

# THE OLD BEDAN

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1964

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# The Guild of Old Bedans

President	Miss E. J. Bradbury.
Vice-Presidents	Miss W. J. E. Mead. Miss E. R. Sharr.

## Office Bearers and Committee for 1964-65

Chairman	Mrs. Wilson (Nora Johnson) 189 Stockton Road, West Hartlepool.
Vice-Chairman	Mrs. Widdrington (Elken Stiel), 34 Summerhall, Middle Herrington.
Joint Secretary and Treasurer	Mrs. Kirkwood (Elsie Davidson), "Michaelford", Dipe Lane, South Boldon, Co. Durham. Tel. Boldon 7224.
Assistant Secretary	Oiga Wright, 7 Etrick Grove. Tel. 56126.

## Committee

Mrs. Bellarby (Eather Betts), 10 Wansham Avenue; Mrs. Barry (Margaret Hogg), 116 The Broadway; Miss A. Hayton, Bede Grammar School for Girls; Valerie Northcote, 44 Princess Crescent; Mrs. Pillars (Jean Brewis), 31 Drayton Road; Mrs. Porritt (Joyce Alder), 37 Beedwood Terrace; Mrs. Rinch (Kathleen Carr), 5 Beresford Park; Mrs. Robinson (Mary Ackless), 4 Westfield Grove.

Ex-officio Member: Mrs. Thomas (Winifred Scott), Editor of the 'Old Bedan', 11 Grange View. Tel. 37983.

## INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

**Annual Subscription:** 5/- for 1964-65, due on September 1st, 1964. Life Membership; £3 3s. 0d.

**Membership:** On 31st August, 1964, the membership was 619, including 301 Life Members. Please note, that 81 members owe their subscription for 1963-64. The Secretary/Treasurer would be most grateful to have these, together with the 1964-65 subscription as soon as possible.

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 note, for easier identification, maiden names are used. The married name is usually given in brackets.
4. To ask, if she is not sure if her subscription is paid. Any member of Committee will pass on her request.
5. To note, to save postage, receipts for a subscription will be enclosed with the first notice after payment.
6. To note, that the 'Old Bedan' will not be sent to those members who are one year in arrears with their subscriptions.

## GUILD ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS

Winter Ression. 90 Old Bedans attended this evening reunion in the Art Room on an exceptionally mild January 31st. We were delighted to have with us Miss Bradbury our President, and were so pleased that Miss Shearer, though not as well as usual, stayed the course with us. Miss Arkle, unfortunately was unable to come. We were glad to give welcome to nine members of staff (a record!).—Miss Wilman, Miss Harding, Miss Bernard, Miss Kinch, Mrs. Sheriff, Mrs. Smith, and in the kitchen Mrs. Wilkinson (Betty Coates); the school captain and vice-captain; and ex-members of staff Miss Peters and Mrs. Beaney. Miss Moul sent greetings to the Guild. Other Old Bedans were met at the door by Margaret Hogg (Berry) and Mary Mac (Alderson) with paper and pencils for a guessing game (it's still the best "opener" until everyone assembles) and received a name-tag from Esther Betts (Bellerby). Well-known personalities, local and national, had to be guessed from photographs—the Archbishop of Canterbury, Somerset Maugham, not forgetting the Beatles, but every photograph had a piece missing—an eye, nose, chin, etc.! After thirty minutes of effort and chatter (mostly chatter) Eric Bell the second (Mrs. Allison) was the winner. Our next game was Bedan Jackpot—two large circles of competitors passed round a tin until the music stopped. The "Jack-pot holder" put in 1d. and sat with folded arms thereafter. The lucky winners were Dorothy Turner and Peggy Stothard. Next Bedan spelling was put to the test with HUMAN SCRABBLE. Large letter cards—S, P, R, I, T, E, were held up with two lines of competitors facing each other. At Margaret's call—e.g. SPIT, PIER, etc.—the letter-bearers dashed into position in their own line to be the first teams to form the word required. (Much amusement when Peggy Victory complicated the spelling of IT).

We intended having supper next, but as the kettles in the lab. were at variance with the Bunsen burners, we pushed on with a well-requested musical game—a contemporary tale of debs., admirals, and what have you, in a story without much literary merit, but a marathon musically with 38 tunes to be guessed, and won with 34 by Dorothy Grixson (Kennedy)—hidden musical talent here? Miss Bradbury presented all the prizes, kindly donated by Miss Shearer—sweets too. There was a sudden call for food, as at last the watched kettles boiled, and supper was served—a sausage roll, two sandwiches, a cake and chocolate biscuits! Well done committee and kitchen staff—a willing band of efficient helpers. Then came an urgent appeal (via Mary Mac) from the National Health Service—for more dentures! Balls of plasticine and peanuts (in shells) were placed before the couples who had to "make" a set of dentures from them. The results, judged by Miss Bradbury, and on view to all, were very macabre, yet incredibly like the real things! The winners—Audrey Winter (Colling) and Joan Hart (Wilson) were presented with some chewing gum! Artists were required for the Drawing Game which followed—films to be guessed by groups. Ingenuity as much as drawing ability was needed for "From Russia with love", "The Longest Day", "Cleopatra", etc. We finished off the evening at the "Palais de Danse"—in a game with complicated instructions worked out at some length by Mary and ending the evening somewhat nobly.

A full-throated chorus of "Auld Lang Syne" concluded a happy evening.

Annual Dinner, 24th April, 1964. Held as usual in Bians' Restaurant, this year's dinner was a rather notable occasion, for amongst the 188 members present were the Mayor and Mayoress of Sunderland, Alderman Mrs. J. E. Hedley and Mrs. M. Smith, both life members of the Guild and probably better known to us as Nellie and Polly Blacklock.

After an enjoyable meal (turkey was the main dish this year), the Chairman welcomed the Mayor and Mayoress, together with Miss Bradbury, Miss Shearer, Miss Arkle, Miss Harris, Miss Lloyd—just back from a holiday in Africa—

Angrey Haston, the Deputy Headmistress and several present members of staff. Members had travelled from Whitley Bay, Newcastle, Durham, Easington, West Hartlepool, Billingham, Stockton, Glasgow, Chiswell (Notts.), and from London came Doreen Ward (Macrae) secretary of the London Branch. Nora thanked Elsie for her hard work not only in organising the dinner but also in drawing up a very comprehensive and much appreciated seating plan, typed out, in duplicate, by Olga Wright. (This had proved much more successful than the previous system of rather haphazard "bagging"). The Chairman then invited the Mayor to propose the toast to the School and Ald. Hedley (warning us that she would speak of Sunderland rather than "Bede") gave us a brief but entertaining account of her year in office. Replying to the toast, Miss Bradbury wondered whether the present generation of Bedans might produce a future Mayor—or even Lord Mayor—of Sunderland. After the School Song, Miss Shanser presented a silver-plated tray to Mary Mackintosh (Mrs. Alderson)—now also, leaving Sunderland to live near Rothbury—to mark the Guild's appreciation of her long service and of the pleasure she has brought to members, especially through the "G.O.B's". Mary replied that she was very proud to have been part of the nucleus—one of her favourite words! learnt at Bede—from which the Guild had grown, and added that it was always a pleasure to "serve" Old Bedans.

So we gathered round to hear the "G.O.B's" perform their swan-song — or so they would have us believe, for they sat in, breathlessly announcing—

"Just in time, we made it just in time  
For this our very last Old Bedan Show."

Their problem:—

"We were here, and there was Mary up at Thropton  
Back to her old town she found the way  
And she was just in time,  
She made it just in time,  
To play her part upon this April day."

And in she came, wearing a sash proclaiming her "Miss Thropton 1964", over a novel line in Beauty Queen outfits—a round felt hat, belted tweed coat of near-ankle length, thick stockings and sensible brogues. (This, she explained later, is the correct attire for well-to-do country folk).

A pause while Miss Bradbury presented small gifts to the cast — then on with the "Heed's Mary Show". In this scene familiar old tunes were given topical new words — for instance, to "Cushie Butterfield" we heard:—

"Generations of Bedans have brought the school fame  
And one is our honoured guest and Hedley's the name.  
She's furthered education and mothered it an' all,  
And it's through her obstination we're in First League football."

Chorus:

"She's a little lass and a canny lass  
The pride of the Wear  
And they call her Nellie Hedley  
And we're glad that she's here."

Then with complete change of mood, Mary delighted us by singing the lovely "Waters of Tyne". From Tyne to the Hebrides for the Cockle Gatherers in original Gaelic ("Eat till you feel full, eat till you're fit to bust, eat till you feel full — Hey another cockle is!"), and then south again to Mary's new home ground and "Borrisie Cragside". Finally to the strains of "The Lambton Worm" the G.O.B's took advantage of the presence of our first citizen to air a few grievances.

"One Sunday morn me mate and me went walking roon the toon  
And all we saw was bricks and muck from buildings they'd pulled  
down  
And whateer kind of place it was we couldna really tell  
So we got together and signed a form to gie to our Neil."

They feared that the rates might emulate the worms—

"Cos we all feel they'll grow and grow, and grow to an awful size  
And we'll still have that awful mess before our very eyes  
And when we're old and past our best will it be different then  
Or will it be as mucky still when Philip comes again?"

The petition was solemnly handed to, and graciously accepted by "Our Neil", who unrolled it, to read within "Apologies for any bricks dropped".

On such a night the Bard's birthday could not be overlooked, and grouped round an excellently cooked beast, several of his characters came to give their views on local matters. Shakespeare must at some time have visited Sunderland, probably arriving by train on a Sunday: how else could Othello—

"— know a site whereon the wild thyme blows  
Where tin cars rattle and the traffic flows?  
Quite over-canopied by the North End clock  
And glistening with cars that park on blue  
Where sleep the taximen sometime of the night  
Lulled by the fumes that sweep from left to right  
And there the trains throw out their shower of grit  
It's quite enough to make Titania sit."

A weary traveller, passing to rest, discovered—

"There is a divinity that warns our ends  
'Tis the electric wiring neath the Museum steps  
Full insulated they are and clean withal."

We heard Hamlet soliloquising on the siting of the new Civic Centre, Macbeth on great vendors ("Is this a barrow I see before me?"), and "over hill over dale" came Puck, with another plea to authority:—

"Oh Nellie take our pleas from here,  
And drop a word in every councillor's ear  
And get the railings back on Roker Pier."

Next, we saw a drama of Regency times. In the first scene, the beautiful Lady Clorinda, learning that her beloved Sir Peregrine had lost heavily to a notorious gambler, Ringo Starr, decided to sacrifice her diamond necklace to save him from ruin. Leaving word that she had gone to visit Aunt Henrietta, she dashed off to Bath. Scene two found our heroine all too literally in the clutches of the dastardly Mr. Starr, but in the nick of time Sir Peregrine arrived (he had cleverly guessed her true errand, Aunt Henrietta having been dead these last ten years) and in a thrilling duel, sealed his debt with cold steel—  
"Egad, not a drop of blue blood in him!"

The final item was a tribute—and a surprise—to Mary, set to the tune of "Make mine country style"—

"She's the girl who's going to leave us,  
Foreign parts will be her beguile  
Her going's sure to grieve us  
Now it's Thropton Style."

Mary's going back to nature  
She'll walk many a country mile  
Naught to aggravate her  
Now it's Theopson style.

She'll be gaffer at the Women's Institute  
Sales of work and—all that  
Inner Whoofer, golfing, over 60's clubs  
Peer old Wearside—seems flat.

We're all going up to see her  
Bus loads coming all the while  
Next year's summer outing  
We'll go Theopson style.

This seems an appropriate time to say "thank you" to all the G.O.B.'s. Year after year with few changes in cast, they have devoted much time and energy to the entertainments which has given such a sparkle to our annual dinner. We love them, and would like them to go for ever, but they do deserve a respite—to sit in the audience for a change. There must be other Old Bodans, with talent, ideas, even just enthusiasm, and the Entertainment Committee's acting-committee, Winnie Thomas would be delighted to hear from them as soon as possible. April is only a few short months away!

**Summer Reunion, 12th June, 1964.** We returned thankfully to our usual fine evening on the summer outing to Chollerford. Irene Wilkinson in her car guided the bus load of 32 Old Bodans up the North Tyne to a delightful spot, where we disembarked. The walk down from the road through woods bordering the river and over high hills led us to a beautiful pasture meadow where we foraged for supper. The committee were responsible for the tasty sandwiches etc. for our al fresco meal. Peggy Todd was busy as usual with her camera. Elsie read a letter from Mary Mac saying how sorry she was to be unable to join us—we missed her too. After much laughter and chatter we made our way back to the bus for a pleasant journey home.

## SUMMARY OF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

29th September, 1964

46 Members present. Miss E. J. Bradbury and members welcomed by the Chairman.

Minutes of the last Business Meeting.

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

Election of Office Bearers and Committee for 1964-65.

Chairman's Remarks.

Reports on the Hockey and Netball Clubs, the London Branch, the 'Old Bodan', Social Service Activities and the Loan and Scholarship Fund.

Allocation from Funds:—One guinea for School Prize and one guinea for 'Bodan' Competition.

Future Meetings:—The Winter Reunion in School on Friday, January 28th, 1965; the Dinner Reunion on April 30th and a Summer Reunion.

**Loan and Scholarship Fund.** As no applications for loans had been received by the end of June (1964) the Annual Meeting of the Loan and Scholarship Committee was postponed until early in September, so that the G.C.E. examination results would be available, for the purpose of selecting girls who would receive Leaving Grants. These are made (according to the state of our finances), to girls who have achieved a really good level of success at A-level; and it is stipulated that the money must be used to buy equipment needed at the place of Further Education to which the girl is going. Judging by the letters of thanks received from girls who won the awards last year, the grant is very much appreciated and is used very wisely.

This year, as we had received £105 in the course of the year from repaid loans, the Committee felt justified in making 9 awards of value £7. and 7 awards of value £3 to mark success in the 1964 G.C.E. examination.

D. M. WILMAN, Hon. Sec.

**Social Service Report.** Our activities during the past year have followed the usual pattern and financially, thanks to the generosity of you all, we start this year with a credit balance of £28 13s. 0½d.

Early in October, 1963, with your help, the Social Service ran the Guild of Old Bedlams' Stall at the town's Autumn Market and raised the sum of £35 9s. 2d. for the Guild of Help. Later in the month we gave 15/- "extra coal" money to 20 needy persons, paid for the repair of a TV set (previously donated to an old lady by one of the Guild) and supplied pocket money to one of the inmates of a Corporation Hostel. In December 25 parcels plus £1 for extra coal were delivered to our old friends, and £2 was sent to Wayside Home, West Boldon; this was spent on extra sweets distributed on Christmas Day.

In March a large audience of Guild members and friends enjoyed an excellent cookery demonstration in the Demonstration Kitchen of the Northern Gas Board. This annual event, arranged by one of our committee (through the courtesy of her husband) is eagerly anticipated by us all. This year it was the means of raising over £33 for the Social Service fund. Later in March, 23 Easter parcels plus 15/- for coal were distributed to our old friends in need. The Christmas and Easter parcels were extra large due to a splendid collection of non-perishable goods made at Bede thanks to the kindly interest of Miss Bradbury, who personally delivered over 200 tins and packets to the Secretary. Will all who have helped us during the past year in any way by holding carols parties, coffee mornings or raffles, or by giving donations in "cash or kind" please accept our thanks, for without such generous support our service could not function.

ELSIE WILSON (Hooker), 102 Ewesley Road (Convenor).

The Hockey Club had once again a most enjoyable season. 24 matches were played, 14 won, 2 drawn and 8 lost. It is pleasant to record that we scored twice as many goals as were recorded against us. We organised the first club tournament and were second in our section. A sum of money was given to County funds from a lucky dip stall which we ran at the tournament. Once again we won the end of season tournament at Billingham in March when we scored twice as many goals as any other team. We welcomed a new member Ann White (Steele) and two guest players who strengthened the team considerably.

As usual the club has been active socially with two enjoyable dinners, one at Christmas and the other at the end of the season, to celebrate our tournament victory.

Once again we thank Miss Bradbury and the Guild members for their continuing interest. We also extend a warm welcome to incoming players.

JEAN BREWIS (Pillars),  
24 Drayton Road, Fulwell.

**The Netball Club.** Last January an Old Bedans' Netball Team was affiliated to the Sunderland Youth Organisation and a team competed in the Senior League. Although we are a new section of the Guild and our numbers are very small, our first season was a fairly successful one. Because of the large numbers in the senior Section the league was split into three sub-sections with eight teams in each. The winners of each section met in the finals. Of the six games played by Old Bedans five were won by very convincing margins and in the sixth the team was beaten by Sunderland Savings Bank.

On 27th May a tournament was held at Thorney Close School and, split into sections, each team played five games. Old Bedans won three matches, drew one and lost the other to St. Thomas', the eventual over-all winners of the tournament and the league. On behalf of the team I would like to thank Miss Bradbury, Mrs. Kirkwood and the Guild for their help and encouragement.

HEATHER WARDLE, Hon. Sec.,  
9 Beatrice Street, Roker.

**The London Branch of the Guild of Old Bedans.** We have met twice in the last 12 months—in November at Doreen Margetroyd's (Boyes). There should have been seven guests—Miss Moul, Joyce Hebron (Ayles), Marjorie Bailis (Kewish), Habel Lundy (Manro), Eleanor Wilson (Tithersidge), Phyllis Tennant (Bock) and myself, but, at the last moment, three of us were prevented from attending. Doreen told me when I phoned later that a good time had been had by all and not too many sandwiches, etc., were left on her hands.

Seven Old Bedans—Miss Moul, Phyllis Tennant, Nancy Lawther (Habicka), Doreen Margetroyd, Habel Lundy, Joyce Hebron and Marjorie Bailis made the journey to my house on a lovely warm day in May. We talked about the usual things and I reported on my trip North for the Annual Dinner and my visits to Miss Shearer, Miss Arkle and Miss Lloyd which I enjoyed immensely. Miss Moul had to leave early as she was expecting guests—we do appreciate the effort she makes to come to the Reunions, no matter how awkward the journey.

No "new" Old Bedans have contacted me since my appeal last year—all the "regulars" incidentally left school in the 1940's! We were all pleased when one of the younger generation—Eve Smith (Robinson) Joyce Hebron's niece by marriage—joined us at Miss Seddon's but no others of her age-group have come forward since. There must be many young Old Bedans in London and I would be so pleased to hear from some of them.

Miss Birchall has not managed to attend a Reunion for some time—we all send her our best wishes and hope she is enjoying good health.

DOREEN WARD (Macrae),  
39 Birch Grove, London, W.3.

## SCHOOL NOTES

### Staff Changes:

Goodbye to—Mrs. Wilkinson, Miss Azagra, Mrs. Sheriff, Miss Donkin, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. M. Smith.

Welcome to—Miss Argyll, Mrs. Moss, Mrs. Robinson, Miss Simpson, Mrs. Vincent, Miss Warren, Miss Winterbottom, Mr. Almond, and welcome back to Miss A. Thompson.

Chairman of P.T.A.—Mr. J. F. Berman.

Vice-Chairman—Mrs. Bryce.

Guild of Old Bedans' Representative—Mrs. Wilson.

School Captain—Jean Barnes.

Vice-Captain—Patricia Stirling.

G.O.B. Prizes — For high attainment at 'O' level—Janet Barber.

— Bedan Essay—Shelagh Buchanan, Joan Davis.

Lily A. Hutchinson Memorial Prize—For the most appreciative work in English—Patricia Byers; in French—Shelagh Buchanan.

(Both these prizewinners are daughters of Old Bedans).

## FROM NOVEMBER 1963 to NOVEMBER, 1964

These have become Life Members—Edith Broderick (Burge), Phyllis Carr (Ferry), Ethel Chapman (Gardner), Elaine Clayburn (Oliver), Doris Foster (Pleuret), Jean Mitchell (Pentolite), Pat Morgan (Smith), Hannah Reed (Roberson), Helen Reed (Perry), Peggy Stothard, Sylvia Thatcher (Bancroft), Joyce White.

These have become Members—Kathleen Carr, Dorothy Cockburn, Linda Dale, Avril Foster, Mary Hayton (Buddles), Irene Joyce (Stays), Margaret Laidlaw, Joyce Newton, Audrey Smithson (Foster), Kathleen Stafford, Heather Wardle, Jean Watson.

Married are—June Allison, Ann Bartlett, Jean Carlton, Patricia Deane, Gillian Ditchburn, Dorothy Dodd, Ursula Field, Sylvia Forrest, Betty Graham, Norma Hair, Patricia Jackson, June Jepson, Dorothy Mennear, Marion Milburn, Jane Miller, Hazel Oliver, Wendy Parr-Barman, Elaine Peli, Sylvia Refson, Marjorie Reeves, Kathleen Robson (the third), Margaret Shewagh, Olga Stone, Sylvia Thatcher, Sybil Ward, Mariel Watson (the second), Margaret Webb, Valerie Wilkinson.

Babies too—Greta Beadle (Pyburn), Joan Boudge (Kilner), Dorothy Campbell (Kenley), Pat Campbell (Price), Margaret Chastrey (Gardner), Jean Davison (Rice), Ruth Denton (Bainbridge), Ann Harland (Fox), Sylvia Hood (Briggs), Beanie Lamplugh (Sharaton), Robina Lawson (Foster), Brenda Johnston (Jules), Ann Mitchell (Crowe), Edith Osborne (Linfoot), Connie Parkinson (Henderson), Margaret Ponder (Hunter), Owen Ross (Ditchburn), Betty Rough (Heppburn), Frances Sharpe (Oliver), Shirley Sinclair (Russell), Shona Spencer (Pickering), Jean Smith (Robertson), Audrey Syrett (Ramsbury), Peggy Thirkell (Johnson), Dorothy Wiggott (Alderson), Valerie Williamson (Trigg).

In Memoriam—Doris Bell (Mrs. Cameron), Constance Fairgrieve (Mrs. Blander), Nancy Harr, Elizabeth McLaughlan (Mrs. May), Margaret McKenzie (Mrs. Ling) Lindsay Littleboales, E. M. Parkin (Mrs. Horton)—Staff, Margaret Parton (Mrs. Robertson), Madge Robertson, Edith Schockfield, Laura Scott, Jennie Shadforth, Teresa Stephenson, Jane Wetherald (Mrs. Fall), Janet Drybough (Mrs. Mitchell).

**Former Members of Staff.** We record with deep regret the death of Mrs. Horton (Miss E. M. Parkin). She had looked forward, after some difficult years, to having a wonderful holiday at last, but instead, her lot was to endure a long weary time in hospital, and a crippling illness. Through the kindness of a friend in Sheffield, the Guild was able on several occasions, to send flowers and cards to Mrs. Horton, who greatly appreciated the kind thoughts and messages. Miss Franklin too was able to visit her in hospital. Old Bedans appreciate the courage with which she faced this long illness and they remember with gratitude her years of work for them in their History lessons and their study of Modern Events.

Miss Mowl has been in Sunderland a few times recently and continues to be interested in the London Old Bedans meetings. She sends kind messages from time to time. Miss Lloyd arrived back in Sunderland, after a year in Rhodesia, just in time to attend the Guild of Old Bedans' Dinner. She spent three weeks in hospital recently to have a minor operation, but is now out and about again and enjoyed seeing the Old Bedans who called on her. Miss Sedden is settled in her new life and interests in Eastbourne. A garden, a pool and a Society for helping old people, take up much of her time. In the summer she spent, along with Miss Arkle, a day or two in Durham, but she did not manage to visit Sunderland. Miss Lamb arranged with characteristic enterprise, a wonderful and varied journey that took her round the world. It included crossing Africa by the overland coaches, stopping where she wanted to and

could find a place to stay at, going on elsewhere if no lodging was available, and making many detours. Since her return, she has done some temporary College and W.E.A. lecturing, and other similar work. Miss Ward retired some little time ago from her post of Physical Education Lecturer at Neville's Cross Training College, and lives at Whitley Bay. Miss Franklin, still in Orkney, on holiday in Scotland in July, visited Emily Durant (Lawson) and occasionally sees Connie and Winifred Wardman when they visit Yorkshire. Mrs. White (Miss French) from Sheffield was one of the two missionary guest speakers at the Missionary Weekend of the Congregational Churches in Sunderland. Miss Stark has been in hospital for a few weeks and is likely to be there for some time yet. We send her sympathy and good wishes.

### BEDANS AT WORK

The Youngest Old Bedans, who left school in July, 1964, are at Universities at Exeter, Sheffield, Leeds, Southampton, Manchester, Keele, Durham and Newcastle. Of particular interest to Old Bedans—Sheelagh Buchanan (Joan Squires' daughter) is at St. Mary's, Durham; Barbara Gilchrist, daughter of Betty Hall, is at Leeds; Catherine Benney (mother: Gladys Littlehales) is at St. John's Training College, York; Kathleen Stafford (Betty Bitch's daughter) is at The Northern Counties Training College and Pamela Byers (Joyce Gowdy's daughter) Exeter University. Rosalyn Gordon, daughter of Joyce Bloom, is doing Physiotherapy at R.V.L., Newcastle.

Donna Brown, who left Bede for Market Bosworth after taking 'O' levels, was awarded a place at St. Anne's College, Oxford. Judith Birbeck is at Leeds University, where she is captain of the swimming team.

Other Bedans at Work. Eileen McCree has been working in a large teaching hospital in Copenhagen for the past year and hopes to go to Adelaide, Australia, early in the New Year to take up a senior appointment in the Pathology Department of a new hospital there. Gladys Sherwin has left Leicester Royal Infirmary and is now at the Cookridge Hospital, Leeds. Jean Stirling is coming to Sunderland to work at St. Ignatius Church. Lena Stirling (Collinson) is a staff trainer at Birns. At Sunderland Training College, Ann Pace is lecturing in Infant Method for a short period. Alison Henderson who was seconded for a year to lecture at the Newcastle Day Training College, is back as headmistress of Commercial Road Girls' School. Gillian Dochburn (Mann) who gained a first class honours degree in English Language and English Literature from St. Anne's College this year, is now working for a B.Litt. degree in medieval literature. Her home is in North Leigh (Oxon). Winifred Talbot is head of the mathematics department at Avery Hill Training College and is warden of one of the halls of residence. Yvonne White has left West Park School and is teaching at Sunderland High School. Betty Coates (Wilkinson) has left Bede and is teaching at St. Anthony's Grammar School. Gwen Lloyd retired from teaching in July 1963, after thirty years at March (Cambridgeshire) High School. She is living in a "charming little house with a wonderful view" at Manor Brow, Kewstic, where she was called upon at Whitsuntide by Winnie Scott (Thomas) who was on holiday there.

Margaret Turner, Lillie Border, Ella Lister (White) and Cathrine McCree have retired from teaching in Sunderland.

In Public Life. Ethel Greig (Lindsay) has been appointed to the Juvenile Court Panel of Sunderland Borough magistrates. Tributes of appreciation of many years of service were paid to Sybil Brown on retirement from some sections of her public work, including the Probation Committee for the County area.

Elsie Davidson (Kirkwood) represented the Congregational Women of Durham and Northumberland at a Conference in Derby in October. She and Margaret MacLachlan (Steel) seem to be much in demand at the opening of charity functions. Margaret has opened a Whitburn garden party in aid of a new Y.M.C.A. hostel, and a Sale of Work at the Sunderland Branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society, while Elsie has opened the annual Fair of the League of Friends of Ryhope General Hospital, and a St. John's Ambulance Brigade Bazaar, recently.

**Notable Occasions.** Tributes to the late Alderman Miss Evelyn Macklock were paid by the members of Roker Park Ladies' Bowling Club when a new seat was installed at the side of the bowling green in her memory, in the presence of her sisters Nellie (Hadley) and Mary (Smith), who thanked the club for their gesture in having the seat installed. Elsie Wilson the second (Prior) who takes Domestic Science at West Park Secondary Modern School where Lena Thompson is headmistress, received an engraved plaque on behalf of her winning team in the school baking competition held in connection with the Ideal Homes Exhibition. Elsie Brown, Headmistress of West Park Technical School for Girls, was adjudicator at an inaugural competition in the art of speaking at Farrington Secondary Modern School when Peggy Allen (Irvine) presented a silver rose bowl to be competed for annually. Winifred Whiting presented the prizes at the annual prize giving of Argyle House School this year. Christine Morgan whose "life is very busy just now" as Commissioner for the Seaham Division of Girl Guides, presented a Queen's Guide Award at a ceremony in Peterlee in February. Pauline Humphreys (Hunter) who is assistant secretary of Sunderland Empire Theatre Society, was one of the judges at a beauty competition held by the Junior Empire Theatre Society last February. Nancy Whitehouse won many awards at the Seaham Flower Show. Rose Taylor (Cruik) received money collected by Sunday Schools and Youth Organisations in aid of the National Children's Home at a Festival of Queens in Sunderland. June Charlton (Drewery) who is chairman of a section of the Conservative Association in Wellington, where she lives and teaches, was a delegate to the Conservative Women's Conference in London this year, and lunched with Lady Douglas-Hume at No. 10 Downing Street.

**Keeping in Touch.** One source of interesting news is the meeting, expected or unexpected, of Old Bedans.

In Manchester, Ruth Marley (Green) and Kathleen Walton (Wood) now meet about once a month at an "unofficial Tyne-Wear-Tees Society". Christine Morgan hears from Mollie Wears (Clarke) who lives in Padstow, still teaches part-time, and is always interested in Sunderland and its affairs. To "40 Ashwood" have come various Old Bedans including Dorcas Ward (Macrae) from London and a few others who were in Sunderland for the Dinner in April. Dorcas also appeared unexpectedly later but with no time to sit down, on her way south from a Scottish holiday. Erid Crowe, also from London, stayed for a day or two after she and Miss Shauer had spent a week in Westmorland where the first person they saw on reaching their hotel was Floris Dowley. Erid had also a short time with Florence Jackson but saw fewer Old Bedan friends this year, owing to unforeseen happenings. Shortly afterwards two of her prefects at Bede came—Amy Hussey (Denver) took a few hours out of her busy life at Market Weighton to spend them with D.S.A. and E.R.S. on her way to Son at Lurne at Durham, and later, Lillian Rowe called when she was spending a few days in Sunderland on her way home to Rugby, and met Elsie Wilson for the first time since schooldays. Then Madeline Birks from Yugoslavia appeared one afternoon, while outside their gate, D.S.A. and E.R.S. met Amy Stephenson (Ferguson) from Wiltshire, whom they had never seen since she left school, although they had heard of her at intervals.

Through Dereon Ward and a London Old Bedan meeting, E.R.S. has got in touch again with Alice Munro, part of whose letter is quoted later. The wife of her sister-in-law Isabel Lundy in Cambridge, sees Annie Wilson (Aikin) from Bessels Green, still teaching in Tonbridge Technical School, and hears from Frances Forsyth (Miller) who still lives in Dundee and has many interests there. Evelyn Johnson (Ellis) from Wakefield—a form-mate of Alice, Anne, Frances, and Bertha Byfield (Murray) who is teaching in Reading—paid a visit to Sunderland for the wedding of her sister Rene's son, but had no time to call. Their other sisters, Inez, Phyllis and Mellic, all married, live now respectively near Bridgewater, Guildford, and Sunderland. Evelyn was not needed this year at Wakefield Boys' Grammar School, and has had a class for adults at the Technical College—local government men and women for local Government examinations, but finds them less interesting than were her younger pupils. Miss Lloyd had visits from Doreen Ward and from Jennie Vincent (Orle) from Canada, and calling at a neighbour's house the other day was surprised to meet there a former schoolfellow of the old Higher Grade—Evelyn Newton (Hutchinson). Kathleen Mair has recently seen Nancy Davidson (Cook) when Nancy came from Derby and visited the library here. Kathleen along with Vera Harraid, paid a flying visit to Kathleen Watson of West End, Southampton. The two Kathleenes had met a year ago or so, but Vera and Kathleen Watson had last seen each other as pupils at Bede.

Mary Robertson, writing at New Year, tells us that she and Mary Radclik see each other occasionally on Committees or Meetings or Open Days at various places. The latter is now Headmistress of a very good school in Liverpool. Maudie Rich (Spencer) was at a conference in Newcastle in summer and we were able at her request to put her in touch with an old school friend, May Bloom (Pine) with whom she spent several hours. Agnes McIndoe (King) touring with her husband in Scotland and the Lake District, found a car with a Newcastle Registration number parked close to them at Derwentwater and went to have a word with the occupants. Within minutes they found that the man's parents had lived in Holmlands Park when Agnes lived there, and that his wife was Doris Russell (Turnbull) from Whitley Bay, who was at Bede for a short time while she was very young, and whose elder sister Annie, Agnes knew at school. Annie is pretty much an invalid now, she was sorry to hear. Laura Thatcher (Bickerton) and her sister Jessie (Linfot), on a tour in the Norfolk Broads were surprised to meet Nellie Paine (Grant). Elsie Seaden (Lawrence) boarded a bus at Thropton and came face to face with — GUESS WHOM? When Kathleen Carr, Jet Hey, Joan Jobling and Winnie Scott walked up the lane to Ferrelife Cottage one day in September, Mary Mac's face registered pleasure and astonishment—"I thought it was Monday you were coming!" They spent a happy day together however, with Joan making full use of her very candid cine-camera. Mary has quickly been caught up in the village activities, but so far has only promised to help out at the Church Christmas party and "do an item" at the W.I. party. In September she was invited to present prizes at the Thropton Show.

Mildred Baine (Ellison), on holiday in Eskdale, met Joyce Hebron (Ayles) a member of the London Branch of the Guild, and exchanged "news and views". Too late for inclusion in last year's magazine came the news that Ella Sunter (Siddle) came from her home at Blackpool to stay with Amy Robinson (Scott) and while in Sunderland visited Amy Robinson (Thompson) and Jennie Ellerington (Charlton). Eta Cohen (Smith) who still maintains her interest in violin teaching, visited Elsie Wilson (Hooker) this year. Elsie Weatherall (Patch) finds life at Wall, Northumberland, busy and interesting in their retirement. Her help in the musical life of the area is much appreciated. On a visit to her sister Hilda (also retired) at Swanby, other Sunderland friends arrived, including Phyllis Lodge and Miss Durns (Bede staff). Dorothy Stephenson, Principal of Underwood Secretarial College, Newcastle, meets Madge Colwell every month.

Elena Glancy attended a twelve-day Summer School in Pennsylvania, U.S.A., this year. Muriel Watson (Harte) who finished her training at Lady Mabel College of Physical Education in July, was bound, with her husband, for Iowa, U.S.A., to live for three years in a flat part of the country which will deprive them of their favourite outdoor activity of rock climbing. Muriel is a former Durham County hockey player and a keen swimmer.

Kathleen Robson (now Mrs. Munds) formerly the children's operatic coach at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, was going to San Francisco after her marriage.

## FROM YOUR LETTERS

Miss Moral writes: "Please tell the Guild that I do truly care for everything and everyone Bedan, that I have read every word of the charming 'gossipy' Old Bedan chronicle and that I still look forward to meeting them and renewing acquaintances". Miss Seddon finds Eastbourne "A much pleasanter place to live in than London, which gets noisier and dirtier everyday, though I was sorry indeed to be leaving just when I had renewed acquaintance with a number of Old Bedans. I loved entertaining them to tea, and hearing all the news and only wish I could have done it again but I fear they would find Eastbourne a little far".

Writing from London to Miss Shearer in December 1963, Alice Munro, a former Chairman of the Guild, says: "I left teaching in 1949 and joined the Youth Employment Service, then newly set up in London. . . . After working in Stepney and Camberwell, I moved, in 1961, to the Lambeth Youth Employment Bureau which is in part of the Brixton Day College. I look after this Bureau and keep a supervisory eye on three other offices in South-West London — Camberwell, Balham and Battersea. It is a vast area to which young people from many countries seem to come in their search for jobs and education. We have good London Cookneys, many West Indians, Nigerians, Indians, Maltese, Cypriots and even an Algerian now and then. Coming nearer home, last month sixty boys from the North-East came to London to seek work. The Youth Employment Service was able to find the jobs, but the problem of finding accommodation will be more difficult and it is not really a solution of the problem of unemployment in the North-East to add to the great congestion in the South-East. The whole problem of work in the London area is that of transport and a place to live, and most people have to face up to at least an hour's journey to work. . . . I have a small but very nice flat near Chislehurst and Bromley in Kent and travel into London daily by train." In November 1964, Alice wrote: "I have now been working for fifteen years for the L.C.C. and am about to watch the great upheaval of that body as it transfers some of its responsibilities to the Inner London Education Authority or the new boroughs. I've seen a great deal of education in all its forms in these years having been in and out of some sixty London schools. The reorganisation from old "all-age" schools to the big modern comprehensive schools has been interesting to watch. The conditions of employment of young people too, have changed enormously. How different is the choice of employment they have now from what was available to those who left school in the North East in the 'twenties and 'thirties! There is one thing though which we had and which present day schoolgirls rarely seem to get and that is the same teachers for four or five years—a stability which was of enormous value, I think. . . . The Old Bedan is always welcome when it arrives. It is amazing what a variety of news about the activities of Old Bedans is found each year. . . ."

From further afield still—New South Wales—Joyce Gallon (Hodgson) wrote in April: "Christmas Day 1963 was exceptionally hot—the hottest we've experienced since our arrival — it reached 110°F! Some people stuck to the traditional Christmas Dinner—plum pudding and everything—but I don't know how they survived! We had our Turkey on Christmas Eve and it was hot enough cooking it then! We had friends over for the day on Christmas Day and I planned a cold meal, making various mixed vegetable salads, beetroot moultz with gelatine etc. They looked very colourful turned out on serving dishes but before our very eyes and within about ten minutes we sat and watched them slowly dissolve, until soon there was just a mass of diced vegetables swimming in a dish of water! I'll not forget that Christmas Day in a hurry!"

#### EDITORIAL POSTSCRIPT

An Old Bedam writes: "No one ever quite understands how all the information for the magazine is collected year by year" — least of all your Editor! Your letters and your news items are essential to the compiling of this "charming gossip chronicle", to quote Miss Moul, and many people write or speak of their enjoyment in reading of other Old Bedams. Please send us your news too.

Our thanks to Mr. Milner Taylor, our auditor, and to Kathleen Ditchburn, Winnie Graham, Margaret Hunter and Betty Stafford for their competent and promptly-retained typing.

W.T.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS ON 31st AUGUST, 1964

Summary of Balance Sheet for the Year — 1st September 1963 to 31st August, 1964

RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURE	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Annual Subscriptions	50 7 0	Printing	...
14 Life Subscriptions	44 2 6	Stationery	...
7 Donations	8 11 6	Postage and Telephons	...
Balance from Meetings	11 2 7	Gifts	...
Interest	29 2 10	London Branch	...
		Engineering	...
		Balance on Year's Working	...
	£40 5 11		£43 5 11

TOTAL FUNDS

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance on 31st August, 1963	757 11 0	Made up as follows:—	58 7 2
Balance on Year's Working...	74 0 1	3 1/2% War Stock	75 0 0
		3 1/2% Defence Bonds	...
		Balance in Bank:—	...
		Deposit Account	109 12 7
		S.I.D.	521 14 4
		Current Account	46 12 6
		Cash in Hand	4 6
	£831 11 1		£831 11 1

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

ELISE J. KIRK-WOOD,  
Hon. Treasurer.

J. M. TAYLOR,  
August, 1964.

THE GUILD OF OLD BEDAMS

The Winter Re-union will be held in the Art Room at School on Friday, January 29th 1965 from 6.45 p.m. till 10 p.m.

Tickets priced, 4/-d each, may be obtained from members of the Committee or from the Secretary. If you intend to be present at this Re-union, will you, please, get your ticket before January 27th.

Preliminary Notice:- The Dinner Re-union will be held in Binns' Restaurant on Friday, April 30th 1965. Details will be sent later.

To Annual Subscribers:- Please, note that your subscription (5/-d) for 1964-65 is NOW DUE.

"Michaelford",  
Dipe Lane,  
SOUTH BOLTON,  
Co. Durham.

Elsie I. Kirkwood.  
(Hon. Secretary).

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