

# THE OLD BEDAN

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1967

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## The Guild of Old Bedans

President	Mrs A. A. Y. Carrick
Vice-Presidents	Miss E. J. Bradbury Miss W. J. E. Moul Miss E. R. Shearer
Chairman	Mrs. Robinson(Mary Arkless) 4, Westfield Grove.
Vice-Chairman	Mrs. Hunter(Margaret Chapman) 9, Stockton Road, Ryhope.
Joint Secretary and Treasurer	Mrs. Kirkwood(Elsie Davidson) "Michaelford", Dipe Lane, South Boldon, Co. Durham. Tel:Boldon 7224
Assistant Secretary	Irene Wilkinson 62, Charter Drive, East Herrington. Tel:East Herrington 3376

### COMMITTEE.

Mrs. Bell, Bede School; Mrs. Ellison, (Mildred Baine), 38, Park Ave.  
Mrs. McHenry, (Wyneth Rough), 21, Farnham Terrace; Mrs Ritch,  
(Kathleen Carr), 3, Beresford Park; Mrs. Sidney, (Gladys Stewart),  
17, Richard Avenue; Lena Thompson, 9, Wooler Square; Mrs. Widdrington,  
(Eileen Shiel), 38, Summerhill, East Herrington.

Ex-Officio Member: Mrs. Thomas (Winifred Scott), Editor of the 'Old Bedan', 11, Grange View. Tel:57985.

### INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS.

Annual Subscription: 5/- for 1967-68, due on September 1st. 1967.

Life Membership: £3. 5. 0.

Membership; On August 31st. 1967, the membership was 618, including 338 Life Members. Please, note that 34 members owe their subscriptions for 1966-67. The Secretary/Treasurer would be most grateful to have these together with the 1967-68 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 two years in arrears with their subscription.

### Guild Activities and Meetings.

Winter Reunion. Fifty-four members met in the Art Room on the evening of Friday, January 27th. Miss Moul was a surprise visitor, and in addition we welcomed, as always, past and present members of staff - Miss Shearer, Miss Harris, Mrs. Beane, Miss Wilman, Miss Harding, Miss Bernard and Miss Hayton. Our games included our "old faithful" guessing game while people arrived - (holiday scenes re-visited and famous women, past and present, recognised). We did - a happy-families type of game with chopped-up lines of songs, answered questions which had parts of the body as answers. an ingenious shopping-list game, with plaintive cries of "I can't find the price of carrots" cheerfully ignored by the M.C.s, and ended with a sing-song using "Miss Shearer's" songbooks. We also gladly accepted from E.R.S., sweets and prizes during the party, and enjoyed a supper prepared by the Committee.

Annual Dinner, 28th April, 1967. From last year's safari into Swingin' Sunderland, we returned to the more conventional setting of Binn's restaurant. As usual, many of the 150 members present had travelled long distances, the "champion" being Doreen Turnbull; on leave from her teaching post in Australia.

After dinner, the Chairman proposed the toast to the School, and the School Song was conducted by Mary "Mack" and "accompanied" by Winnie on a tape-recorder, no piano being available! Response to the toast was made by Audrey Hayton, the Deputy Headmistress, who said she considered it a privilege - but not a pleasure, in such intelligent and intellectual company (the present writer knows the feeling only too well!). Re-unions, she said, lend themselves to reminiscences seen through spectacles which grow ever more rose-coloured as time goes by. Her own memories ranged from the "Tin Tab" era when the Lower Fourth shared a form-room with a vast gas cooker, and no one was quite sure about Miss Wilson's hair, to the early years of the new school, and the Sports Day when house teams lay down on the hockey field to spell the word "Bedans". The future of the school, said Audrey was now a matter of "Hobson's choice", but having learned from experience not to under-estimate the potentialities of that oft-maligned animal, she looked forward optimistically to the new "infants" development.

The chairman thanked Audrey and welcomed her fellow top-tableers - Miss Bradbury, Miss Shearer, Miss Harris, Mary Arkless (Robinson) and Elsie, on whom, as usual, the main burden of organising the dinner and the seating plan had rested. Miss Moul was unable to join us but had sent a telegram of good wishes; Miss Arkle and Miss Lloyd had also sent apologies.

Nellie then asked Miss Bradbury to accept a brooch and ear-rings, of a pleasing modern design, to mark her 8 years' Presidency of the Guild. We had greatly appreciated her interest and participation in Guild affairs and hoped that we would see her often in the future. We all, of course, wished her well in her new appointment.

Miss Bradbury was delighted with the gift, and said she would find great pleasure both in wearing it and in explaining its significance to those who admired it. She said she realized how fortunate she had been in "taking over Bede as a going concern"; her new task was indeed a challenging one but it was encouraging to feel that she still had the friendship and support of the Guild and would in fact have several members on her new staff. Finally, she offered her own and the Guild's congratulations to the Chairman who had just celebrated her Silver Wedding Anniversary.

The entertainment which followed took us much further into the past than Audrey Hayton's recollections, and was viewed through the imaginative and irreverent lens of Jennie Hey's camera. On her colour slides, famous historical figures were "re-created" and memories evoked by shots of familiar landmarks. There was St. Peter's Church, with a saintly Margaret Turner as Benedict Biscop; at Roker, where Jen herself was "the Salt in the Sea", the old days of sea-side concert parties were recalled by Winnie Scott (Thomas) and her daughter Sheila. The famous signpost directed us to The Village, where Squire Simson (Peggy Victory) cast an appraising eye over a horse and Lady Audrey (Kinch) tiptoed through the tulips. Local industries were illustrated by Miller Robinson (Mary Arkless) at Fulwell and Glassblower Thomas (Winnie). Crossing Wearmouth Bridge, we made a sentimental journey up High Street, calling at Vaux's Brewery to meet the horses of Driver Rough (Joan Boswell, who actually did offer her services when the drivers went on strike last year!) In Carter's Emporium (Ladies Underwear department), Madame Kirton (Joan Jobling) was elegantly at our service. Sherlock Simson (Peggy) adorned the doorway of the Police Station and Joan Liddle as Vesta Tilley reminded us of the Empire's palmy days. Next we visited Mowbray Park where something odd had happened to Jack Crawford—he looked suspiciously like Joan Boswell! No wonder G. T. Ferguson looked disapproving as "he" (Margaret Turner) stood at the door of the old School! On Tunstall Hill we met Jockey Kinch and in Silksworth Lane, Hester Hobson (Mary Arkless) who in less permissive days was fined for riding a horse on a Sunday. Last of all, "A Wearside Golfer", personified by Kathleen Carr (Ritch), who looked ready and able, given a slight bending of the rules, to take on the entire American Ryder Cup team. Because of lighting problems, Mary (O'Thropton) had to abandon the prepared commentary, but undaunted, she ad-libbed her way through very successfully.

As a "second feature" we were shown some slides of Joyce Gallon (Hodgson) in her Australian garden - it looked quite exotic and drew sighs of envy! - and of Mary's son's wedding at Thropton. Was Mary really overheard to say, apropos her hat"— "so Elaine just sort of tied it round my head and stitched it up about half an hour before the wedding?"

The evening ended with a short sing-song, often suggested in the past and now made possible by Miss Shearer's generosity. Armed

with our new song books (and Winnie's tape-recorder) we set off, from a Tavern in the Town, on a whirlwind tour embracing Ireland, U.S.A. and - naturally - Scotland, then bidding one another "Good Night, Ladies"; went our various ways. N, W.

Summer Reunion, 1967. After several days of sunny weather we dared to hope for a fine evening for the summer outing on June 16th, and were not disappointed. We had been invited to visit St. John's Chapel to have our reunion at the home of Bunty Wigham (Hall). A coach load of Old Bedans left Sunderland at 6 p.m. for our journey which took us through Wolsingham, Stanhope and Westgate to the village of St. John's Chapel.

The buttercup meadows, as we sped into the country roads, were at their glorious best and the hawthorn trees were heavy with blossom. Two cars parked at Bunty's front gate awaited our arrival and those who didn't fancy the walk 1,300 feet up the valley by the meadow road were taken up by Bunty and her charming family by car. Chairs awaited us in the front garden and we spread our picnic things on the lawn and started to eat. The view from house and garden was enough to satisfy any country lover, and the flowers in the meadow beyond - daisies, buttercups, speedwell, yellow rattle, cranesbill - delighted many of us. Dorothy Metcalf (Hirst) had made delicious meat pie for supper, committee members had made sandwiches, and chocolate biscuits and cups of coffee completed an al fresco meal. Bunty's dog joined us and enjoyed much petting. Alas! for the first time in many years, no one had brought a camera! 8-45 came all too soon when we had to wander down the hill to join the bus again.

Thank you Bunty, for inviting us to have our reunion at your delightful home in the country. This is the second occasion recently that we have visited an Old Bedan's home for a summer outing, and all those who have been, vote it a marvellous idea, for both have been delightful and memorable occasions. Any offers for 1968?

#### SUMMARY OF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

27th September, 1967.

41 members present. Mr. S. Temple, Headmaster, and members welcomed by the Chairman, Mrs. E. Widdrington, who presided. Motion carried unanimously - Miss Bradbury invited to become a Vice-President.

Motions re-Constitution carried:-

Clause 2 - The Guild of Old Bedans shall consist of former girl pupils and past and present Members of the Staff of the School now known as Bede School, Sunderland.

Clause 3 - shall read "The Headmistress, Deputy Headmistress or Senior Mistress of the School shall be President of the Guild".

Clause 5 - The third sentence to read as follows; "These eight ordinary members shall serve for two years and shall not be eligible for re-election for at least one year".

Clause 11 - Delete - "Members of Form VII may be associate Members of the Guild at an Annual subscription of 1/6d. The Old Bedan not included."

Minutes of the last Business Meeting.

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

Election of Office Bearers and Committee for 1967-68.

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 and two guineas for Essay Competition.

Future Meetings:- The Winter Re-union in School; a Dinner Re-union in April and a Summer Re-union.

Loan and Scholarship Fund. Once again no applications have been received for loans from the above Fund; so the Committee, meeting for the first time under the Chairmanship of Mr. Temple, decided to make leaving awards to 22 girls in recognition of good results in G. C. E. at 'A' level. The total sum dispersed was £147.10.0.

D. M. Wilman, Hon. Secretary.

Social Service Report 1966 - 67. Due to your continued support and interest the Social Service Committee has been able to help needy cases brought to their notice.

In October the Guild provided a well-filled stall at the Autumn Market organised by the Guild of Help, and the £30 raised was greatly appreciated by the Guild of Help Committee.

Our income for the year amounted to £189.9.11½. This splendid total was made up of donations, proceeds of Canasta parties, raffles, and a Cookery Demonstration. Expenditure amounted to £98.15.9; so we started this year with a balance of £36.14.11½.

The money was used to make gifts of money to many needy people, for the purchase of extra fuel in October, December and March; these 'friends' also received a large parcel of groceries in December, which the girls of Bede School donated as part of the schools' Christmas Charity. In March, gifts of eggs, fruit etc. were distributed in addition to money for fuel. We were also able to help two much younger families, who were having a difficult time, due to illness, and two housebound ladies were helped to maintain T. V. sets given by Guild members. An annual subscription was set aside to buy sweets for the residents of Wayside Rest Home and these were bought and distributed by a Guild member. All help we have given has been greatly appreciated and many "thank you" notes have been received, showing how much these old people enjoy being visited by the Committee.

Our grateful thanks to all who support our efforts in many ways and enable us to do this work in the name of the Guild of Old Bedans. We did appreciate the collection of groceries made last Christmas in Bede School; and would like to say "thank you" to Miss Bradbury for this addition to our December distribution, and for "personal delivery".

As you will read elsewhere Miss Moul was present at the last Winter Re-Union and meets the members of the London Branch of the Guild regularly.

We are sorry to report that Miss Seddon has had a long bout of illness, and that Miss Stirk had an unfortunate accident which not only sent her back to hospital, but also had distressing consequences. As this goes to press, Miss Seddon writes that she is "staying with a friend to recuperate and is being looked after hand and foot", and Miss Stirk, though under difficulties, has just gone back to work. We hope that the worst is over for both of them and send them our sympathy and good wishes. Miss Orme, at Bury, retired in July, and Miss Peters has just handed in her resignation, as she is leaving Sunderland shortly, and has decided to advance her retirement. Miss Orme writes that she enjoyed every minute of her teaching and hopes sometime to be able to visit Sunderland; at present, however, home duties claim her. Gladys Littlehales (Beesey) met Miss Briggs and Miss A. Abbott recently when they had come into town from Miss Briggs' home at Evenwood for a day's visit. She has also met Miss Thompson who was for a short time Miss Dunn's successor. Miss Joyce Harris keeps in touch with Miss Seddon, and Mrs Nicholson (Miss D. Thompson) is one of those who "devour" the "Old Bedas" whenever it arrives. Muriel Bruce (Anderson) is another who is always pleased to hear about Old Bedas. She is, as ever, busy at her home in Worcestershire with family and outside interests and keeps Miss Arkle up to date with her news. Other former members of staff who live in Sunderland - Miss Lloyd, Miss I. O. M. Harris, Miss Carrick, Ellen Carlin, Miss Hall, Miss Shearer do meet some of you by chance, at Meetings, or by arrangement.

Doris Taylor, Ellen Carlin, and Miss Clark (formerly on Bede staff, and now retired from Sheffield Training College) spent October week in Buxton. As they were leaving a restaurant one day they met Mrs Sugden (on Bede staff till July), and Judith Hird, spending the weekend with her in Derby. They had a good gossip. Miss A. Waggott is still living in Cheltenham and enjoying the Cotswold scenery as much as ever. She has periods of nostalgia for Sunderland and her many friends there, but our bleak climate does not agree with her tendency to rheumatism. Miss D. Fall is teaching at Richmond Girl's High School and Mrs Hyman (Miss Tweed) at Pudsey. Miss C. Murray (1946-48) is teaching at Birkenhead where she has been for many years. Long periods of illness have not diminished her enthusiasm for geography, or the vigour which she always put into the teaching of her subject.

Bedas at Work. Sheila Graham (now Clark) has gained a degree in Chemistry at Durham University. Paula Adey, in her first year at Queen's College, Dundee, studying social science, was chosen as this year's Charities Queen. Angela Porter is at the School of Social Studies at East Anglia University. The second Minnie McMillan, niece of the first, belongs to Sunderland Church High School as well

as to Bede. She has now added M.A., and D. Phil. (Oxon) to her other degrees. Susan Gordon volunteered to go to Israel at the beginning of the Israeli-Egyptian hostilities, and has written interesting letters home of her work there. Jennifer Hutton is now an air hostess with B.O.A.C. After her training session in the group of fifty hostesses and stewards at Heathrow Airport, Jennifer got her "wings" and was presented with a gold sash by Sir Giles Guthrie, chairman of B.O.A.C. for being top trainee of this group. She now does long-distance flights, and recently spent a weekend at the home of Sheila Thomas (Walker) in Liverpool, in between flights. Elsie Cairns (Tingle) has given up the pharmacy at Marske, but is working as a pharmacist nearer her home in Stockton-on-Tees. Janet McKerrell sees quite a lot of the county of Suffolk in her job as a permanent supply teacher. Eileen Carlton (Torbet) is teaching in Basingstoke. Phyllis Heilpern (Dimson) retired, after a spell of illness, from her Headmistress-ship in London, but undaunted, is now working for a doctorate at Birkbeck College, and is doing some part-time teaching in a Comprehensive School "to see what it is like". Her sister, Eileen (Mincovitch) in Sunderland, is now teaching again, and her daughter Gail is studying chemistry at University College, London. Dinah Levin (Merkell) is living and teaching in London.

From January to July, after Miss Bradbury left Bede School, Audrey Hayton, now Mrs Carrick, was acting Headmistress there, with Miss Wilman as Deputy Head. Old Bedans teaching at Bede, now under different conditions from before are; Audrey Hayton, the deputy head-teacher, Doris Taylor, Audrey Kinch, Mary Arkless (Robinson) Anne Nicholls, Judith Gribble, Brenda Hodgson (Patric).

Catherine Beaney, daughter of Gladys Littlehalles and grand-daughter of the late Eliza Brantingham (Mrs Littlehalles) has completed her college training and has a post at Pennywell Comprehensive School. Other Old Bedans teaching there under Miss Bradbury are Edith Koerber (Donald) Peggy Thirkell (Johnson) Peggy Victory (Simson) Margery Lax, Joan Berry, Valerie Northorpe, Joan Woodward, Anne Conley.

Irene Wilkinson, the new assistant secretary of the Guild of Old Bedans, in changing teaching posts from Grindon to East Herrington, also retired from her Sunday School work at St. Gabriel's Church, where she has been superintendent of the kindergarden and Infants' Sunday Schools for 28 years. In this she was succeeded by another Old Bedan, Margaret Leck. Gwen Grace is now "head" of Woodside Infants' School; Caroline Hodgson has a post at Barnes School; Norma Walsh (Farrow) is at Houghton Grammar School; Miriam Robinson (Longbottom) who teaches at Hill View Infants' School, was able, at a demonstration of dolls of the world on World Children's Day, to produce a negress cotton-picker doll sent to her daughter (a present pupil of Bede) by an American pen-pal with whom her mother has kept in touch since her own schooldays. Elaine Pearlman has a post as computer programmer in Manchester, and has gained her higher



Higher National Diploma in Maths, Statistics and computing.

Retired: from her post as assistant director of Education in Southampton in August, Mary Alexander is continuing to live in Fareham, Hants; Almira Gladys Whitfield, in July, after 27 years as headmistress of Haswell Infants' School was presented with a gold watch and a nest of tables by staff and children; Muriel Jeffery from her post as deputy headmistress at Mirfield Grammar School, and Betty Senior (Comfort) from her Infants' School post at Biggin Hill. Nearer home, Lena Thompson, Mary Booth (Scott) Rose Smith (Wilkins) and Kathleen Simpson, have retired from their various schools.

#### In Public Life.

Reading an article in the Echo which stated that Mrs. Dixon Jeffrey Smith, an Old Bedan, was to be Mayoress of Winchester this year, Miss Shearer asked Amy Hussey (Denyer) who has links with Winchester, to find out who she was. On her next visit to Shawford, Amy rang up the Mayoress-elect, had a long chat with her, gleaning the following information: "She was Pat Morgan, was evacuated to Richmond, and remembers you both, went to Darlington Training College, and then taught at South Shields, has been 19 years in Winchester, and has three teen-age children. In her year of office, she will continue to do part-time teaching, run the house and cope with the children, attend public functions, and is looking forward to the visit of H. M. the Queen at some point of the year".

On reading another news item in a local paper, an S. O. S. was sent to Sheila Gallon (Wey) in Weymouth to discover if the Greta Young (Thomas) who is Mayor of Weymouth this year is the Old Bedan of that name. It was; and Sheila was invited to the Mayor's Parlour to receive further news, too late unfortunately, for this magazine. Greta is the fifth woman Mayor of Weymouth. For the past 15 years she has been a Conservative member of Weymouth Town Council and is chairman of the Town Planning Committee. In July of this year she was one of the guests selected from nearly 9,000, who were introduced to the Queen at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. Miss Bradbury too was at a Royal Garden Party in July, "wearing" she says "her Old Bedan jewellery"; this was also worn at all sessions (including a mayoral reception) at the Annual Conference of the Association of Headmistresses at Folkestone. On another of Miss Bradbury's special occasions, the opening day of Pennywell School, she received, with the good wishes of the Guild, a bouquet of pink carnations, roses and gypsophila in a black Wedgwood vase for her room there. She rounded up most of the Old Bedans on the staff to admire these gifts.

Flora Cook, who retired last year, went to Nairobi where, she wrote at Christmas, she finds "plenty of work to do and the altitude doesn't leave one with too much energy". She adds "You may like to know I was made an Honorary Fellow of the Library Association for my distinguished services" - we do like to know; it's a great honour.

Lilian Bowe became Vice President of the Local Branch of the Royal College of Nursing in Rugby after her year as President.

Nellie Blacklock (Hedley) is president of two Community Associations and is a well known figure at C.A. lunch clubs as a working and participating member, and she maintains her great interest in Youth Services in the town. She was sent a hand-painted plaque bearing the town crest, by the Town Clerk in recognition of "service to the town as a member of the Council".

Flora Hollingshead (Ramsshaw) is a full-time assistant at the Sunderland Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Eileen Easby (Wood) who lives at Acomb, York, is Secretary of her area group of the Parents' Association of her son's school, and is Secretary of the ward Conservative Association. She exchanges news with Joan and Dorothy Sinclair, and Doreen Gunn (Graham).

Miss Bradbury, in February, gave an illustrated talk on Portugal to the Soroptomists, and spoke to Sunderland Business and Professional Women's Club in March on "Revolution in Education".

#### Varia.

Valerie Stafford won a prize of a fortnight's holiday for two in Majorca in a competition run by a woman's magazine to describe "The Ideal Husband".

Alison Smith, now a youth employment officer working in Newcastle, was chosen "Miss Ministry of Labour" in a national competition this year.

Moirra Cuddeford (Dixon) has given demonstrations on cooking with chocolate to Townswomen's Guilds and Women's Institutes.

Molly Hinkley (Maddison) with two friends, runs an antique shop "The Meeting Point", in Wolsingham, where her husband is Vicar.

#### Meetings.

Most of our members must meet other Old Bedans who return at intervals to Sunderland from their homes elsewhere. We wish more of them would tell us the news they have heard - or even extracted for us - from their visiting friends, or better still, persuade them to send it to us themselves. In every "meeting" and list of names we print, there is something to kindle interest and memories in some fellow-Bedan. Here is some news we have gleaned in addition to what appears in letters and elsewhere in this magazine:

Miss Wilman has recently heard from Margaret Short (Ungley) who has now come from Thame to live at Gosforth, and who told of a call she had had before leaving Thame from Gillian Carnworthy. Hilda Udale (Rutter) met Janie Witten (Henderson) of Hale in summer. Janie writes that she is still teaching and in good health, and can give up when she wishes. We caught sight from a bus of Dorothy Hopper (Kefford) from Cambridge, and met Nancy Welch from Basingstoke and Thelma Henderson (Williams) from Dufton when they were staying with Minnie McMillan. Miss Shearer had a few minutes unexpected chat with Elsie Kidd (Hewitt) at a bus stop, when Elsie was up from Nottingham for a day or two at New Year.

During a short spell in hospital, Miss Lloyd found the late Bertha Gibson, who was a patient there, and she had a visit from Lydia Newby

(Chappell) whose daughter is Eva Chappell (Warriner). She has been visited in her home by Jennie Vincent (Ord) and by Joyce Williams (Grant) in Sunderland for a short time from Canada and from Durban respectively. She also saw Christine Morgan for a few minutes at "40 Ashwood" when Christine called to take Miss Shearer and an overnight guest from Cullercoats, Gladys Sim (Hopper) to the Dinner. Miss Arkle and Miss Shearer report other visitors. After the Dinner, Kathleen Barnicle (Scott) came with Edith Koerber (Donald) and Margery Wade (Smith), and then Jen Hey (Smith) was good enough to bring the Entertainment photos to let Miss Arkle see them. Elsie Senior (Willis) rang up to say she had a special message for Miss Arkle from Betty Senior (Comfort) of Biggin Hill, and later called to deliver it. Mary Robertson, from Liverpool on her way to a Domestic Science Conference in Durham, made time with some difficulty we know, to spend an hour at "40 Ashwood". These little visits are much appreciated, and it is wonderful, as all Old Bedans will know, what a lot of information and reminiscences are exchanged!

On her annual visit to the North, Enid Crowe spent a few days first with Florence Jackson who has since visited her in London, and then with D. S. A. and E. R. S. During her short time in Sunderland, Enid managed to contact, in one way or another, a number of other Old Bedan friends: Elaine Clayburn (Oliver), Elizabeth Mee, Gladys Thornley (Miller), Eleanor Garrahy (Brookies), Esther McLachlan (Wallace), Margaret Rogers (Wilson), Elsie Rogers, and Molly Topel (Khrestchatsky). Later, taking D. S. A. and E. R. S. down to the sea, she was about to stop the car at Seaburn, when Frances Wills (Gillies) of Glasgow suddenly appeared at the window. She and her husband were holidaying in Sunderland and she had been amazingly quick to recognise the passengers. She was pleased to be introduced to Enid in person as she knew her very well formerly by name. It was nice to have a chat with Frances, for at the Dinner, our meeting with her is usually just a hail and farewell. Shortly after that, Enid and E. R. S. were greeted, at their last dinner in a Pitlochry hotel, by two new arrivals - Evelyn Johnson (Ellis) and her husband. They had an all too short talk with them, and were seen off by them next morning. Finally, on her way South from Sunderland, Enid broke her journey at Rugby where she stayed with Lillian Bowe and met Lillian's sister-in-law, also an Old Bedan, Ada Bundred (Sowe).

Dorothy Wilkinson (Urquhart) spent a week at Ambleside with Bessie Peake (Green) where they enjoyed a miniature Old Bedan Reunion with Belle Eaton (Hutchinson) and Ruth Marley (Green) who was on holiday there. Dorothy hopes to visit Rhodesia next year; Ruth sees Kathleen Walton (Wood) regularly at their 'Tyne-Tees' gatherings and Mary (Kemp) who is teaching, comes when she can. Gwen Marley's (Cheese man) daughter Jill when in Vancouver visited Mary Walton's daughter, Judith. Elsie Garrick (Smith) now living in Thornton-le-Clay, Yorks has been visited by Dorothy Middlemass (Sugden) and Winnie Scott (Thomas), and by Muriel Dodd (Cradcock) who is also living in the

North Riding. Brenda Riddles (White) on a Christmas visit to Roker, met Dorothy Dodd, and has heard from Moira Mahoney in Cambridge. Frances Wills, Elsie Watson and Elizabeth Fraser meet on the Sunday following the Annual Dinner, meeting this year at Elizabeth's home in Newcastle. Margaret Chapman (Hunter) stayed with Evelyn Thompson (Fimm) at Great Elm, near Frome, in the summer; Evelyn is teaching in Frome; her sister Marjorie is living in Bristol. Sheila Gallon (Way) spent a pleasant day in October with Kathleen Smith (Pickworth) in London, and had a surprise meeting at her own home in Weymouth with some relatives-by-marriage whom she had not met; one of these was Grace Taylor (Carr) now a widow and living in Leeds. Sheila writes "I cannot describe how this (being at Bede) broke the ice - we all thoroughly enjoyed the visit". Marcelle Goodall (Gibb), in Workingham, Berks., sees Miss A. L. M. Abbott occasionally, also Miss Briggs once a year. One Saturday morning recently, Ellen Carlin on her way to "do the flowers" at Fulwell Methodist Church, met Sandra Svenson, who is now teaching at Town End Farm Junior School where Dorothy Wilcox is also on the staff. Ellen discovered that Sandra's brother had been the bridegroom at one of the weddings at the Church for which she had arranged the flowers.

#### News of Older Old Bedans.

This year Miss Bradbury has met two headmistresses whose mothers were Old Bedans - one Miss I. Matthews of Cheam is the daughter of Kate Welch, who still talks of her schooldays under Miss Todd, and is interested in all reports of the fate of her old school; and the other Miss P. K. Coulthard of the Collegiate Girls' School, Leicester, is the daughter of Connie Young who died two years ago. Marjorie Smyth (Sanderson) has recently visited her aunt Winnie Thatcher (Mrs Kingsworth) in Edinburgh, who has many memories of early days at school in Miss Todd's era. Siasia Dunn, mother of Doris McCree (Pyggott) recalls lots of events at The Higher Grade, and is always very interested to hear news of her old school friends. Laura Nelson (Hutchison), one of the oldest Guild members, after a very long spell in hospital, is living with her daughter in Bristol. Minnie Philip (Dinsdale) eighty-one this year, mentions in a letter Lydia Newby (Chappell), also well in her eighties.

#### The Arts.

Esther McLachlan (Wallace) is having much success with her contributions to the B. B. C. She has had numerous children's stories broadcast and has herself taken part in the programme "Home this Afternoon" both writing and reading her own scripts. Esther says "It is quite an experience going to Broadcasting House, Newcastle, to rehearse before the broadcast". Mrs. Nicholson (formerly Miss D. Thompson), and her husband still sing in the London Philharmonic Choir, and were among the performers in Brahms's Requiem in the Royal Festival Hall two days after the death of Sir Malcolm Sargent, which, she says "we all felt as a personal loss. The orchestra had played under his baton

in all parts of Europe and also as far afield as Hongkong and Australia. We had all enjoyed his wit and good humour in rehearsal and his reliable indications of all he wished us to do in performance. So we were glad when it was announced that the concert would be dedicated to him, our dear friend."

Elizabeth Sanderson (Muis) daughter of Marjorie Smyth, lives in Antwerp, and played the lead in a short award-winning film shot in the dockland area of Antwerp. After studying at the Central School of Speech and Drama, gaining a diploma at London University two years ago, this was her first opportunity to act on the screen. Elizabeth writes a column for the English community in the Brussels Times, and also for Lloyds Shipping in the Antwerp Times. She was in Sunderland for a holiday in August. Kathleen Carr (Ritch) appeared as Marthy Owen in the Sunderland Drama Club's production in November of "Anna Christie". Marian Powley (Munday) gave her first organ recital in November at Sorley Street Congregational Church. She also accompanied two more Old Bedans taking part in the concert, Lena Stirling (Collinson) and Mary Reed (Lawson) who were guest soloists. Lena has talked to girls of C. E. A. at school this year on "How to make the most of yourself". This association has sent money to Morna Phillips for her work in India. Ross Cutter, who lectures in speech and drama at Monkwearmouth College of Education, organised the Sunderland Schools' Drama Festival in November. Children between the ages of 8 and 15, from 14 schools took part.

#### Sport.

Increased interest in Keep Fit in the North East Association which has Miss Peters as chairman and Peggy Victory (Simpson) as vice-chairman, will be of interest to the many Old Bedan leaders of Keep Fit of early days. Mary Mackintosh (Alderson) is to be guest speaker at the Keep Fit Association dinner.

#### Golf.

Kathleen Carr (Ritch) is vice-captain of Durham County Ladies' Golf Association, and is the Durham representative of the Northern Division Ladies Golf Committee. Jen Hay (Smith) is vice-captain of Boldon Ladies' Golf Club, where Dorothy Grierson (Kennedy) won the Bernal Sykes Cup and Olga Wright (Stewart) the Jackson Rose Bowl; Ethel Lethe (Leckonby) and Wanie Scott (Thomas) represented the club in the Thomlinson Shield matches (Bronze division).

#### Homes of Old Bedans.

Living in Hertfordshire are Kathleen Stafford (Cox) at Watford, and Kathleen Carr (Shiel) at Potters Bar. Joyce Hebron has left Sevenoaks for Tonbridge. From Christmas, Vera Duffell (Wood) expects to be living in Colchester. After nine years in Yugoslavia, Madeline Binks' (Somerville) home is now in Swanland, East Yorkshire. Jean Farrar (Wood) is in Sheffield, and Lily Forster (Young) in Reeth. Sheila Thomas (Walker) is living in Liverpool, while Sheila Thompson (Liddle after some years in Liverpool, is back in Sunderland. Brenda Emmer-

son (Towers) has moved from Stokesby near Great Yarmouth to Ushaw Moor; Kathleen Hall (Henderson) lives in Penshaw, Annie Souter (Spruce) in Seaham and Elsie Watson in Carlisle. Emily Anderson has come north again to live at Saffter, Morpeth. Maista Rich (Spenser) expecting to move from Dorking, Surrey to Southampton wants to know if there are any Old Bedans living in this area, as she has always enjoyed the "London Branch" Reunions. Elaine Reece (Charlton) is living in Tooting, Jean Richardson has moved from Sydenham to Beckenham, and Peggy Barron (Braithwaite) to Stocksfield.

#### Foreign News.

Blanche Collinson has just returned from a five month's holiday in Canada. She sailed in the "Queen Mary" to New York where she stayed a week, then experienced the thrill of crossing Canada and seeing the Rocky Mountains from the Dome Car of the Canadian Pacific Railway Train. She stayed with her cousin, Beryl Johnson (Forster), who lives on Vancouver Island. Beryl is teaching at a kindergarten in Nanaimo. Blanche also visited her aunt Blanche Collinson (Johnson) aged 84 years, a former pupil of the Higher Grade School; she is now living in a very comfortable rest home just ten minutes walk from Beryl's house. Blanche (the second) also stayed with Marjorie Stephenson (Southern) and her family, who live at Duncan, Vancouver Island. Marjorie is a Junior teacher. Returning to Vancouver Blanche got in touch with Elsie White and spent two very enjoyable evenings with her. Coming home by C. P. R. train, she spent one day at Expo. While having supper with a friend in Montreal, she rang Jennie Vincent (Ord) for a chat. Jennie expects to move, shortly, to Nova Scotia. While in Canada, Blanche only had four wet days in five months, and the temperature was 72° to 90° during that time, the best summer Canada has had for many years. Avril Douglass (Briggs) was home from Canada for six weeks visiting family and friends, including Dorothy Campbell (Kenley) in Gravesend Kent. Last summer, Vera Duffell visited Freda Potts (Taylor) in Zambia. "She had planned a wonderful trip for me through Rhodesia and into South Africa returning via the Kruger Park. In Johannesburg, I spent a day with Margaret Graham (English) who worked with me at Diamond Hill School". In August Marie Crozier arrived home from Ghana where she spent ten months as a volunteer teacher after taking her B. Sc. at Edinburgh University. She said she needed strong nerves to cope with the enormous snakes and strange insects that some of the students brought to their biology lessons. Some of her many souvenirs had to be shipped home as they were too bulky to bring by air - Marie voted it all a marvellous experience.

Maureen Wallace (Hilton) was due to return to Australia in September after some eighteen months in England, during part of which time she took a post in London.

After 16 years in Australia, Doreen Turnbull had a six months' holiday in England this year. She visited Dorothy Wilson, (Head girl of Doreen's year) who is senior mistress of the Sir Wilfred Martineau

Comprehensive School near Birmingham. Doreen gave news of Norma Crozier (Norrish) in New Zealand whom she visited two years ago, and thoroughly enjoyed meeting old and new friends at the Annual Dinner. On her way back to Australia, where she is Deputy headmistress at Sydney Church of England Girls' Grammar School, Wollongong, N. S. W., Doreen was on the 'Canberra' when it was turned back because of trouble in the Middle East, and re-routed via the Cape.

Valerie Williamson (Trigg) has left Spain and is now living near Chelmsford. Hazel McCree is back in Sunderland after nearly two years in Kaduna; her sister Eileen is still working for the South Australia Health Service at Whyalla. Mary Howitt, who lives in Bowral, N. S. W. recently had a holiday on a sheep station at Wilby Almonds on her way to Melbourne and found that life can still be hard in the Australian outback.

Often, our foreign news dates from the previous Christmas, reaching us after the "Old Bedan" has gone to press - eg. from New South Wales, Joyce Gallon (Hodgson), from the Transvaal, Lucy Postgate (Nichol) who meets Ma Walker (Earl) regularly, and from Vancouver Elsie White (the first) with news also of her sister Winnie (Cooper) - all send greetings, and all read Old Bedan news with interest.

#### From your Letters.

On leaving Bede last December, Miss Bradbury wrote: "May I thank the Guild for all the kindness and friendship shown to me during my years at Bede, and wish it every continued success and happiness"; and in April: - "How very much I enjoyed Friday's Annual Dinner, and how delighted I am with the G. O. B. most kind, generous and beautiful gift which I shall have immense pleasure in wearing. Thank you all for your kindness, not only on Friday but throughout the years since I came to Sunderland. . . . I shall always be very proud and pleased to be an Old Bedan".

From Miss Moul: I am so glad that the Guild of Old Bedans is continuing without interruption. One has to go away from matters in which one was concerned to realise their value. This is my experience. . . Please give my greetings to all Old Bedan friends.

Mary Robertson writes in a letter of "the time of change in so many schools, and Bede is faced with its problems. I do hope that in some way the wonderful spirit and vitality of the G. O. B. will not be lost. There is so much indifference in these matters these days".

From Mary Alexander, in Fareham, Hants:- I'm afraid I know little of Sunderland in the years between", (school and present day) "yet I read "the Old Bedan" with interest and enjoyment".

Lilian Bowne wrote in February from Rugby:- I am wondering what form the G. O. B. will eventually take? The Guild is more than a group of Old Girls - it is a real social force for good in the town and I hope that aspect of it will never be submerged".

Early in the year Audrey Carr (Arloff) wrote from 82 Kymswell Rd, Stevenage:- Thank you for sending my "Old Bedan" which I immediately

read from cover to cover. . . As each familiar but long forgotten name appeared I got a vivid picture of the 'girl' concerned - Janie Witten, Nellie Mee, Amy Hussey, Marjorie Poagte, Enid Crowe, Mary Mackintosh, Ellen Carlin, Evelyn and Rene Johnson, Mary Bilby, Jessie Hedden (she was marvellous at needlework, I remember) each one of them came back so vividly it didn't seem possible! - I am eternally grateful to Miss Shearer for making me learn my "vairbs", and for interesting me so much in French, which subject I now teach in a Primary School. Miss Lumb is responsible for my great interest in history and politics; I would love to have her address if this is possible".

Elsie Garrick (Smith) wrote, after the Dinner:- "How marvellous it is to feel all the warmth and friendship of old school friends and mistresses after such a long time away, and how grand to be greeted as "Elsie" after so many years as, "Mrs. Smith" in the south". Mrs Nicholson (Miss D. Thompson) whose address is 49, Caroline Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey, is a member of the Northumberland and Durham Association in London, and "wonders if any Old Bedan might be interested?" Merie Colling (Mordin), writing from 20, Great Coates Road, Grimsby, Lincs., wishes to trace Dorothy Wright (Burge).

#### Editorial Comments.

It would be reasonable to assume that all readers of this magazine, as Old Bedans, are concerned with the future of the Guild. At the Annual General Meeting in September, permission was given to the committee to meet, as had been suggested, the committee of the Old Boy's Association, in order to explore the possibilities of forming a joint association as a Parent body in which the two existing bodies would continue to function, always mindful of our type of activity, and occasionally meeting together for some joint function. In briefly addressing the Guild members, Mr. Temple, the new 'head' of Bede, said that he would welcome any kind of teaming up of the two existing associations, if only as an encouragement to any future association that was formed by present boy and girl pupils of the school. As this magazine goes to Press, these exploratory talks have not yet taken place. Your comments to our secretary are invited. Your letters too, as always are invited throughout the year - without them this magazine would indeed be very slender. Our "Older" Old Bedans, in their eighties, do wonderfully well with their letters and news-please do not wait till then to send yours.

It is very pleasing to know that regardless of changes at Bede, a number of members have determined that now was the time to become a life member of the Guild.

To all those Old Bedans who are, or have been ill, our best wishes for a speedy return to health. Our thanks to Mr. Milner Taylor for auditing our accounts for the magazine.



STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS ON 31st. AUGUST, 1967.

Summary of Balance Sheet for the Year - 1st. September, 1966 to 31st. August, 1967.

	£	s	d
RECEIPTS			
Annual Subscriptions	62	10	0
10 Life Subscriptions	31	10	0
3 Donations	3	7	6
Balance from Meetings	13	3	3
Interest	42	19	11
	<u>£153</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>

	£	s	d
EXPENDITURE			
Printing	49	7	0
Stationery	4	9	8
Postage and Telephone	20	14	0
Gifts	13	17	6
London Branch-2 years	1	0	8
Balance on Year's Working	64	1	1
	<u>£153</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>

TOTAL FUNDS.

	£	s	d
Balance on 31st. Aug. 1966	953	15	3
Balance on Year's Working	64	1	1

£ s d

Made up as follows:-

3½% War Stock	98	7	2
5% Nat. Development Bonds	75	15	5

In Bank:-

Deposit Account	126	12	4
S.L.D. Account	707	15	5
Current Account	9	14	6
Cash in Hand	6	9	

£1017 16 4

£1017 16 4

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

Elsie Kirkwood,

Honorary Treasurer.

J. M. Taylor,

16th. September 1967.

THE GUILD OF OLD BEDANS

The Winter Re-Union will be held in the Art Room at School on Friday, January 26th 1968 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 22nd.

Preliminary Notice :- The Dinner Re-Union will be held on Friday April 26th, 1968.

Details will be sent later.

To Annual Subscribers :- Please note that your subscription (5/-d) for 1967-8 is NOW DUE.

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

Elsie I. Kirkwood,  
(Hon. Secretary)

December, 1967.

Tel: Boldon 7224

