

# THE OLD BEDAN

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1961

# 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 1961-62.

Chairman	...	...	...	...	Mrs. Ritch, (Kathleen Carr), 3 Banstead Park North.
Vice-Chairman	...	...	...	...	Mrs. Wilson (Nora Johnson), 188 Stockton Road, West Hartlepool.
Joint Secretary and Treasurer	...	...	...	...	Mrs. Kirkwood (Elsie Davidson), "Michaelford", South Boldon, Co. Durham. Tel.: Boldon 7224.
Assistant Secretary	...	...	...	...	Olga Wright, 7 Errick Grove. Tel: 56126.

## Committee:

Mrs. Alderson (Mary Mackintosh), 26 Barnes View; Mrs. Bainbridge (Ruth Donkin), 5 Fox Street; Mrs. Dixon (Moria Cuddeford), 7 Burnhope Drive; Mrs. Hutchinson (Isabel Eaton), 6 Byelands Gardens; Miss Audrey Kinch, Bede Grammar School for Girls; Mrs. Sidney (Gladys Stewart), 17 Richard Avenue; Mrs. Snowden (Joyce Orr), 5 Albys Gardens; Mrs. Soulsby (Betsy Fosley), 11 Ridgway Crescent.

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

## INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

Annual Subscription: 3/6d. for 1961-62, due on September 1st, 1961. Life Membership £3 5s. 0d.

MEMBERSHIP: On August 31st, 1961, the membership was 602, including 274 Life Members. Please, note, 47 members still owe their subscription for 1959-60 and 52 members for 1960-61.

The Secretary asks every member:—

1. To notify her of any change of address.
2. To give always, (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, to save postage, receipts for subscriptions will be enclosed with the first notice after payment.
5. To note, for easier identification, maiden names are used. The married name is usually given in brackets.
6. To note, that the 'Old Bedan' will not be sent to those members who are two years in arrears with their subscription.

## GUILD ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS

**Winter Revision:** 81 people were present at the party held in the School Art Room on January 20th, 1961. Miss Bradbury welcomed guests, including Miss Shearer, Miss Arkle, Miss Curriek, Miss Harris, Miss Bernard, Miss Harding, the School Captain and Vice-Captain—as they arrived. Paper and pencil was handed to the arrivals for the ice-breaker—this time "Rhyme It" (a stuck-up policeman?—snobby bobby etc.) Jean Liddle was the prizewinner. Miss Shearer had kindly provided prizes and sweets. Then we played Musical Pies, a Charlie Chaplin team race, and an "Echo" game—the competing teams had to find, in a few seconds, The Sunderland Echo Telephone Number, High Water Times, etc. Joyce Giffon caused consternation when she sat down on her "team" chair, proclaimed that she'd missed seeing last night's Echo, anyway, and proceeded to read it!

Before supper we had a Musical Twenty Questions, every answer, played by Winnie Scott, was a question (e.g. How About You?, Who Is Sylvia?, Shall We Dance? etc.). The paper and pencils provided proved quite unnecessary—the answers were a "concerted" effort—Old Bedans burst forth into song as the names were played, the game almost ending up in a sing-song. An enjoyable supper followed, and afterwards Cissie Henderson showed her film taken at the Summer Outing 1960. Only some members had seen it before and it was much enjoyed. 10 p.m. breaking up time came quickly after a pleasant evening.

**Annual Dinner, April 28th:** As last year's experiment was such a success, the dinner was once again held in Bines' Restaurant, where Miss Bradbury greeted 198 Old Bedans and members of staff, past and present, including Misses Arkle, Shearer, Stirk, Peters, Gladys Lithuales (Mrs. Beaney), Betty Coates (Mrs. Wilkinson), Misses Wilman, Harding and Bernard, Betty Fosley (Scotty) our chairman, welcomed the guests and after an excellent meal, and the singing of the School Song, we gathered at the far end of the room for the entertainment. Betty here presented each of the artists with a posy of freesias, then everyone sat back in joyful anticipation.

The theme this year was "How to make the Civic Theatre Pay". We found ourselves listening to an impassioned appeal from an official of the Civic Theatre Committee (Winnie) who was prepared to welcome any helpful suggestions from "the body of the Hall" as to how the Civic Theatre might be made more attractive, and so pay its way. Mary, of course, was ready to volunteer, and with the help of her team offered there and then to demonstrate her ideas on brightening up both the building and the entertainment offered there. The very first thing to be given attention was the floral decoration of the theatre. This must be lavish, and the plants and flowers welcoming patrons in the entrance hall could be clumps of White, masses of Creeping Jenny, Marygold, and tall Marguerites absorbing Giffon's Carr'd water!

The theatre suitably decorated, we were next treated to a few examples of different types of entertainment which should cater for all tastes. There was ballet for the balletomanes, pop-singing for the teenagers, choric speech for the serious-minded, and opera for music-lovers. For ballet we turned to Graduation Ball, where the pupils of the dancing academy (who bore a strong resemblance to the girls of St. Trinian's) entertained the members of the local football team ably chaperoned by the Mayor and Mistress of the Academy. Next, the Cleverly Cousins delighted us all. Joyce, Kathleen and Margaret, with the blondest of locks (by Jennie Hey) and with ozy, downcast gazes were revealed when a somewhat shaky curtain was unfurled! How could anyone have withstood their plea, "H'away to me" in their own version of "Sailor"? And how we all laughed at their localised rendering of "Strawberry Fair"!

"As I was going to Strawberry Fair,  
Singing, singing, candy floss and peanuts,  
I met a Georgie taking the h'air, fol-de-dee,  
His eyes were squint, I do declare,  
His breath has strong has the h'xome there  
Rifol, rifol, chase me round the gasworks,  
Rifol, rifol, fol-de ridde dee."

We followed Georgie and his girl-friend to the Big Dipper where they "grew pea-green and wished they'd died," then finally to the altar—"a blooming bride" with "squinting Georgie by her side....."

The choric speech which followed cleverly poked fun at the inanities of modern lyrics(?)—"Rubber Ball" and Witch-Doctor" were taken as examples, and the two readers, Kathleen and Joan, were ably supported by the Greek chorus of "Bouncy Bouncy, Bouncy Bouncy" monotonously intoned.

The lavishly costumed "Marriage of Figaro" with its incredible arias, and modulations of which Mozart never dreamed, (but which Winnie hopes he would have allowed,) joining one dramatic situation with another, allied with much implied clowning by Mary and Kathleen, brought the hilarious entertainment to the point when we were told in a Final Chorus; "Consider yourselves dismissed!" One more highly successful and enjoyable Old Bedlams' dinner was at an end.

**Summer Outing:** Irene Wilkinson did a grand job in finding our 1961 picnic spot. The weather forecast was far from promising on the eve of June, 16th, and anxious committee members who were making sandwiches on the day of the outing, had sinking hearts as they listened to the weather outlook on the radio. Perhaps the north-east just had to be different, for the evening was pleasant, the clouds were high, and our only regret was that the sun didn't break through early enough for the amateur photographers to get to work. One bus and two cars with overflow passengers took a pleasant route via Newcastle and Ponteland to the quiet lanes of Dalton, where we stopped for supper. Our picnic spot was by a stream, in dim-lit woods (a shade too dim-lit for Peggy Todd's cine-camera) although Kathleen Bellamy and Peggy did manage to get some shots of Old Bedlams eating pie, sandwiches, and cheese or chocolate biscuits. Chatter was stilled at Betsy Powley's request for she had a pleasant though sad duty to perform; she presented to Joyce Gallon (Hodgson) a silver pastry server inscribed "with good wishes from the Guild of Old Bedlams", prior to the departure of Joyce and her family to Sydney, Australia. Betsy spoke of the help Joyce had given to the Guild as a past chairman, a member of the entertainers' group and a most reliable member of the Social Service committee, and she told her that if ever she felt rather homesick or depressed in her new country, just to set to and make an apple tart, serve it with her pastry server, and think how the Guild was missing her! There cannot be many people in the world who have had such a presentation made in aylvan setting!

After a short stroll through the woods we went back to the buses and continued our journey to Stamfordham and Matfen where we had another ten minute break. (Those looking for old churches found the Matfen one disappointingly new). It was 10:30 p.m. when we reached Sunderland after a very pleasant outing.

**Loan and Scholarship Fund:** The Committee of the G.O.B. Loan and Scholarship Fund met on July 7th, 1961. Miss Carrick as Secretary, reported that £26 had been paid during the year, and that a total of £145 was available to meet any requests for loans. Five girls who were going either to a University or to a Training College applied for loans, and the Committee felt each girl deserved help.

However, it was pointed out that in future, girls would be at Training College for three years instead of two, so that in two years' time we should face a year without the prospect of any repayments being made by teachers in their first jobs. It was felt that it would be prudent to have something in reserve in the Fund to meet the requests for loans in that exceptional year. Miss Carriek was warmly thanked for her work as Secretary-Treasurer during the eleven years prior to her retirement, due to take place at the end of this school year. On Miss Bradbury's suggestion, Miss Wilman (Scholarship VIII Form Mistress) was requested to become Secretary as from September, 1961.

D. M. WILMAN,

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

**Social Service Report**—The Social Service Committee are pleased to report another successful year, thanks to the unflinching generosity and support of Old Bedans and friends. The Treasurer (Catherine McCrene) reports a Balance in hand of £15 8s. 3d. which is slightly higher than last year. As in previous years, our activities began early in October with the G.O.B. Stall at the Autumn Market and this effort raised the excellent sum of £33 19s. 6d. for which the Guild of Help was duly grateful. Later in October we received gifts of groceries from the Barnes Junior School's Harvest Festival Collection. These were distributed among our old people and we were very glad that our funds enabled us to include a 10/- note in each parcel. One dear old lady of 93 wrote "I shall think of all Old Bedans when I'm having a good warm. God bless you all."

In December, 23 parcels of reasonable goods and gifts of money were taken to our old friends, and £2 was spent on Christmas "extras" for the inmates of "Wayside", Bolton.

Then at Easter, we were again able to distribute gifts and money to the needy and, in response to a special appeal from "Wayside" a donation of two guineas was sent to the Treasurer.

All these activities have taken time and money, and while thanking all who have contributed so generously in the past, we do beg for your continued help and support of our work.

**Red Cross Library**—Under the able guidance of Margaret Chapman (Hunter) members of the Guild help with this good work at Ryhope General Hospital. The work continues to run smoothly and efficiently, and is much appreciated by the patients.

**WANTED**—Plenty of readable books and magazines. If any of you can spare some please contact any Committee member and she will arrange for collection and delivery to the Hospital.

E. M. HOOKER, Secretary,

102 Ewesley Road.

At a Committee Meeting in March, Miss Arkle expressed her wish to retire as Convener of the Social Service Committee. She said how very much she had enjoyed her association with the Social Service, which dates back to 1929 when the G.O.B. was born!

The Committee expressed great regret at Miss Arkle's decision, thanked her for her loyal work and leadership, and hoped she would become a life member of the Social Service Committee.

**The Hockey Club**—Twenty nine games were arranged for the season. Unfortunately fourteen were cancelled, usually because the opposition was unable to raise a full team. With the help of two 'guest' members, we usually managed to field eleven players. When playing with our strongest teams, we twice beat the opposition by eleven goals to nil. Our greatest difficulty was to find a regular goalkeeper, but we hope to have someone for the new season. We are also looking forward to the return of Joan Brewis (Pillans) and Violet Hoptinstall (Smith). This will mean two more babies for the side line. Hazel McCree, back in Sunderland, will be a useful addition to the forward line.

Results were: Played 15, Won 4, Draw 3, Lost 8.

The standard of play was not as bad as the results suggest, for we often lost by only one goal. During the season Audrey Knight was a reserve for Durham County 1st XI and I played for the second XI.

The September Tournament, arranged by our Club, was cancelled because of rain. The March Tournament at West Hartlepool was played in warm sunshine, and we were second in our section, losing by only one game out of four.

At the end of the season we had a most enjoyable Hockey Club dinner at the Marine Grotto Hotel.

On behalf of the Old Bedlam Hockey Club I should like to thank Miss Bradbury and the Guild of Old Bedlams for help and encouragement during the season.

VALERIE NORTHORPE, Hon. Sec.,  
44 Primrose Crescent, Fulwell.

**London Guild of Old Bedlams**—Since our last report we have had only one reunion; this was on 1st July, 1961 at Doreen Ward's home. The following were present: Joyce Hebron (Ayles), Edith Broderick (Barget), Miss Ewart, Nancy Lawther (Hubicka), Marjorie Bailey (Kowitz), Miss Moul, Doreen and her mother (nee Goodwill) and myself. We were delighted to have Miss Ewart with us again and have heard of her recent death with sorrow for the passing of yet another well-loved and integral part of the Bede we used to know.

We were very pleased to welcome Miss Moul among us this time. She had some photographs of the school to show us and has very kindly invited us to hold one of our reunions at her home.

The temperature on that day had soared to most un-English heights and we all wilted visibly, but in every other respect, we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. We should all like to thank Doreen for her hospitality, including her usual delicious spread.

May I please take this opportunity of making two appeals? First, will any newcomer to the London area please contact me? Secondly, will those who do receive invitations please reply even if they cannot attend? This year, out of 23 invitations we received only nine replies; the replies are our only means of knowing whether members still live in the area, or are still interested in receiving notices.

PHYLLIS BECK (nee Tennant),  
172 Plumstead Common Road,  
London, S.E.8.

Telephone: WOO 3311.

## SUMMARY OF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

14th September, 1961.

50 members present.

Miss E. J. Bradbury and members welcomed by the Chairman.

Reply by Miss Bradbury.

Motions re the Constitution. In order to bring the Constitution up-to-date, the wording of some clauses was altered.

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 1961-62.

Retiring Chairman's Remarks.

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

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

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

## SCHOOL NOTES

STAFF CHANGES FROM JANUARY, 1961:—

Goodbye to: Miss Carrick, Miss Hall.

Welcome to: Miss A. Smith, Miss Wilde, Miss N. Walsh Mrs. J. Smith, Mrs. Reznis, Mrs. Corrsell.

Chairman of P.T.A.: Miss L. Milbanke.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. D. J. Dorward.

Guild of Old Bedans' representative: Mrs. K. Rich.

School Captain: Carole Stacy.

Vice-Captain: Rosamund Shaw.

G.O.B. PRIZES: BEDAN ESSAY:

SENIOR: Vivienne Groener, Ruth Zahn. JUNIOR: Mary Francis.

G.O.B. PRIZE FOR FRENCH: Judith Birbeck.

LILY A. HUTCHINSON MEMORIAL PRIZES:

English: Adrienne Coggins. French: Hazel Oliver.

## FROM NOVEMBER, 1960 TO NOVEMBER, 1961.

These have become Life Members:—Gwen Clark (Cummings), Mavis Cragg (Lodge), Edith Kocher (Donald), Marjorie Lax.

These have become Members:—Marianne Allison (Moffatt), Joan Berry, Judith Birbeck, Norah Brown (Keighty), Elsie Cowling (Powler), Dorothy Dell (Davidson), Winifred Elzoh, Brenda Gibson (Rivers), Frederica Graham, Gwynneth Hatherington (Nixon), Jessie Kell (Bales), Janet Langley, Eileen McCree, Hazel McCree, Freeda Mole, Ann Ramson, Eve Richardson, Ella Surrer (Siddle), Norma Welsh, Elsie Wilson (Price).

Married are:—Dakie Armstrong, Vera Baga, Joan Bellett, Mary Bilby, Dorothy Campbell, Dianne Graham, Ann Harland, Norma Harris, Audrey Midwood, Lorna McPhee, Pauline Noble, Pauline Oliver, Connie Parkinson, Beryl Potts, Owen Reay, Rosemary Richardson, Joan Shield, Joan Teasdale, Marjorie Tweedle, Vera Wardle, Audrey White, Valerie Williamson, Kathleen Ralph.

**Babies too**—Kathleen Allen (Brown), Isabel Barnett (Harper), Norma Bellarby (Sellers), Audrey Bew (Rousser), Jean Brewis (Phillips), Mildred Broughower (Waters), Pat Carty (Turnbull), Betty Caws (Mearns), Violet Cooper (Green), Joan Crompton (Roberts), Margaret Fitzgerald (Hewitt), Doris Henderson (Wilson), Violet Heptinstall (Smith), Beatrix Hatherington (Boswell), Betty Hewitson (Rankin), Dorothy Hopper (Kafford), Beacie Larrighugh (Sheraton), Winifred Lathan (Twiddle), May Metcalf (Knight), Edith Osborne (Linford), Jean Richardson (Gurney), Melva Rimmington (Thompson), Jean Straghan (Robson), Pat Swan (Feltos), Alma Sykes (Mahon), Doreen Turnbull (Carruthers), Freda Tudberry (Rutherford), Sylvia Tate (Manns), Fay Twitchett (Kemp), Dorothy Wager (Howe), Dorothy Waggott (Alderson), Doreen Walker (Lomas).

**In Memoriam**—Ethel Christie (Mrs. Cartes), Edna Everfell, Ruby Ewart, Emma Matheson, Marion Orr, Annie Potts, Joan Soppin, Lilian Taylor, Olive Cairns (Mrs. Derrick), Masud Gibson (Mrs. Bladen).

### MISS RUBY JAMESON EWART

Old Bedans of all ages will learn with regret of the death at the beginning of October of Miss Ruby Ewart. She was a vital part of Bede School—of the Guild of Old Bedans too. A Bedan herself she served her old school for a short time as a teacher and later as its Clerk. Surely she was the perfect Secretary—punctilious, upright and invariably faithful. The high standard she exacted from Bedans in the use of rough note books, and even from her most trusted colleagues in the matter of all school property and professional secrets, she reached herself in her service to all the interests of the school. She was musical too and herself an excellent pianist, and some Old Bedans will remember how carefully and jealously she guarded the key of the beautiful Bechstein piano in the new school. Yet we remember only one occasion on which we persuaded her to play for us in public—at an early Old Bedan Dinner. It was in a humble setting that she used her talent for us so generously—as a helpful, responsive, and understanding accompanist at Prayers, at all School and Old Bedan functions; and members of the Guild's Singing Club remember those happy Wednesday evenings when we sang happily under the leadership of Miss Hutchinson and Miss Ewart. How fortunate we were to have such a score!

What a help too was Miss Ewart's accurate memory to the Secretary of our Guild and the anxious compiler of Notes on Old Bedans. "Was So-and-So an Old Bedan?" "Oh yes", and there followed the full name of So-and-So and in many cases her address too.

Retiring rather suddenly, in 1917, Miss Ewart went to live in Reading but remained in close touch with the Guild. She attended regularly, and enjoyed, the meetings of its London Branch, and was a constant and generous supporter of our Social Service activities. Indeed, only a day or two before her death, there came a note in her own neat writing: "I am sending you £1 for your stall. I am ill just now in my niece's care".

On her last visit to the north at Christmas she was thrilled to be meeting again many Old Bedan friends and colleagues and was full of interest in us all. We are glad to remember her like that!

**Former Members of Staff.** Miss Moul has met some of the London Old Bedans and she took an important part at Mary Bilby's wedding. Miss Hilda Martin again visited Miss Arkle and Miss Shearer and saw Miss Lloyd, and Mrs. Anderson (Miss Bruce) and her husband spent a couple of nights at "40 Ashwood" in October on their way home from a Scottish holiday. Miss Arkle went back with them to their lovely new home at Broadwas-on-Tone, Worcestershire.

Miss Shearer met Miss Gibbons, looking much better in health since her retirement. Miss Franklin has now retired from teaching and is living in Otley, Yorkshire. Miss Carrick has retired from her post as Deputy Headmistress at Bede School. Old Bedans thank her for all the work and care for them, and hope to see her often at their meetings. Miss Hall, too, has become a "former" member of staff after 15 years' service at Bede. To her, too, we wish everything good. Miss Harris has again been out of Sunderland much of the year, and spent a short time in Kent where she saw Miss Birchall, who, she says looks much better than last time they met and is very well.

In October, there was news of Miss Logic. In spite of having been knocked down and badly bruised and wrenched ten days before while on holiday in Hastings, she came off the North train at Newcastle in the early morning, arrived in Sunderland in the middle of a hailstorm, spent a night there, and managed to see Mollie Sherman (Wilcox) and Connie and Winnie Wardman, and then had a scratch lunch with Miss Arkie and Miss Shearer before going on to Rosyth. She was as quick and vivacious as ever, and full of interest in old colleagues and old pupils. Her reaction to the accident, the author of it, and the treatment made her listeners smile, it was so characteristic of her but they felt somewhat nervous lest she suffer from delayed shock and begged her to send a card to say how she was. So far (this is characteristic too!) nothing has been heard. We hope that means good news.

#### HEADANS AT WORK

Sylvia Thatcher is living at Reading and teaching near Henley-on-Thames "in a lovely school in very pleasant surroundings". Freda Menzfeld (Dovey) is headmistress of a Primary School in the Birmingham area. Unita Magrill is deputy headmistress in a London Infants' School. Alice Lee, head of Oakwood School for Convalescent Children, Croft, has been transferred to the headship of George Street Nursery School, Sunderland. Vera Harraid is deputy headmistress of Sunderland High School. Audrey Hayton, chief history mistress at Bede School, has been appointed deputy headmistress in Miss Carrick's place. Other Old Bedans teaching there are Ellen Carlin and Betty Coates (science), Doris Taylor and Norma Walsh (French), Audrey Kinch (mathematics), Marjorie Jackson [the third] (Art), and part-time, Jennie Hey [Smith] (Science), and Mariel Orr [Sheriff] (Mathematics).

Hazel McCree is teaching physical education at Broadway Secondary Modern School. Mary Old Bedans are doing part-time teaching in Sunderland. Evelyn Johnson (Ellis) has been teaching some English to the boys in her husband's school at Wakefield and taking, as she has always done, a considerable part in their dramatic work.

In the Sunderland Education Offices, Mariel Henley has a clerical post in the Medical Department, Elsie Robinson is secretary to the Director of Education and Harriet Summers works as the only woman welfare officer in the town. Audrey Midwood (Thomas) is tutor-in-charge at Upton Hospital, Slough, and Gwendie Elliott is doing auxiliary nursing at Grindon, enjoying it all and wishing she had taken up the work sooner. Elsie Hall (Miles) enjoys doing part-time work at an hotel in Torquay. Marjorie Balmer has joined the religious order of the Little Sisters of the Assumption.

Retired from teaching posts are: Erid Crowe from Fulham, London; Lilian Bowe from Rugby; Millicent Richardson, Florence Jackson and Peggy Todd from Sunderland schools. Mary Robson recently retired from her post as Principal of Kenton Lodge Training College, Newcastle. Doreen Youll retires at Christmas and is followed as head of West Park Girls' School by Eleanor Brown.

Mr. Norwood, caretaker of the "new" school from its opening in 1929, retired in July and was presented with a cigarette box by the Guild of Old Bedans in appreciation of his helpful assistance on many occasions.

**Examination Successes.** In the July competitive examinations held for the special departmental classes of the Home Civil Service, Margaret Crowther was successful in the section of Inspector of Taxes in the Inland Revenue Department. Valerie Culbertson gained a B.A. 2nd Class honours degree in French at Manchester University in July. Pauline Noble (Campion) obtained a B.Sc. honours degree at London University in June.

#### Meetings:

Two groups that meet usually for work have recently had social Re-unions. The whole of the Social Service Committee spent a pleasant hour or two at Betty Powley (Sculsby's) when the members gave Miss Arkle a little present upon her retirement from her position as Convener, and all our Entertainers met for dinner at the Roker Hotel prior to Joyce Gallon's departure for Australia. The more favoured of us are the proud possessors of a photograph of them taken that day.

Una Laidler (Cox) has gone to train for teaching at the Margaret Macmillan Memorial Training College, Bradford, and found on her arrival that one of the lecturers was Nellie Moe. Doreen Ward (Macrae) in London and Margery Wade (Smith) met there at Whitstaitide and Doreen has been in touch again with Doreen Murgatroyd (Boyes) "after 30 years". At a Round Table dinner and dance she (Doreen Ward) and a Mrs. MacLaren were introduced to each other "solely because they were both Macs" and very soon discovered that they were both Old Bedans; the other was Urs Greenfield.

Dorothy Botcherby (Aris) and Annie Beckwith (New) have visited each other at Bournemouth and at Sunderland and spent a holiday together in Norway. Lillie Border and Mary Ruddick from Liverpool met while both on holiday, and Minnie McMillan met Jessie Douglas (Kirtson) from Essex in a Sunderland street, while Kathleen Mair came upon Buntie Wigham (Hall) at a dance at Seaburn.

Miss Shearer found Amor Hudson (Hamphrey) from Wembley and her family on Seaburn Promenade at Christmas-time; and later in Birns' had a few words with Moyra Potter (Flett) from Preston who was spending Easter week-end in Sunderland, and while delivering Old Bedan notices came out of a garden to find herself face to face with Kathleen Smith (Pickworth) from Aylesbury. Miss Arkle and she were pleased to have a surprise call from Doreen Murgatroyd during the few days she was in Sunderland to celebrate her parents' golden wedding, and also to manage to arrange a meeting at "40 Adywood" with Flora Cook while she was attending, in Durham, a Conference of County Librarians. They missed Evelyn Johnson (Ellis) from Wakefield when she called a year ago. Their new next-door neighbours are Joyce Wilson (Parr-Barman) and her husband and family. Eveline Blackett (Brown) from Thorpe Thewles has visited them and a one-time and now much-missed neighbour, Gladys Sim (Hopper) spent the night of the Old Bedan Dinner with them.

Enid Crowe from London spent Christmas with Miss Shearer, and in September Enid and Miss Arkle and Miss Shearer had a week together in Wansleydale. During that time two Old Bedans Marion Corkhill (Swar) and Moira Hornsby (Tate) made themselves known to them at Bainbridge one afternoon. During her two visits to the North, Enid also stayed with Florence Jackson and saw among others, Molly Topel, Gladys Thornley (Miller), and Elizabeth Moe. She and Lilian Bowe in Rugby often meet.

As this goes to press Miss Arkle and Miss Shearer hope to have had Amy Hussey (Dunster) from York with them for a few days. She came over from Dec-side one day in June to see Miss Shearer at Granton-on-Spey, and all three met at Whitby one afternoon in July.

Lillian Thompson (Marley) in Newton Mearns near Glasgow met Hilda Andrews (Moore) shopping and enjoyed a very brief friendship, for Hilda moved shortly afterwards to Broughton, Lanes. Lillian always looks forward to the annual visit of Dora Horneran (Chappell).

Ray Lock (Hawdon) in Sunderland for her sister-in-law's wedding (Dorothy Hawdon) had a good "chitwag" with Pat Scorer who travelled from London for the occasion. Jean Henderson (Telfer) visited Enid Claxton (Harrison) at her home in Sutton Coldfield during the summer. Jean Richardson (the first) called on Enid Potts (Wilson) in August. Jean is teaching at Sydenham.

Delivering—a church magazine, Edith Gibson was invited into a house and discovered the recipient—Mrs. Laird—was Hilda Falconer.

Madge Colwell, who lived in Scotland for several years, was visited by Dorothy Stephenson (now at Newcastle) at her home in Middlesbrough. Madge was at Bede during the time of Miss Boon and "well remembers Miss Iwart, Miss Arkle, Miss Shearer, Miss Birchall, Miss Lloyd, Miss Logan, Miss Stokes".

Ann Jeffrey (Robinson) lived through a series of coincidences with another Old Bedan, Norma Bradburn (Adamsen). First, in Widdington, Manchester, then in Cheshire. Both Old Bedans' parents lived within a stone's throw of each other, both girls had married Yorkshire-born graduate schoolmasters, now teaching, both had flats in Widdington and then met again in Cheshire.

Ethel Carr (Russell) on a flying visit to Sunderland last Christmas, had time for coffee with Margaret and Nell Turner before returning to Abson. In August Margaret met Betty Ross (Brown) on holiday in Sunderland. Betty lives near enough to Wimbleton to be able to see the tennis there frequently. Later, Margaret met Alma Sykes home on holiday with her baby, who was feeling the cold having been born in Malta!

Pat Morgan (Smith) on a fleeting visit to Sunderland from Winchester visited Bede and had a "nice chat with Miss Carrick".

Just too late for last year's magazine came news from Kathleen Bellamy (Ditchburn) of a meeting, in Stuttgart in September 1960, with Dr. Magda Kalber ("Magpie" to all Old Bedans who knew the happy atmosphere of her "International House in 1936-39"). She sought news of Edith Wood (Kerr), Anne Wilson (Atkins), Bertha Byfield (Murray), Isabel Lundy (Munro) and Alice Munro, while Kathleen gave news of Madge Hardy, Madge Grey, Florence Andrews, Alice Turner and passed on greetings from many others. Magda sent good wishes to all her Sunderland friends.

#### News of Bedans Abroad:

Joyce Gallan (Hodgson) sailed for Sydney on August 29th and at the time of the Guild's Business Meeting in September was probably being shown around Bombay by another Old Bedan, Alice Proctor (Eastaugh). Joyce besought to our Entertainers a hat—"Hats are always useful, and my 'hair' which I promised to leave behind." (Remember Joyce's "hair" as the headdress—Dinner 1960?) The Committee sent a card and flowers to the P. & O. liner "Strathmore" wishing her "Bon Voyage". Vera McLain (Whitcombe) and her husband returned to Iran in October, after a holiday in Sunderland. Her sister Ruth (Harrison) is now living in Jeonson after some years in Hong-Kong. Jennie Vincent (Orin) was home again this summer for the first time from Canada, and Elsa Garbutt (Posner) from Kenya. Both have now returned. Cecelia Lakon (White) has gone back to Nairobi, but will probably return to this country for good next year.

Lucy Postgate (Nichol) writes in her usual interesting way from Callinan, Transvaal, with news of her ordinary quiet life and interests, and of her holidays by the sea and in the Drakensberg. "We enjoyed the latter so much that it will be the mountains for us next time." She adds a little "outburst" on the political situation, too heartfelt to be quoted here.

Elsie White from Vancouver sent her usual generous money order for the Christmas gifts to our old people. She and her sister Winnie (Cooper) had had a thoroughly bad year of illnesses, accidents and operations. We hope 1961 has been kinder to their family.

Brenda Metcalf (Taylorson) has returned to Jinja, Uganda, for about eighteen months after four months leave in England. Dorothy Dobbing has completed her first year of her three years of teaching the children of British Servicemen at an Army base at Fallingborstal near Hanover. The N.A.T.O. Camp where she teaches is very isolated so entertainment must be home made. She is an active member of the popular drama group and finds the whole life there an interesting change.

Another Old Bodan who has gone to live abroad is Corrie Parkinson (Henderson)—to Auckland, New Zealand. Corrie will be missed as Cubmistress of St. Andrew's Cub Pack and in local swimming circles. Edith Scriven (Warriner), too, now lives in New Zealand. Mary Hewitt's home is at Bowral in the foothills of the Southern Mountains of New South Wales. She "avidly devours" her copies of the Sunderland Echo sent to her by her sister. Jean English is enjoying teaching English and French in Germany—at a boys' grammar school at Merzig.

Vera Beech is back in Sunderland after a 25,000 mile trip round the world lasting eleven months. She travelled from London to Ceylon, mostly by bus, then sailed to Singapore, Bangkok and Hong-Kong. From tropical heat to the cold of Alaska, she then flew on to Vancouver Island, crossed the 49th Parallel to San Francisco and Santiago, then overland to New York. After visiting Toronto and Montreal she returned home across the Atlantic in a luxury liner. Members of Sunderland Seropositives Club were interested to hear her talk on her travels.

Mary Bawa, who teaches at Farrington Secondary Modern School, took a party of her pupils to Switzerland at Easter. Edith Kheober (Donald) after taking a party of Hyton Road Schoolgirls to Switzerland at Whitsuntide later gave a show of colour slides of the holiday to parents of the children concerned.

#### Noteworthy Occasions:

This is a year of noteworthy occasions for Murielle Cohen, who is Mayoress of Sunderland.

Ethel Greig (Lindsley) has been appointed a Justice of the Peace in Sunderland. Pat Jackson (Sopman) was the soloist at an Art Gallery Concert in November. Vera Sheraton as retiring president of the Sunderland Seropositives' Club was a hostess at its 23rd birthday dinner held at the Seaburn Hotel in March. Miss Bradbury as a member of the club, proposed a toast "Our Town". The new president is Bessie Peake (Green). Vera, as matron of Sunderland Children's Hospital, spoke more recently to mothers on Child Health at one of the monthly 'pram services' held in the afternoon at St. Nicholas' Church to allow mothers to enjoy a short midweek service. Evelyn Blacklock was recently appointed as Sunderland representative to the annual congress of the Royal Society of Health at Scarborough in April, 1962. At the first service of the Fulwell Methodist Church, Sybil Brown unveiled a plaque which recalled the destruction by fire of the old Williamson Terrace Church—from which the war damage compensation made possible the building of the new church.

When Millicent Richardson retired from the post of headmistress of Plain's Farm Infants' School, she was presented with a double row of pearls from the children, and a dining table and set of silver fruit spoons from past and present members of staff.

In August, Ruth Gillis left Sunderland with a party of teenagers for a five-week holiday-tour of Israel. She was selected to attend the sixth Maccabiah (Jewish Olympic Games) at Tel Aviv, as a northern representative of a Jewish national youth movement.

Margaret McKenzie (Mrs. Linge) who is now 75 years old, has written a booklet called "The Story of Boldon" which has been published for East Boldon Women's Institute. She has passed on to the Guild a Bede School badge which she wore in 1895.

Farther afield, Mary Robertson, is an important figure in the Domestic Science world, and is up in London from Liverpool almost every weekend on business connected with her work. A recent questionnaire sent to more than 1,000 members of the Association of Teachers of Domestic Subjects dealt with such questions as how far domestic science teaching time was being used for the purposes of catering for school functions or staff refreshments. Mary as President of this Association cited cases where domestic science classes were expected to wash the boys' football shorts, or serve tea for 500 people at a school prize-giving.

Back home again, in a more homely field of catering but still noteworthy—Miss Shearer was recently summoned from the kitchen at 40 Ashwood Terrace by the Social Service Committee and invited to become a Life Member of it.

#### Sport:

**SWIMMING:** Margaret Beresford, while home on holiday from Bedford College of Physical Education, retained the Sunderland Ladies' Amateur Swimming Club Senior Championship at the Club's 63rd annual gala.

**GOLF:** Wearside Golf Club Open Day on September 5th saw many Old Bedons chatting together—Kathleen Carr, Peggy Todd (busy taking money as Secretary), Mary Mackintosh, May Gibson, Hilda Edwards, Lucy Horan, Jennie Hay and Winnie Scott. Later in September Mary Mackintosh won the Mrs. Miller Potts Handicap Cup in the Silver Division of the Durham County Ladies' Golf Association's Autumn Meeting at Dinsdale. As a permanent memento of the occasion Mary received a silver sauce spoon and was also presented with an umbrella by the Dinsdale Club members who were hostesses for the day.

As more Old Bedons are taking up golf we are hoping to hold an Old Bedon Golfing Reunion in 1962.

**HOCKEY:** Durham County 2nd XI: Audrey Knight, Valerie Northcote.

**Changes of Address:** Marjorie Goodall (Gibb) is at Wottingham, Berks. Molly Hinkley (Madison) has left Seaham for Wottingham. Betty Scott (Marshall) is at Shields, from Leicester. Dulcie Armstrong (Halsey) from Doncaster to Burgess Hill, Sussex. Margaret Short (Ungley) at Thame, Oxford; Audrey Smith (Pimpton) from Stockton to South Wales; Dorothy Campbell (Kenley) to London; Mary Henderson (Lewis) from Egham to Cockfield; Audrey White (Nichol) is living at Peterlee, Miss Wiggott at Chatterham.

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### From Your Letters:

From London, Erid Casse writes "I enjoyed reading the Old Bedas. You are so good at gathering the mingled yarn together and making a pattern of it for pleasant reading. I wish it were not so hard in London to get this spirit of community going; it seems to mean so much to so many generations."

Pauline Humphrey (Duffell) who moved to Dudley, Worcestershire after her marriage writes; "I am very happy down here and have made many new friends. The school I am teaching in is a very poor area. I feel so sorry for the poor little nines as they are poorly clothed and have shocking home backgrounds. They are quite a change from the children of Fulwell school!"

From Brenda Metcalf (Taylorson) in Jinja, Uganda; "Do please give my kindest regards to the London Old Bedas as I often think about them and was very pleased to read about their activities in the magazine."

For those who hesitate to come to the Annual Dinner we quote Midge Colwell, who writes from Middlesbrough: "I want you to know how much Dorothy (Stevenson) and I enjoyed the dinner — it was an excellent meal and the whole evening was truly delightful. I was actually quite bewildered in meeting old friends. I really did not expect to meet so many after all these years."

From Dana, Berwickshire, Nancy Haldood (French) writes; "I want to tell you what a good thing has happened to one of my family through the Guild. In last year's copy of the magazine Freda Smith (Phillips) gave her address in Montreal and asked if there were any Old Bedas in her district. As my younger daughter was going to Montreal, I wrote to Freda for some information on the life out there. She immediately offered to meet my daughter and her friend, took them home and made them welcome and kept them with her until they found their own apartment. Now they both have jobs in the city, but go to Freda's each weekend. She could not have been kinder, and I feel I know her myself. On my daughter's twenty-first birthday, she came home from the office, and there was Freda in the apartment with her arms full of presents and a lovely tea prepared, crowned with a beautiful cake!"

Dorcas Ward (Macrae) writes from London: "Please remember me to anyone on the Social Service Committee who remembers me. I wish we could have the Sunderland Old Bedas activities down here as well!"

An interesting letter came from Ella Sauter (Siddle) who lives in Great Carlisle near Blackpool. "I left Bode School about 50 years ago, after Miss Beon had followed Miss Todd as head, and I still remember Miss Dwyer and Bob Jarman training us for our Speech Day performance of "Pirates of Peruance", which we performed in the Victoria Hall in our white sailor suits, along with the boys' school. I remember the mistresses Hutchisson, Wilson, Wells, Smith, Byrne, Bailey, Meynard, also my last form mistress Miss Swift, and of course dear Diana Birchall..... I have had the "Old Bedas" for some time passed on to me by my very dear old school friend Amy Scott, who put forward my name to you. I read of Elsie and Doris Pogore paying you visits from Canada, and was reminded of the days when my late younger sister Maude and I used to walk to Bode School with them twice every day, they from Eden Vale, and we from Otto Terrace. Let me just repeat that the magazines give me the greatest pleasure, if a little sadness, too, I wish you all well, and if I can ever help, I will be so happy to do so."

And finally from the days of the 'old' Bode to more recent times. Miss Carrick wrote in July: "My warmest thanks to you and all the members of the Guild of Old Bedas for your good wishes upon my retirement and the handsome gift which you have sent me. How very kind and generous you all are! I am indeed most grateful for the handbag and know that I shall have great pleasure in using it."

### An Invitation:

Peggie Downville (Reynolds) who is General Secretary for Worcester and Malvern Y.W.C.A., sends "good wishes to the Guild. If any member passes through this way, please tell them to contact me." Her home address is 27 Sansone Street, Worcester, Telephone: Worcester 22983.

### Editorial:

Without your letters, the compiling of this magazine would be almost impossible so please do continue, or start, to write your news. Because of the earlier publication of this year's 'Old Bedans'—in an effort to give you your news in the year in which it happened—there is no date given for the Winter and Dinner Reunions. You will be notified later. May we also remind you that your subscription for 1961-62 was due on September 1st, and should be paid as soon as possible, preferably before the end of 1961.

It is good to hear of any activities of the London Branch of the Guild. For obvious reasons, this is far more difficult to run than its 'parent' Guild. Please do reply to any invitations which are sent to you, London Old Bedans, whether or not you can attend the meetings.

Direct appeals to Old Bedans locally are usually very productive, whether we seek help in verifying news, writing accounts or reports, or typing copy. To all who have helped, or offered to help, with this magazine—especially to Winnie Graham and Kathleen Bellamy for their typing, promptly done, and to Mr. Milner Taylor for auditing the accounts, our warmest thanks.

One correspondent writes: "What a splendid record of Old Bedans activities—they are absolutely world-wide". Please share the news of your activities with the many readers who delight in the news of all Old Bedans.

W.T.



# The Guild of Old Beans

## CONSTITUTION

- 1.—The name of the Association shall be "The Guild of Old Beans".
- 2.—The Guild of Old Beans shall consist of former pupils and past and present members of the Staff of the School now known as Bede Grammar School for Girls, Sunderland.
- 3.—The Headmistress of the School shall be President of the Guild.
- 4.—It shall be within the power of the Guild to appoint Honorary Members from time to time.
- 5.—The Guild shall be managed by an Executive Committee consisting of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Joint Secretary and Treasurer, Assistant Secretary and the Editor of the "Old Bean" as co-officio members and eight ordinary members. Of this Committee, not more than three shall be members of the School Staff. Of the eight ordinary members, four shall retire annually and shall not be eligible for re-election for at least one year. Any member who is absent from two consecutive Committee Meetings without due cause being made known to the Secretary will be held to have resigned membership and it shall be the power of the Committee to co-opt a new member in her place till the following Business Meeting.
- 6.—The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall hold office for one year, but shall be eligible for re-election for one further term of office. The Retiring Chairman shall become an ordinary member of Committee.

- 7.—The Joint Secretary and Treasurer and the Assistant Secretary shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election.
- 8.—At meetings of Committee, five members shall form a quorum, provided that not more than two of these are members of the School Staff. The Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- 9.—The Annual Business Meeting shall be held in September.
- 10.—There shall be a Social Meeting of the Guild in the Winter and such other meetings as the Guild may decide.
- 11.—Members shall be Annual or Life Members. The subscription for Annual Members shall be 3/6d.; that for Life Members, £25.0d. A copy of the "Old Bean" will be sent to every member of the Guild. Members of Forms VII may be Associate members of the Guild at an annual subscription of 1/6d., the "Old Bean" not to be included. The financial year shall begin on September 1st; subscriptions should be paid between then and the Winter Re-Union.
- 12.—All notices of motion on constitutional questions must reach the Secretary at least a fortnight before the meeting at which they are to be considered.
- 13.—No alterations in the Rules shall be made except at the Annual Business Meeting in September, and with the consent of two-thirds of the members voting.
- 14.—A special meeting of the Guild may be summoned at any time if a requisition to that effect be signed by any twelve members.
- 15.—Branch Clubs may be formed, provided that members of these are members of the Guild. Secretaries of these will give a report at the Annual Business Meeting of the Guild in September.
- 16.—Except in cases of emergency, all committees for specific business of the Guild shall be appointed at the General Business Meeting, and shall report to the next Business Meeting.

