and lifts in the town, I have met Narah Hunter, busy in her newfound leisure,—she had had Frances Rodda from Southampton staying with her;—Mary Waggott, who had just finished building a greenhouse for herself. I was reminded that I once helped to erect a garage. My part was chiefly to prop up parts of the roof with a pole held in one hand, while with the other I clutched the 'book of words' from which I read out the instructions. But I understood Mary's sense of achievement. I met Peggy Stothard and, the next day, Phyllis Hockah (Gosig) both of whom attended a Needlework course at Hesham; Doris Wilson (Wright) from Brough, Eunice Bruce (Wood) two of whose children are now at Bede School; I had not seen her since her Bede daughter was being taken outings in a pram; Joyce Halden (Harrison) 'on her way home from a sewing lesson'. She now lives next door to Iris Harvey (Bennett) and has visited Jean Johnston in Harrogate, and Dorothy Betcherby (Aris) who in turn has been visited by Annie Beckwith (New) from Bournemouth and seen her and also Audrey Syrett in London.

In Newcastle, I met Mabel Potts (Proctor) at a bus stop, later at lunch I found Audrey Kidd at the same table, and after lunch met Kathleen Goldborough (Harrish) in Bainbridge's. Of course Mabel lives in Newcastle and Audrey works there, but it was interesting to me to come on them by chance. Kathleen was one of our 'little girls' and spent ten years at Bede School. She now lives in Low Fell and often meets Dorothy Hugal (Dodd).

I came on two whom I had not seen since they left school—Doris Watson (Brown) at Seaburn, with three little daughters, and Dorothy Short (Lee) of "years and years ago" from Edinburgh. I was lucky enough to meet a few others besides Dorothy, who were back in Sunderland for short periods for family reasons or on holiday: Joyce Farwick (Hall) with two little sons, and going shortly to live in St. Anne's-on-sea; Alice Hudson, "just arrived off the London bus" for a day or two of Seaburn air; she does part-time teaching at Mill Hill Grammar School; Muriel Scott, the second, (Maxwell) from West Kirby; Pat Morgan (Smith) from Winchester; she is probably a member of the Guild by now; Betty Gillis (Yoffey) from Bristol, in the act of helping her mother to remove; Ella Selley (Edwards), North from Barnsard to let her sisters have a holiday; Mollie Garbutt (Johnson) from Bristol where she is spending her leave from Chitragong to which she returns in February; and at the Guild of Help Market I found Ellen Whiting (Davison) home from Rhodesia.

In short journeys in our local bus, we had hasty conversations with Margaret Holmes (Parnaby) and Jean Smith (Turner). Margaret was quite sure "we wouldn't remember" her; we did, of course. Joan lives in Welwyn and her sister Edna (Pherson) in Toronto. As we saw a friend off on the early London train, we found Joan Bellett about to travel on it; she teaches English at Chester-le-Street. Waiting to cross a street, I thought I recognised the driver of a passing

car, stalked it to the parking place and found myself face to face with Dorothy Gibson (Richardson), just returned from Singapore. We have had some visits too: Dorcen Ward (Macrae) from London with her bossess Margery Wade (Smith) the morning after the Dinner; Minnie McMillan brought her guest Nancy Welch from Hasinstoke; Thelma Henderson (Williams) had come over from Dufton, to see them and Nancy had called on Dora Beer. A neighbour called to say "I've brought somebody you used to know." "Somebody" proved to be Olive Robson, the second, (Marsden) from Bedford. It was even more "years and years ago" since we had seen Olive! Amy Hussey (Denyer) from York spent the night with us; she went on next day to a conference in Newcastle, where the first person she met was Lillian Thompson the first (Moore). There have been visitors from abroad too: Jennie Vincent (Ord) (Ord) from Beaurepaire, Quebec, called but found us away; we were sorry. She saw among others Miss Lloyd, Winnie Gibson (Milburn) and Madge Robertson. A great surprise was a visit one morning from Mollie Weberling (Corti) from Edmonton, Canada, with her daughter who is married and lives in France. They had just visited "the new Bede School". Mollie now does some teaching in her home area. Rosalie Walker (Bunker) from Las Vegas, helped by her sister Marjorie (Cuthbertson) brought her two youngest children to see us on day. Two days after, we noticed that her little boy had won a prize in a toddlers competition! When they go home, they are moving seventy-five miles away to Bunkerville, a community set up by one of Rosalie's husband's forebears.

That then is my contribution to personal news. If my note has bored you, I'll not offend again. If you have been interested, perhaps you will collect and send in your news. Thank You!

E.R.S.

#### BEDANS AT WORK

Rosemary Richardson now has a post as head of the English Department at a new school in Liverpool. Dorothy Dodd was teaching English to Adults in Jontöping, the big Swedish match town, until June, 1959. She has stayed on in Sweden as she was offered an administrative post there. Marguerite Roberts (Darnton) is living in Swenden and teaching needlework and biology in a large multi-lateral school there. She was invited by a social welfare organisation to lecture in India last summer. Phyllis Holpern (Dimson) is headmistress of a Jewish school in London. Dorothy Metcalf (Hirst) is a part-time teacher at the Barbara Priestman Special School, where Edith Wood (Kerr) is on the staff. After a term, in a temporary capacity, of teaching deaf children Edith became so interested in the work that she studied for, and gained, the Diploma of the National College of Teachers of the Deaf in 1958. Since then she has attended the International Congress on the Education of the Deaf in Manchester and is helping to organise a local branch of the Deaf Children's Society in Sunderland. Margery Humphrey is teaching French (part-time) in a school in Croham Hurst where Dorothy Dodd previously had a post. Jean Boller is teaching English at Chester-le-Street and Ruth Donkin (Bainbridge) history at West Park, Sunderland. Dorothy Boucherby (Aris) teaches invalid children in their homes. One of her best pupils is the daughter of Gladys Richie. Winifred Talbot has gone to be a lecturer at Avery Hill College and Ena Bell (the first) has now a post in Weyward Training College. Hilda Weatherall became headmistress at Swainby, Yorks at Easter, 1959. Audrey Almond is now teaching at the B.F.E.S. School in Germany. Maureen Gordon (domestic science), Pat Henderson and Sylvia Thatcher are teaching in Sunderland, while Margaret Short and Joyce Brown are on Bede School Staff. Rosemary Hepple is now registered as a Chartered Librarian and is head of the Southwick Branch of the Public Library, while Mona Spoons (Riddell) works at the West Branch under Kathleen Mair. Pat Stephenson, Dorothy Campbell, Jean Davison and Jane Edwards work in Sunderland Banks. Pamela Leigh is in a bank in

Hetton. Ann Stubbs is secretary to a professor at King's College, Newcastle. Sheila Boon has a post in Sunderland Conservative Offices. Of her elder sisters, Kitty (Ward) has her home in London while May (Fine) and Joyce (Gordon) live in Sunderland. Anne Wilmet and Joan Olley are both with the B.B.C. in Newcastle. Frances Welburn is a domestic supervisor in a Wolverhampton hospital. Marie Brown is a State Registered Nurse. Avril Douglas is nursing at the Royal Infirmary. Lillian Alexander is consultant anaesthetist at Middlesex hospital. May Metcalfe (Knight), now living in Tolworth, Surrey, is assistant to a statistician at the Milk Market Board. She helps to compile figures from surveys on every aspect of milk production from the breeding worth of bulls to butter fat content in milk.

Irene Ross is Deputy Warden in an Approved Probation Hostel for Girls 17 to 21 years of age.

Retired from teaching are Elizabeth Knott from Plains Farm Juniors; Kathleen Flinoff from Hudson Road Juniors, Flora McDonald from West Southwick Infants, Marjorie Hall from Houghton Grammar School; Elsie Glassfield from High Southwick; Laura Thatcher (Richardson) from her school at Canon. Laura may return to teaching later after a rest. "Auntie" Waggott has retired from her post as Senior English Mistress at Bede. She has gone to live in Winchester.

#### Social Work:

Christine Morgan has been organising, in the Sunderland area, the collecting of signatures for a petition to be presented to the Bonn Government seeking help and compensation for eleven hundred people, sick in mind and body, as a result of experiences in concentration camps who are still living in dreary barracks and camps in Germany. Christine is also Divisional Commissioner for Girl Guides for Seaham.

Valerie Williamson was a member of a group of students and teachers belonging to the Tyneside Group of Youth Associates of the Iron Community who spent a "work camp" holiday in Sunderland. They spent each day cleaning and decorating the homes of Sunderland people who are too old to do the work themselves. Their jobs included painting, distampering and wall-papering.

**Honoured.** The first person to wear the newly-presented President's badge of the Durham County Women's Bowling Association is Evelyn Blacklock who has also been elected one of Sunderland's representatives on the Northern Federation of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing. Recently she had the honour of launching a ship for the River Wear Commissioners. Another Old Bedan to have this privilege was Sarah Teal who works as a compressor operator at a Southwick yard. She was the lucky person whose name was drawn to launch the 11,500 ton vessel Baron Portland. Although there was no official ceremony it was a thrill for Sarah to see "her" vessel slide down the slipway into the river. Nellie Blacklock (Hedley) has been elected alderman of the Sunderland Town Council. Elsie Davidson is the first President of the newly-formed Gardening Society of the Sunderland Division of the Northern Gas Board. Marjorie Short spends much of her leisure time doing Church embroidery. Some of her needlework was recently on display at an exhibition in Newcastle organised by the Civil Service. Audrey Jordan was chosen to appear before fellow magicians at the Northern Magic Circle's third annual Easter Parade in Newcastle.

The speaker at Bede School Speech Day in November was Edith Alexander who is principal of Darford Physical Training College. Dorothy Goodair is President of the Sunderland Association of the National Union of Teachers.

## Sport.

**Golf.** At the County Autumn Meeting prizes in both divisions went to Old Bedans. In the Silver Division the Miller Potts Cup was won by Kathleen Carr (Ritch). In the Bronze Division the Westall Salver was won by Hilda Edwards (Shaw) who also won the Hunter Cup at Wearside Golf Club, where the Morton Cup was won by Kathleen Carr. At Boldon Golf Club the beginners' cup was won by Anne Pace.

**Hockey.** On the County second eleven are:—Jean Brewis (Pillars), Eleanor Lenson (Donskin) and Valerie Northcote.

Jean Jobling (Kirkton) was recently awarded a cup for deportment and good posture by the League of Health and Beauty at a recent rally at Newcastle.

## Meetings.

One of the happiest Old Bedan gatherings is the Guild Hockey Club's Annual General Meeting, held, by what is now tradition, at the home of their captain Jean Brewis (Pillars). The players confess to eating enormously of Jean's generous catering and to having to be "pushed out to get the last bus". This year they were delighted to make the acquaintance of Jean's five and a half month old John, who, intrigued by this invasion of his home, flatly refused to consider sleep and set himself to providing a background of happy contented noises to the general chatter. Jean has done some club hockey coaching this year, in addition to playing again.

Annie Wandropper was guest of honour at the seventy fifth anniversary and reunion of ex-teachers and pupils of Valley Road School in November, 1959. Edith Schofield, as present head-mistress rang the bell before supper in the school canteen. Other Old Bedans present were Clara Rackley, Lesley Service (Moor) Mary Bily, Esther MacLachlan (Wallacet), Helen Reed (Perry), who lives in Sanderstead, Surrey, was able to visit Dorothy Metcalfe, Ermie Anderson and Jenny Shadforth, while spending two days in Sunderland on her way up to Scotland. Jeanne Arnot (Lancaster) has visited Lydia Newby (Chappell) mother of Eva Chappell (Warrener) and has enquired after Laura Nelson (Hutchinson). Laura has been visited by her niece Elsie Peagoe who went to Bode in 1909 but eighteen months later emigrated to Canada with her parents. This was Elsie's first visit to England since 1910. She remembers Miss Coburn, Miss Dwyer, Miss Wilson, and Miss Birchall who was her form mistress. Elsie now lives at Longbeach, California.

Mollie Garbutt has seen quite a lot of Cathie Robson ( ) while she has been living in Bristol. May Metcalfe (Knight) living in Surrey, has seen Eleanor Potts and Doris Croftie and has "caught up on news".

A great deal of Old Bedan news was exchanged last summer when Winnie Scott (Thornus) met Ruth Marley (Green) at Crieff. Mabel Davison (Laws) also staying there joined the discussion. Mabel now lives in Welwyn Garden City; Ruth's home is in Cheshire.

Past and present members of Bede staff and Old Bedan parents of young Bedans had a pleasant reunion on the occasion of Senior Speech Day on November 12th. They formed part of an interested audience when Edith Alexander spoke to present day Bedans of some of her experiences as Principal of Darford College of Physical Education. How nice it was that Mary Mackintosh was in the audience and was able to hear herself named, with Lena Thompson and Doris Septon as one of the pioneers of Keep Fit in the North East.

### Homes of Old Bodans (including some changes of address):—

Greta Gibson (Thomas) lives in Stafford since her return from Vancouver. Fiona Elvin (Mason) living in Leeds and has been studying for a degree in Russian. Jean Peich (Arman) now lives in Ryton; Vera Jenkins (Dent) at Corby, Northants; Winnie Halfday (Wilson) in Whitburn; Joyce Harding (Newell) Leicester; Catherine Mullen (Elmes), Leyburn; Margaret Parrish (Mackie)Seaham; Betty Ross(Brown), Claygate, Surrey; Kathleen Marley(Forbes) Abereorn, Newport Monmouthshire; Ethel Davidson (Hall), Thundersley, Essex; Mary Davidson (Stewart), Glasgow; Lena Lee (Bridges), Almondsbury, Bristol; Hilda Hall (Ylbers) New Maiden; Helen Scott (Leicester); Connie Robson (Udale), Dorchester; Isabel Archbold (Craston), Abingdon, Berks.; Doris Crosby (Mattahedis), Prudhoe; Eileen Easby (Wood), Manchester; Evelyn Johnson (Ellis), Wakefield; Phyllis Johnson (Mitchell), Bournemouth; Nora Pallister (Evans), Workington; Evelyn Blackett (Brown), Therpe,Thesles; Lillian Thompson (Marley), Newton Mearns; Joyce Ferrwick (Hall), St. Anne-on-Sea.

### Bodans Abroad.

Vera McBain (Whitehouse) has joined her husband in Iran for two years. Jean Mitchell (Perrotte) is living in Rhodesia. Jean Sangster, after four years teaching at the Persian Gulf is spending the next two years in Sarabaya on the island of Java, teaching Dutch, British and Americans aged five to twelve years—the children of oil-field personnel. Jean went to Holland preparatory to leaving for Sarabaya in order to attend lectures on Indonesia's economy, religion and social customs. Edna Straghan (Ponnet) is teaching in a school near her home in France.

Freda Potts (Taylor) came home in November, 1958, from Ribe (Kenya) where she had been headmistress of a school of 100 African girls aged 12-16. The school had only been in existence for eight years. Some girls train to be nurses, others go to training colleges to become teachers. After her marriage Freda planned to make her home in Southern Rhodesia.

Elizabeth Knott has gone for six months to Australia. Grace Clarke (Benton) is teaching and living in Massachusetts, U.S.A.

### Home from Abroad.

Dorothy Gibson (Richardson) and her husband are home from Singapore for good. They have settled at Westbury, Gloucestershire. During a short stay in Sunderland, Dorothy was able to pay a surprise visit to a meeting of the Guild Social Service Committee of which she was a keen member before she went to Singapore. Mollie Weberling (Conn) and Jennie Vincent (Ood) have been home from Canada, Ellen Whiting home from Rhodesia, and Doris McLeod from Bahrain. Joyce Logan (Blades) is back in Lincoln after spending some months travelling in Belgium, Holland, Germany and Denmark. Freda Smith, the second (Phillips) was in Sunderland in August on a visit, but has now returned to her husband and son in St. Rose, Canada, after selling her house here as "we've decided we like Canada". Muriel Blair (Levitt) has been home on annual leave from Freetown from April to September. Their son was born while they were in England, and they were hoping for a pleasant voyage back to Freetown.

**Third Generations of Bedas.**

Lollie Brantingham (Littlehailes)

Glady Littlehailes (Beaney)

Catherine Beaney (now at Bede).

Margaret Swinburne (Weatherall)

Hilda Weatherall

Elsie Weatherall (Peck)

Jean Peck (Arman)

Ella Metcalf (Wood)

Edith Wood (Kerr)

Elizabeth Kerr (now at Bede).

Edith Denton (Galley)

Edith Galley (Phillips)

Christine Phillips (now at Bede).

Ethel Clark (Stewart)

Glady Stewart (Sidney)

Glady Sidney (Wabe), Audrey Sidney, Mavis Sidney (now at Bede).

### From Your Letters:

From Mary Robertson who is Principal of the Cadder College of Domestic Science, Liverpool, and Vice-President of the Association for Teachers of Domestic Science:—"It is intensely interesting rebuilding and re-organising this old college and I wouldn't have missed it for worlds. It is difficult to realise that I am beginning my fourth year here, for in many ways there is still so much to find out and so many people still to meet—Did I tell you that it took almost two years before I got an opportunity of visiting Mary Ruddick at her school? However we both sit on an advisory committee so we should see each other once a term now with luck. She hasn't changed much and wasn't difficult to recognise again though I wouldn't like to say how long it was since I had seen her."

Elsie Hall (Miles) writes from Terquay "I love to read about the girls who were girls when I was a girl—rather a long time ago! I see Lucy Fosgate and Bessie Taylor mentioned (how they used to make me laugh and also Miss Stokes now living in Polperro."

On returning to Beauport, Canada after a short holiday in Sunderland, Jennie Vincent (Ord) wrote:—"It was nice to be remembered after so many years. I visited Madge Robertson's shop and saw several other Old Bedlars—Elsie Scott, Ella Latta, Winnie Gibson, Marion and Elsie Prosser, Phyllis Hackles, Jessie Jones. I called on Miss Lloyd, tried to see Miss Arkle and Miss Shearer but they were away from home. I enjoyed so much seeing the seashore again, Barnes Park, Ashbrooke, Turstall Hill and Mowbray Park. We moved to Canada from U.S.A. six years ago. We live about nineteen miles outside of Montreal in the country by the side of Lake St. Louis. It was a wonderful summer to be in England. Please remember me to the Old Bedlars."

Isabel Keffe (Fraserby) tells of her new home in U.S.A., "This is a wonderful part of America. Seattle is surrounded by pine-clad snow-topped mountains on three sides and by the Puget Sound studded with lovely little islands, on the fourth."

Vera McBain (Whitehouse) writes from Abadan:—"We live at a place called Du-Gombadan which is on a plateau among the mountains about 2,500 ft. above sea-level. Out of my windows I can see mountains rising to 10,000 ft. The roads are indescribably bad and the only practical way of travelling any distance is by Land Rover or jeep, and the only way of getting out of here is by air. One thinks nothing of travelling 300 miles by plane to buy the odds and ends you buy so easily in Woolworth's at home. In the autumn the tribes move down from the high mountains and return with the spring; they are just beginning to move down here now and we see quite a lot of the early arrivals with their flocks of sheep, camels and goats—it all looked very Biblical and was most interesting. Please give my very best wishes to all my friends among the Old Bedlars."

From Ellen Whiting (Davison): "For the last two and a half years, ever since we came to Merga I've been teaching latin to Africans. Do you remember our light-hearted approach to latin lessons?..... Africans are such "eagle-beavers" when it comes to learning. Merga is the capital of Barotseland and it contains about 150 Europeans. The roads are incredibly bad so it is better to go on any journey by air. The Paramount Chief lives at Leulin on the Barotsie Plain during the dry season and during the wet season when the Zambesi floods the plain he moves to Limalanga, which is the higher ground in the forest. This move is called the Kucemboka and is a great Barotsie ceremony. There is a great exodus from Merga in barges and canoes across the flooded plain to watch the proceedings as it is all very picturesque. All the royal furniture can be seen and the royal drums are loaded on Nalikwanda the Paramount Chief's barge. Then he himself gets into the barge and is paddled away by the royal paddlers, who are a sight to see with their lion head-dresses. The other craft all follow the royal barge to Limalanga where thousands of Africans are gathered to welcome their Paramount Chief."

Miss Logic, in a letter to Miss Shearer, writes from Danfermline, Fife, "Today is Armistice Day and I expect you won't forget the first one any more than I do, when we were summoned to the playground and Mr. Ferguson read out the welcome news. To any of the old girls who remember me please give my greetings, and of course give my greetings to any of the staff."

From Miss Gibbons, who retired as secretary at Bede in July, 1959, "How thrilled and delighted I was to find on my desk at school on the last afternoon of term, a lovely bowl of beautiful hyacinths, and imagine my joy when I found your very kind letter, and discovered who were the donors. Please tell the Guild members how deeply I appreciate their kindness in sending me this lovely gift to accompany their good wishes on my retirement."

#### Editorial.

In 1959 Old Bedans took their farewell of Miss Moul as their President. She is now a Vice-President of the Guild. We welcomed Miss Bradbury as her successor at the Annual Business Meeting in September. May our new President enjoy many meetings with us, as we feel sure Miss Moul did in that role.

We are grateful for any news you have sent us for this magazine, especially for the letters which are so interesting, and show that there are Old Bedans in all parts of the world.

Here at home we thank all those who have helped with typing and our auditor Mr. Milner Taylor.

If you have enjoyed reading this year's magazine would you make sure that you are up-to-date with your subscription? Your 1959-60 annual subscription was due in September, 1959—if you still owe that 3/6d. why not "down tools" and do something about it NOW?

W.T.



STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS ON 31st AUGUST, 1958.

Summary of Balance Sheet for year — 1st September, 1958 to 31st August, 1959.

RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURE	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Subscriptions ... ..	59 6 6	Stationery, Printing and O.H. Book ... ..	37 12 8
Interest ... ..	14 4 1	Postage and Telephone... ..	15 2 8
Balance from Meetings... ..	3 9 4	Gifts ... ..	13 12 9
		London Branch ... ..	4 2
		Balance on Year's Working ... ..	12 7 8
	<u>£78 19 11</u>		<u>£78 19 11</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance on 31st August, 1958 ... ..	608 7 0	Made up as follows:—	98 7 2
Balance on Year's Working ... ..	12 7 8	2½% War Stock ... ..	75 0 0
Overpaid into Bank ... ..	9 8 9	2½% Defence Bonds ... ..	...
		Balance in Bank:—	...
		On Deposit Account ... ..	443 12 0
		On Current Account ... ..	13 4 3
	<u>£630 3 5</u>		<u>£630 3 5</u>

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

J. M. TAYLOR,

September, 1959.

ELSIE I. KIRKWOOD,

Hon. Treasurer.

