

# **THE OLD BEDAN**

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**1978**

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## THE GUILD OF OLD BEDAMS

President	Mrs. L. Youngs.
Vice-Presidents	Miss E. J. Bradbury, Miss W. J. E. Mead, Mrs. A. A. T. Carrick.
Chairman	Moira Cuddiford (Dixon), 16, Viewforth Drive, Sunderland.
Vice-Chairman	
Sec./Treasurer	Margaret Chapman (Hester), 8, Stockton Rd., Ryhope, Sunderland. Tel. 218354.
Assisted Secretary	Irene Wilkinson, 62, Charter Drive, East Harrington, Sunderland. Tel. 380808.
Committee	Jean Barton, Elaine White (Bailey), Joan Liddle, Dorothy Cockburn (Bagshaw), Joyce Orr (Shawdon), Eileen Old (Kirkaldy), Margaret Laidlaw (co-opted member) and ex officio Win Scott (Thomas), 11, Grange View, Sunderland Tel. 37885
Staff Representatives	Miss Judith Kirkley, Miss Janice Barr.

Again we must say positively 'No sub - No Magazine', Printing costs, postage etc., make this necessary.

Please let your secretary have your subscriptions (25p) for 1978/79 if you have not already paid. The Life Subscription is now £8.50.

Please make it clear in your letters to the secretary or editor your maiden name and married name. In this magazine wherever possible the 'school days' name is used with the married name in brackets.

### GUILD ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS 1978

#### The Winter Session.

On Friday 27th January the warmth of the new needlework room welcomed us from the sleet outside.

It must be confessed that the behavior of Old Bedams shows signs of deterioration. We are noisy, even unruly, and cheat blatantly by listening in, by looking over shoulders, by copying and swapping answers. Was it by such means that Winnie Scott (Thomas) won the first game? This was to identify the half-faces of personalities like Margaret Thatcher, Jack Jones, Laurence Olivier and Kojak, represented cheek by jowl.

Our usual assortment of loyal Bagleys makes it inevitable that they should occasionally appear among the winners. This time it was the turn of Hilka Dresser (Bagley) and then of Sheila Bagley (Costes). In the "Doublet" game she wrote correct answers to such questions as "A Canadian Goose?" "A nay nay". "An expression of disapproval?" "Tut tut".

To encourage a team spirit typical of Old Bedans, and using these very letters, one apiece, we competed in groups. With much jostling, we lined up to show we knew that a "seat on a horse" was a SADDLE or, "perhaps our ancestors?" DANES which was hotly contested by DEAD. It had been Miss Shearer's custom to provide sweets and prizes to reward our efforts in these games, even when latterly she had been unable to attend in person. On this occasion her photograph album was on view, and Bedans were invited to choose for themselves from some of the books she had left.

Our chairman Moira Cuddeford (Dunn) addressed us as we ate a plentiful supper. There were apologies for absence from some of our stalwart supporters, but she expressed her pleasure at seeing some "new" faces and an increasing number of the present staff.

A raffle for funds for the Hockey Club was drawn by Audrey Hayton (Carrick) our President; winners were Gladys Stewart (Ritchie) and Moira Simpson (Shearer).

Our departure was perhaps more prompt than usual, because the caretaker had to connect the system of burglar-fire-vandal alarms - a procedure unnecessary in the days of our youth. M. R.

#### -GOLDEN JUBILEE- DINNER RE-UNION, 21st APRIL, 1975.

This rather special event was held at Roker Park. There was a 'gate' of 120, and no ugly scenes or acts of hoodlignism were reported. It was of course quite noisy (in the Roker Park Suite, to be precise), as we exchanged greetings and news, and had a go (or two) at the Tombola run by Betsy Wilson (Robson) and Margaret Laidlaw, to raise funds for the Hockey Club and for repairs to the clock presented to the School by the Guild in 1823. Prizes ranged from a packet of snare mix to a charming fresh flower arrangement by our very own expert, Rene Halliday (Downs), and business was brisk.

The Secretary and her assistant had had problems with the seating plan because more large parties (numerically speaking) than usual had asked to be together, but Margaret and Irene somehow managed to sort us all out, and soon we were - to coin a phrase - tucking in to a good meal.

The Chairman then welcomed us all to this happy occasion in the Guild's 140th year. Our President Audrey Hayton (Mrs. Carrick) and Vice-President Miss Bradbury were with us, and Audrey had brought a telephoned message of good wishes from Miss Mead. As is customary, Moira read out the list of 'travellers' - who this year included Miss Orme, barely retired in Barry, and Elaine Davidson (Kirkwood), for so long our hard working secretary, all the way from Dorset. She thought, however that it was time to mention those who had come all the way from Harrington, Bytopy, Cleadon, even Roker: we tend to take the locals for granted, but without them there would be no Dinner Re-Union.

The Toast and the School Song followed, and Mary Mackintosh (Alderson) enjoined us to 'see what 50 years' good breathing habits can do'. Helped by her 50 years' experience of conducting (see below) and - well, Winnie Scott (Thomas) is no novice at the piano - we really did rather well.

We gathered round expectantly for our promised 'Evening of nostalgia'...

Winnie Scott, looking rather sternly over her spectacles begins:

'In view of the fact that the King's Slayers weren't able to come to entertain us this evening at our Jubilee year dinner, we thought it might be of interest to Old Bedans of all ages to retraced the story of the Guild through its 50 years. Before doing this, however, I should like to read you an account of the first Reunion of Bede girls. I found it in an ancient school magazine dated about 1899 which had been headed to Elaine Kirkwood by 'Took' Dwyer, the Bede master who was our sadler for many years'.

'It was proposed,' the article ran, 'as a diversion after the South Kensington examinations, to have a breaking up party.... the girls brought spoons, cups etc. from their own homes. ... they both set out the tea and also cleared it away, before proceeding to the more festive part of the entertainment. The following year saw the introduction of the 'old girl' as such, and it was soon ascertained that she was a permanent element at these parties. The feeling became general that the custom should be kept up. ... from that time 'the Reunion' has steadily grown until it is one of the recognised institutions of the school. ... It is a standing part of the programme to have some acting'... Sounds familiar!

Then Winnie, assisted by Marjorie Brown (Groom) and Irene Wilkinson, outlined the history and development of the Guild - a word suggested by Miss Shearer, as being reminiscent of the mediaeval trade guilds.

It all began when, after several exploratory meetings, a 'constitution committee' met on February 28th, 1924, and carried a motion that an Old Bedan Association be formed. A constitution was drafted and passed; Miss C. Mallen was proposed as Chairman, Miss M. Mackintosh as Vice Chairman and Miss Shearer as joint Secretary-Treasurer. On May 22nd., 130 Old Bedans met in School and Miss Scott (who became the Guild's first President) spoke about the proposed Guild, which she hoped would bind Old Bedans together, keep up old associations and eventually become a community of some importance in the life of the town. (Surely, we can fairly claim that all these hopes have been realised?) (The formation of various branch clubs - rambling, singing, hockey and dramatic - was proposed, and the business over, there were refreshments and some community singing under the leadership of - yes! Miss M. Mackintosh.

At the first Annual Business Meeting to be held in the new building, in September 1924, it was decided to present the School with a grandfather clock (the one now needing repair). The presentation was duly made in November, when at an 'Old Bedan Weekend', the School entertained the Guild and vice versa, said Winnie "I think I am right in saying that part of (the School's) entertainment was about gods and goddesses in legends of Greece and Rome... the (senior) girls taking part, to me were goddesses in that they all looked so remote and lovely - among them I remember Sheila Verity as Narcissus, Bessie Wilson, Dorothy Metcalfe, Roma Glaholm - we little Bedans really were in Wonderland!" (Yes - we know the feeling; is it the same today?) A notable member of this gathering was Miss M.L.V. Hughes, the author of the School Song. To her, and to Edgar L. Bainton, its composer, we have reason to be grateful!)

From this date, winter and summer reunions, with a variety of entertainments, took place regularly; there was even the odd dance in Wethersley's Rooms. In those Good Old Days we could muster as many as 80 members at an A. B. M. . . . Most of the branch clubs were active: a Guild member, Cathy Mallon, was co-opted as a Governor of the School.

Miss Moul succeeded Miss Rose as headmistress and as Guild President in 1901: over the next few years we said farewell, with suitable presentations, to Miss Swart, school secretary for many years, to Miss Birchall and in 1928 to Miss Hutchinson, our dear 'Crutch', whose influence has been felt in so many fields but most especially in that of music.

Guild activities were suspended in 1939 (although it didn't stop Old Bedans getting together, as we heard in Mary Mackintosh's 'This is Your Life' in 1976) but in 1943 they were resumed, following an A. B. M. at which about 120 members were present. Austerity was very much with us; it was decided to hold "Make do and Mend" evenings, and members attending the winter reunion were asked to bring food for one (pudle 4d).

"In 1944," Winnie continued, "Miss Shearer felt that she should resign as secretary of the Guild, and a current member of staff take over. The job was accepted by Rita Craggs. In making a presentation to Miss Shearer at the 1944 A. B. M., the Chairman spoke of the sincere appreciation of the Guild for all her many years of devoted and unstinted service, and reminded members that the Guild had been founded through her, and had survived the war years because of her enthusiasm. Miss Shearer then accepted a cheque, a leather shopping bag and a bouquet of chrysanthemums as tokens of the Guild's esteem and appreciation. In thanking members, E. B. R. quoted a remark from the late of Skye, who when receiving a gift from Miss Shearer's mother said "Och, I'm ashamed". (It is sad that E. B. R. did not live quite long enough to be a part of our present celebrations), Rita Craggs was succeeded in turn by Margery North (Sunderman), Elaine Davidson (Ridewood) and the present incumbent Margaret Chapman (Baxter).

In 1944, too, the Guild took a momentous decision about which your editor must sometimes have reservations - to publish its own magazine instead of having only a report in the school issue.

Here, may we digress for a moment? The fortunes of the Guild's branch clubs have been mixed. Netball and Hockey have been part of the County scene for many years, and the latter is still very much alive. Social Service has a long history of splendid work in the town, especially among the elderly. The London Branch still keeps some of our 'wolves' in touch. The Singing Club gave much pleasure to members until disbanded when 'Crutch' became too ill to conduct it. Dramatic and Badminton had brief but happy histories - and then there was the Rambling Club. Formed in 1928, dropped in 1931, it was revived in 1932, and its subsequent activities, recorded neatly but anonymously in a little red notebook, were read to us by Winnie:-

After being extinct for one year, the Old Bedans' Rambling Club again came into existence on Wednesday 29th May 1933 when members met for an evening walk. The time appointed was 7.15 p.m. Three members

only turned up and got out for Offerton. Very soon rain began to fall but though only one of the buses had a crackintosh, they plodded on. By the time Grindon Sanatorium was reached the party was decidedly wet and after much persuasion by one member, all tottered home.

Wed. June 12th Three members met at the Town Hall and took a train to Fulwell terminus. From there they walked to Marsden by way of the sea. All agreed it had been a very enjoyable walk. Spice was added by the fact that it was 10.30 p.m. and quite dark when we tottered home.

Sat. June 21th This resulted in two members going by bus to Dawdon, walking from there through the dene and on to Dalton. At Haslehorn, six-penceworth of large fruit balls were bought and consumed in due course. The walk from Haslehorn back to Dalton by the fields is very very pretty.

Wed. Aug. 17th This evening was reserved for Cleodon Hills but as the evenings were getting short, the walk was curtailed. Two members took a train to Fulwell and walked across fields to Whitburn. They returned by the seashore, nothing daunted by the fact that they were scarcely a club.

Sat. Aug. 27th This day turned out an ideal picnic day. The sun poured down its golden rays and all the world smiled. One member peddled her tea joyfully and called forth to Ormskewen. The picnic was to be at Seaburn after a walk along the cliffs. The member waited an incredible time but no-one else came. Gently to her sorrow she turned back home and had her picnic in her own garden. That ended the Banding Club for year 1922.

A poignant story, meekly told: there was not a dry eye in the house. The idea of an annual dinner was first mooted in 1925, and that really started something! The 'Palatine, Meng's, the Seaburn, Bines', the Locarno, the Barnes, Ramside Hall, the White Lion at Broughton, have all had their rafters rung by the School Song and by laughter and applause for a variety of speakers and entertainers; almost always 'home grown'. To mention just a few, performances have been delectous (songs by Hilda Adamson, violin solos by Eva Cohen), daff (we'll come to those later!) energetic in pageant of P. T. arranged by Peggy Victory (Simson), elegant (Joan Jobling's (Kirkton) fashion show; and credit (Call my Bluff, chaired by Marjorie Brown (Dronson). In the school's Jubilee year, dinner guests Miss Moul, Muriel Bruce (Henderson), Cath Mellon (Kinnear), Nellie Blacklock (Bedley) and Ellen Carlin each spoke for a short time on "Bede in my time", (and in later years Miss Bradbury, Miss Crane and Audrey Haxton have each added variations to this theme).

"For the next three years Meng's hosted our dinner sessions. After an exciting Coronation year for the country, members in 1928 were entertained by the "Coronation Crackpots". Some members here tonight will remember Margaret Turner being wheeled in on a trolley, crowned and serving as the Queen of Tonga, and Kath Ritch up a pair of Meng's ladders as Edward Hillary, with Sherpa Tensing!"

Soon after this, there burst upon the scene the OCHS - Mary Mackintosh Kathleen Carr (Hitch), Joyce Gaiton (Rodgers), Joan Jobling, Margaret Turner, Jessie Hey (Smith) and Winnie Scott, who were to keep us amused and amazed by their inventive behaviour, until Mary's retirement to Thropton in 1964.

As a finale to this 1979 evening, Mary and Kath joined Winnie to recall some highlights from their memorable shows. Did we remember the Happy Wanderer, from the Bedou Travel Agency?:

"Ein sandwich in mein bawerack  
Ich füll mit sauerkraut,  
Mit apfelstrudel fränkischer  
Mein stomach bulgen out".

They had brought culture to the town with the Saint Cecilia Quartet in long black velvet dresses (clothes hire by Peggy Tapt, and... "Zelife history of de Mole" related by Frau von Corsee-in Bism... then we sent off Miss Moul to her retirement with a home brewed version of "My Fair Lady" in which she was going off into space. (Afterwards, Miss Moul told Mary and Winnie that they were naughty, wicked girls, but she loved it all!) "Miss Bradbury had her turn in 1960 with a Western extravaganza, "Brad's Bar":

"What did you think when you came to Sunderland?  
What did you think when you first saw Bede?  
Say what you think, did it seem like standard  
First ten years are the worst, Bradbury!"

In 1961 they were full of ideas on how to fill the Civic Theatre -  
"F Floral Art Demonstrations by Florrie Benda, Ballet performed in Sunderland football strips, Cleverly Coates staging "Resters Fair", ... Haute Couture - who can ever forget those hats made by that queen of the backroom girls, Jan Hay? the beautiful model from the House of Savoy (a cabbage); the millinery collection made from toilet rolls" Nellie Blacklock was Mayor-elect in 1963, and the GOSH - no respecters of persons - sang:

"She's our Nell, she's doing swell,  
She'll be the Mayor and do it well,  
She'll rule the roost, give the town a boost,  
You can be sure of Nell".

Their awningsong in 1964 happened to coincide with Shakespeare's birthday, and it included comments on some synecroes in the town - e.g. the North end of the station:-

"I know a site whereon the wild thyme blows  
Where tin cans rattle and the traffic flows,....  
And there the trains throw out their shower of grit  
It's quite enough to make Titania spit".

(Interesting to see that even in the 1999 (?) magazine, a contributor was being rude about the station!)

Finally, back in 1979 we all joined in staging one of the GOSH' most successful adaptations - one could almost call it the Guild's theme song:-

"Magic moments - memories we've been sharing,  
Magic moments - Bedou hearts are caring,  
Memories remain, as schooldays recede,  
Of magic moments spent at Bede".

When the applause had died down, the Chairman remarked that she was glad we hadn't had to bring our own crackers to this reunion - and wondered what change would follow in the next 50 years. She gave

the cheering news that the Code headmaster hopes to start a new "Guild" and has invited our support in its formation. More hoped that there would be a large attendance at the Jubilee Supper, where there would again be a Tombois stall. Tonight's effort had raised £24, thanks to the hard work of Dandy and Margaret behind the counter. More thanks to Marjorie, Irene, Mary, Kathleen but most especially to Winnie for the hours of research she had put in to preparing our "evening of nostalgia" Mary called for three cheers for Winnie, which were heartily given. Then she recalled that Miss Hutchins preferred to prefer "Barney" to "Hooray", so we did it all over again.

It was a grand evening; even the Secretary said she had enjoyed it!  
N. W.



SUMMER REUNION : So many wished to attend the celebration on June 16th of our Fifty Years' Jubilee, that there was not enough room to accommodate all of us. We had intended to use the School Hall but this was occupied by desks of examination candidates. However, Mrs. Ford and other members of the staff saw that all ran as smoothly as possible, as we met instead in the library of the "Boys", now the "Upper" School.

Here many acquaintances were renewed, half recognition developed into full remembrance, as some appeared more mature but surely never older. To refresh memories of former haunts and inspect the change wrought therein, there were conducted tours of the school by some of the present staff.

In the corridor, Dandy Wilson (Robson) and her daughter supervised a raffle which she had organized in aid of Guild Funds, and this resulted in much flourishing of dish-mops and wooden spoons, the consolation prizes.



Great interest was aroused by a display of photographs of Bedans during their school days, in informal snaps or in lessons, and panoramic views of staff and pupils. These were arranged by Joan Hayton, who also acted as the official photographer of the function. Her prints, once developed, provide an excellent, if revealing, record of groups chatting and eating the delicious food prepared by members of the committee under the expert direction of Nellie Shield (Widdington). (The wonderful nature of the 'cake' spread newsreels far beyond the confines of Beds.) Equally delicious was the cake made by Gladys Stewart (Sidney). It was displayed with commemorative decoration, amid beautiful flower arrangements, the work of Renee Halford (Downs). These were later presented to Audrey Hayton (Carriek), our retiring President, Mrs. Young, her successor and Miss Bradbury. A message in her usual exquisite handwriting, was received from Miss Moad. She never fails to wish us well on such occasions.

As we ate our cake, in the library, we drank a toast to the continuation of our still - flourishing association.

M. R.



50th birthday party of the Guild, June 1978, left to right, Nellie Widdington, Dorothy Sugden, Winnie Thomas, Renee Downs, Margaret Hunter and Mrs. Bell.

#### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

22 members of the Guild attended the Annual Business Meeting held in the Needlework Room, Bede School, on Friday 12th September 1978. They were welcomed by the Chairman, Moira Cuddeford (Dixon). In the absence of the Secretary, through indisposition, the Assistant Secretary read the Secretary's reports on the work of the Guild during the year and the financial situation. Owing to the success of the Golden Jubilee Supper held in June and the generosity of so many Bedans, the financial situation is better than it has been for many years. The Chairman reported the resignation of the Vice-Chairman Marjorie Brown (Brewer) owing to ill-health. Audrey Hayton (Carriek) was presented with a book, "Country

Story of an Edwardian Lady" on her retirement as President of the Guild. The Chairman thanked her for her unflinching interest in the Guild of Old Bedons. Mrs. Youngs, deputy head of the school, has taken over as President.

Reports were read from the Social Services Committee and the London Branch, a report was given on the Loan and Scholarship Fund, the Hockey Club and the Old Bedon magazine.

Following a committee meeting of the Social Services it was announced that Elnie Wilson (Hooker) and Cathy McCree wished to retire from their posts as secretary and treasurer. It was proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to them from the Guild for their fifty years of unstinted service to our "old folk".

Arrangements were put in hand for Winter and Dinner Sessions and the meeting closed with the usual tea and biscuits being served.

#### GUILD OF OLD BEDONS' LOAN AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND 1977

The amount available for distribution from the Funds was £282.14, made up of £194.52 from the G.O.B. Fund and £117.62 from the M. A. Richardson Memorial Fund. This compares with £121.84 and £117.62 which the Funds produced last year. The increase from the G.O.B. Fund of £52.48 reflects the re-investment of the Fund by the Borough Treasurer's Office in the more profitable Sunderland Corporation Stock which produces 11½% as against the 4½% of the Treasury Stock in which the Fund was formerly invested.

No requests for loans were received in 1977 so all the money was available for distribution in the form of scholarships for girls going on to full-time higher education or training.

Of the money available, £192 was distributed on a sliding scale depending on performance in the Advanced Level G.C.E. examinations. The scale was agreed by the Committee of Sixth Form Teachers under the chairmanship of Mrs. Carrick and on which Miss Hayton was the Old Bedon Representative.

R. CLARKE

Head of Upper School,

SOCIAL SERVICE GROUP 1977-78 The work of this group has continued as before. The income from donations and Cassata parties was £226.75 and the expenditure £169, leaving us with a balance of £57.75 on 31st Aug. 1978. This is considerably lower than usual, due to the drop in donations. However, we have been able to send monetary gifts to our needy people in October and at Christmas and Easter; flowers, fruit and other small luxuries have been taken to sick or homebound old Bedons on several occasions as found necessary.

One old Bedon - formerly a resident in 'Wayside', East Boldon, is now in a similar home in Stoke. One of our group visited her, while on holiday, and she appreciated the gifts and the fact that her "old school" had not forgotten her.

We are greatly indebted to the Cassata group who have supported our cause for so many years, and indeed to all Guild members and friends who for the past 50 years have given freely of their time and money, thus enabling this branch of the Guild to function during that long period.

Elnie Hooker.

OLD BEDAMS HOCKEY CLUB REPORT 1977-78. Last season was not one of the Club's best, as far as results go. However, the Club provided its usual high number of Senior and Junior County players and as these players were often absent for Club fixtures, this could account for the poor results.

Joan Cole and Keith Laythorpe began the season playing for the Durham County side, but by the New Year both had gone into temporary retirement and have since added to the population explosion - unfortunately, as far as the future of the Hockey Club is concerned, both have produced boys! Norma Hatty was Vice-Captain of the Sheffield League county side. The Durham Junior side contained 8 members of the Club, including both the captain and vice-captain. Also Gill Langford who was still eligible for the Junior side was selected for the Senior County 1st XI and attended North under 23 trials. All these Junior players have undoubtedly benefited from Club experience and they are all grateful to the Guild of Old Bedams for all their financial assistance, as the cost of travelling, like everything else these days, continues to rise.

The Club embarked on new ground last season, playing a lot of indoor hockey. Unfortunately we were again hit by injury and County commitments and finished 3rd in the County League, after looking set to win it at one stage.

A very successful Club dinner was held in April at the Duke of Wellington, Durham. Several non-playing members (ex-players) attended and it was good to see familiar faces. It is hoped that these ex-players will join the Club on an associate membership basis and join with us on social occasions.

Unfortunately we have had to change our home ground this year due to the poor facilities at Pennywell and we now play at Houghton Secondary School. Support is very welcome at any time.

We were sorry to lose 2 very valued Club members at the end of last season. Sheila Tynemouth decided the time had come to hang up her hockey boots, and our Club captain of the past 3 years, Brenda Peart, has moved to Wolsingham and is founding a club in that area of the County. Both have given sterling service to the Club and will be sorely missed.

Finally, we would all like to thank the Guild once again for the contributions they have made to our Junior Players' Fund. Old Bedams Hockey Club has a well-deserved reputation in the County for bringing young players "through" and it would be a shame were we to lose players because of increasing costs. Fortunately the Junior Fund is quite healthy and any young player who needs help is able to get it.

E. J. Cole.

THE LONDON BRANCH. Congratulations to all who, throughout the years, have helped the Guild to function so successfully and reach its Golden Jubilee.

None of us in the London Branch, unfortunately, were able to join in the celebrations, but the offer of hospitality by the Committee members was much appreciated. We send our best wishes for the years leading up to the Diamond jubilee.

Compared to the "going on" in the North our meetings are very ordinary I'm afraid! In October 1977 Miss Mead, Kathleen Young (Craggs), Helen Reed (Perry), Joyce Hutton (Ayles), Doreen Bayfield (Stoddart), and Vera Duffell (Wood) met at my house.

We missed the lively company of Marjorie Balles (Kewish) who has moved further out to Hampstead, but Eleanor Wilson (Tibbage) came up from her distant Downe (Kent) for the first time for over two years, which was a pleasant surprise.

Rita Craggs was our hostess in May 1978 and Edith Frederick (Sarge) made the awkward journey from Reading to join the regulars. We sat in Rita's lovely garden, exchanged news and views and talked about Miss Storrer. We will all remember her with affection and gratitude as a teacher and a founder of the Guild of Old Bedans.

Doreen Ward (Macrae), 29 Birch Grove, London, W3. 9BP  
Tel. 982 - 2897.

#### FROM NOVEMBER 1977 to NOVEMBER 1978.

New Members of the Guild:- Rosalie Gillow, Dorothy Dell (Davidson), Jean Locksby (Lenthley), Mary Reid (Furnball), Jessie Reid (Marshall), Irene Nicholson (Dickinson), Carol Galfant, Pat Dunkin (Henderson), Ann Harland (Fox), Susan Crumner (Alpin), Doreen Walker (Lomas), Oriol Haggie (Ogilby), Eileen Calvert (Potts), Marjorie Snowball (Cuddeford), Patricia Cruikshank (Scott), Bessie Lawson (Marriott), Eileen Wilson (Spalding), and from Bode Mrs Speed and Mrs. Eliza.

New Life Members are:- Ethel Davison (Maloy), Dorothy Robson (Turner), Lillian Richardson (Lawson), Edna Robb (White), Lynn Looock (Symonds), and Miss Marice. The following have also become Life Members:- Doris Henderson (Wilson), Doreen Smith (Wilton), Audrey Winter (Colling), Robina Forster (Lawson), Elizabeth Fraser, Kathleen Boyd (Granger).

Married are:- Helen Fleuret (Hastow) daughter of Doris Forster (Robinson); Wendy Howard (Johnson).

Babies to: Marie Gilmore (Williams) a daughter - heard of too late for last year's magazine; Joan Barber (Wilson) a daughter; Suzanne Butterfield (Robertson) a son; Kathleen Caspary (Laythorpe) a son; May Fenslow (Lawton) a daughter; Jane Miller (Dewes) Twins - boy and girl; Shirley Panton (Lock) a son; Eileen Robinson (Temple) a son; Sheila Ross (Wilson) a daughter; Dr. Eve Richardson (Jones) a third baby; Carol Smith (Walklate) a son; Jennifer Stewart (Lovell), niece of Gladys Stewart) a daughter. Jennifer

already has a son and lives in Hackburn; Elizabeth Stirling (Gibson) a daughter; Jean Taylor (Cole) a son; Gail Welch (Moore) a second baby; Virian Washington (Hornaby-Smith) a third baby. Helen Allison (Inett) a son, Joan Webb (Warren) a son. Elke Barnham (Jackson) a fourth daughter.

In Memoriam: In England, while on holiday from New Zealand, Edith Surives (Mrs Warriner); Elsie Winter (Mrs Coates); Reid Potts (Mrs. Wilson); Mariel Watson (Mrs. Jalovka); in Canada; Isabel Potter; Elsie Suter (Mrs. Sible).

**HOME OF OLD BEDANS:** We have news of several Old Bedans in Yorkshire. Pat Rich (Lord) is now living in Whitrose; Mavis Sidney (Spensley) is in the much-photographed area of Bedragill, near Richmond; Stella Lawson (Brough) is in Northallerton; Irene Nicholson is in Bradford; Evelyn Johnson (Ellis) lives in Wakefield, and writes "There were four of us Johnsons at Bede; my two oldest sisters were there from 1911-1916, I think; Ina, the eldest (Mrs Buckley died in January 1976). Phyllis, Rose and I are all still enjoying life in retirement with our husbands, but are scattered - in Alloway, Appleby and Wakefield". Margaret Carbutt (Carr) is moving, on retirement from teaching, to Bedale, where her daughter Linda (Spright) lives with her husband and three sons. Elsie Kay (Middleton) lives in Grimby; Marj Colting (Morris) has left Grimby for Trinity St. Mary, Ipswich. Beola's sister Elsie (Swanwick) turned up unexpectedly from Winchester at the Annual Business Meeting in September; Mavis Sambrook lives near Ipswich; Grace White has left Sunderland for Tushridge Walls, where Olga Phaup (Stclair) also lives. Elsie Garrick (Smith) whose home is in Woodhall Spa, Lincs., passes on her magazine to Mariel Dodd (Cradock) in Kirklington, Bedale, who then sends it to Joyce Logan (Blades) in Lintwit Major, near Cardiff, who passes it on to Kathleen Price (Dolan) in Bradford. Anne Clark (Barber) is now living in Manchester and is an executive officer in Customs and Excise. Andrea Clayburn (Shorey) is now in Northwood, Middlesex. Judith Raiso (Pitt) lives in St. Leonards on Sea; Edna Hinchborough (Brett) has moved her home from Chillwell, Nottingham to Woodthorpe, Nottingham; another Old Bedan in Nottingham Maureen Scott (Johnson) - she has two children. Nan Stirling (Jeffrey) whose home is in Southcoates, Northumberland, thoroughly enjoyed meeting old friends Cathy McCree, Mary Mackintosh, Edith Gibson and Connie Warburton at the Jubilee Dinner. Flora Cook's home is now in Grange-over-Sands, while Ethel Russell (Carr) lives at Linstock, Carlisle. Near-er home, Lynne Anderson (Edmonds) lives in Huddersburgh and Vivienne Wilson (Young) in Durham.

**MEETINGS:** One of the many pleasant features of the Guild's 50th Reunion is school was the attendance of so many younger Old Bedans in the 20-29 age group who had not previously been to any other Old

Bedon function. Come again! It was the scene of many renewed contacts of friends of school days - for example Ethel Davison (Malay) from Alton, and Elsie Martin (Roberts) had "never been back" among others. At the final reunion at Darlington Training College, which the powers - that be have, now, alas closed - a number of mini reunions were taking place among Old Bedons. Kathleen Burnside (Scott) was there from Allendale, Marjorie Watson (Leonard) from Leeds, Ann McKenay (Milton) from Hall, Elsie Davison (Kirkwood) from Beadonstone, Dorset and from Sunderland, Molly Adamshewite (Taylor) Coonoe Warburton (Wilson), Elma Neilson (McBain), Dorothy Middlemass (Bogden) and Winnie Scott (Thomas). Doing her "Meals on Wheels" duty in the Allendale area, Kathleen Burnside found an Old Bedon who left the school in 1918 - Laura Thatcher (Dickerson). For several years Laura was headmistress in the village of Keadley near Allendale, then finally was "head" of Caxton village school until she retired. Now widowed, Laura enjoys reading the magazine, passed on to her by Kathleen. At a lunch recently, Kathleen, Brenda Scott (Lambirth), Darcy Scott (Stakley) and Winnie Knapper (Lowndale) had a long chat. Joan Little has visited Branspeth Rectory this year to see Jennie Garrett (Chesters) and her lovely eleven-month old son David. Nancy Welch, Thelma Henderson (Williamet) and her daughter spent a holiday together at Swinton, on the Border, then went back to Thelma's home in Dalton, Appley for a further two weeks. Marianna Allison (Maltby) from Darlington met Pat Morgan (Smith) from Winchester on the beach at Swenage in August this year - they last met in 1948, having exchanged Christmas cards since they were evacuated. It happened like this: - On the occasion of Marianna's nephew's wedding (Grace Caldwell's son) in Winchester, Marianna tried to arrange a meeting with Pat, only to learn that she would be in Swenage at the time, and if fine on the beach. The Allison family had a luncheon party arranged in Swenage, so eventually Marianna took a walk along the beach - almost singing "Dura is a legend old and true" - and stopped. "excuse me" ? said Marianna, "Yes it is!" said Pat. How the tongues wagged after that reunion! Winnie Scott (Thomas) on holiday in the Bournemouth area, visited Elsie Kirkwood in her new home at Beadonstone and spent a pleasant evening with Elsie, Grace Caldwell Allison and husbands. Winnie also had a chat with Carol Roganstein (Newton) whose home is in Sheffield, on the tennis courts at Poole, where Carol was playing in the Durham County Ladies team during Inter-Counties Tennis Week. Darcy Wilson (Robson) visited Roma (Chablin) (McCormac) in Hawes this year; Roma rang up Eileen Nicholls (Baldwin) to come and join in the talk of old times. Among visitors to Lena Thompson and Phyllis Peters this year at Ambleside, have been the regulars - Peggy Victory (Strass) Doris Foster (Robinson), and Mary Arkless (Robinson) - the latter prepared to compare notes and transparencies of holidays in Egypt with Lena and Pete. Rena Halliday (Down) and Kathleen Scott (Milton) have also visited Bramhay Fell Cottage. Mollie Duncan visited Sunderland on her way to and from Scotland in August; Audrey Hayton (Mrs. Carrick) returned with her to Bury St. Edmunds for a happy weeks visit.

**NEDANS AT WORK.** Christine Gray who trained as a nurse in a Leeds hospital, qualified for her S. R. N. this year. In August she went to Switzerland to work for the British Nursing Agency. Her elder sister Eileen (Lyttell) lives in York. Alison Naisby has been teaching children of B. A. O. R. in Germany. On leave last Christmas 1977, she met Eileen Robinson (Temple) in town. Lynne Lazzcock (Symonds) does some part-time teaching in chemistry in an independent school in East Anglia. Helen Weyburn, daughter of Betty Rough, has been working in a kibbutz. Marilyn Lewis ( ) is a solicitor in the legal department of the National Coal Board Headquarters, Robert House, London. Margaret Webb (Freedgold) is deputy head of a school in Coventry, and is living in Leamington Spa. Franca Prier is taking her M. A. degree in London; Hazel McCrees (Hemle) was the outstanding student of her year at Durham University where she gained a First class honours degree in psychology. She is now studying for Ph. D.; her research area is the referential language of pre-school children. Hazel is a college tutor at St. Mary's. Mariel Orr (Sheriff) was awarded her M. Ed. at Durham this year. Terry Graham made a welcome return to Old Bede Hockey this year after finishing her course at Darford P. E. College. She now has a teaching post at Houghton. Norma Gatt (Graham) is head of the remedial department at Pennywell School. Rosale Laxplugh (Sherston) is now teaching at Southmoor. Anne Guffrie is back at Bede teaching maths after qualifying at Bristol. Lester Almond is teaching at Barnes Junior School. Susan Hart (Cameron) is living in Ayrshire and working with handicapped children. Jane Harris works with Mildred Park and is living in London, where Jane Brown is an accountant. Doreen Charlton who gained a geography degree at Sheffield, is an accountant in Newcastle. Lindsey Cunningham, who has a degree in Russian, was married in August to Alan Devine, and at present she is teaching in a boys' Preparatory School. Jane Hartley and Duncan Brown are in their final year in medicine at Newcastle. Sheila Anderson (Beth) was one of the community wardens interviewed on Tyne-Tees Television in connection with old peoples' welfare.

Retired from teaching are Dorothy Middlemass (Gagles), Margaret Garbett (Carr), and Dorothy Bell.

Golf - Molly Garbett (Johnson) has been Ladies' Captain at South Cliff Golf Club, Scarborough this year. Joan Hart (Wilson) is captain of Wearside Ladies'. Dorothy Grierson (Kennedy) who is vice-captain of Boldon Ladies' section has had a good golfing year. She and her partner had a wonderful run of success in the Daily Mail Womens' Amateur Fourstones Competition. Club winners of this event, and after six knock-out rounds, they played in the last fifteen at Whitley Bay. Three well organized days were provided for competitors, with competitions, a cocktail party and a celebration dinner. Dorothy and partner played a couple from Co. Wicklow, then in the quarter final a pair from West Bowling in Yorkshire. They lost 3 and 1 to a Darwent couple, the event's winners, after a very tight match.

Their consolation prizes were a cut glass vase and rooster. Partnered by Peggy Victory (Simson) Dorothy won first prize at Boldon Open Day. Other Old Bedons in the winner's lists have been Olga Wright (Stewart) Ethel Lethe (Lockaby) Jan Roy (Swin) and Winnie Scott (Thomas).

#### INTERESTING

Miss Bradbury has been appointed by the Department of Education and Science to an Industrial Scholarship Committee. This will be responsible for setting up a scheme encouraging young people to take up careers in industry. She retires from her post as Headmistress of Thoreskill School in January.

A handmade lectern commemorating the late Joan Coleman, former Organising Secretary of Age Concern in Sunderland, was presented to Ravensworth St. Mission, Sunderland, this year.

Winnie Knapper (Longdale) was at the Three Choirs Festival at Worcester this year, where the music was of its usual high standard. When she moves to Malvern in November, she will be right in the heart of that musical festival event.

Grady Stewart (Sidney) went with her daughter Maria (Spensley) during the August Bank Holiday week-end to the Flower Festival at Askrigg Church, where the theme was "All Creatures Great and Small". In the heart of the "Val" country in the much loved television series, the animals and other creatures were portrayed in plant and flower arrangements, in a picturesque setting. Maria recently found a fossil in an old stone wall near her home in Haleswell, Yorks. The remains were those of a crinoid, or sea-lily. Apparently parts of these animal remains are common enough, but a whole specimen as found by Maria is rare. The creature consisted of a bony stem supporting a cup or head out of which grew five arms or branches for food gathering. The flexibility of the stems and branches was gained by being made of a number of flat plates or wafers (ossicles) piled one upon the other, and all strong together by a living cord which passed through the entire animal. When the animal died, the plates more often become detached. On the shore of Lindisfarne, these plates are found washed up. The hole in the centre and round shape makes it easy for them to be mistaken for beads. They are known as St. Cuthbert's beads:-

"St. Cuthbert sits and tells to frang,

The sea-borne beads that bear his name".

Their fossil period is Devonian and Lower Carboniferous - 300 to 400 million years ago. Maria is loath to part with her fossil, although the Institute of Geological Sciences at Leeds, which houses the national collection of carboniferous fossils, would be delighted to have it eventually.

Marion Woodruff (Harro) and Winnie Scott (Thomas) have been at investitures at Buckingham Palace in the Spring, 1978, when their husbands were in the New Year's Honours List.

In October, Grace Turner (Haydon) returning from London by train, met Audrey Walker (Colbeck) going back to her Boreburn home after accompanying her husband to Buckingham Palace for an investiture. The Queen made the awards on all three occasions.



**FOREIGN NEWS.** Joyce Prince (Bell) and her husband were invited by the Church Missionary Society to work in Israel. "We find it a fascinating place to live - the congregation is multi-national, and our neighbours are nearly all Israeli. We are learning Hebrew in a class where we have no common language. We enjoy travelling about the country. At present (February 1978) the almond blossom is out and there are fields of anemones and cyclamen. I would like to add that I was among those taught (more than just French) by Miss Shearer, and I certainly remember her with great thanksgiving". While on holiday for two months in the summer Joyce visited Joan Little. Joan Ester (Duffin) went out to Jordan in September, with her husband, and son born January 1977. Beattie Walker (Bunker) now widowed, visited Sunderland this summer from Bankersville. Nevada with her two daughters, leaving two sons at University behind this trip. She spent much of her time looking up old friends and was very interested in all Old Bede news. She spent some time looking at a 1938 school photograph and surprisingly remembered most of the names. Zoe Crowcroft ( ) is now living in the Hague, where her husband works for the Common Market educational service. Her sister Vera (Dunton) is in America where her husband works for an oil firm. Eva Bell (Allison) had an interesting visit to Mexico City last Christmas, her second visit there. Jean Tulloch is working for the British Council in Munich, Rosemary Bolton (Collins) is living in Germany.

**OLDER OLD BEDAMS.** On hearing of the death of Miss Shearer, Agnes Melhado (Slag) wrote in January from Truro, Cornwall. "I was eight years old when I first went to Bede. Miss Mansour was my form mistress, and now that I am 78, there must be few connections with the school that I have any knowledge of. Miss Shearer taught French to me, and thanks to her inimitable way of getting the message of verbs over, I was able on meeting a teenage French girl quite recently, to keep up a conversation in her language. Tenses went by the board as far as I was concerned, but I found my hands aching in some small way that which my memory had forgotten.

I had known Miss Shearer first when I was a school girl, then in later years as a friend. After moving south, I kept in touch only by letter and cards at Christmas, until it became obvious that her sight was failing rapidly, and she could no longer correspond. To an old friend I say "Dormes-bien".

Lillian Bown wrote to Gladys Sim (Hopper) "In that tiny sixth form taking Higher Certificate as it was then, we read a poem of Verlaine's. It went:

"Je me souviens  
Des Jours anciens  
Et je pleure"

That's it exactly".

Maie Sterling(Jeffrey) wrote "She was a dear brave soul who struggled on without complaining. I am glad that she has not had to face another cold winter alone in that lonely house".

Marie Bruce (Anderson) wrote "A letter which she sent me at the end of September must have been one of the last she wrote. She met all her handiwork with great courage and no hint of being sorry for herself. I had no close contacts with Elsie as a colleague, but came to know her well through Miss Arkle. I feel that with Miss Shearer's death my last personal link has gone with Bado, which I entered as the youngest pupil in January 1908. I hope the Old Dodans realize how much their thought for her meant to Miss Shearer. She frequently referred to their kindness in her letters only being sorry that she could no longer reply".

Readers may well imagine what a mammoth task Gladys Sim and Gladys Littlehale had in clearing Miss Shearer's house, and settling her affairs. The letter writing alone must have been a monumental task, to say nothing of all the papers and books to be disposed of. Well done the two Gladys.

Doris Clayborn (James) is now eighty, her home is in Cardiff. She wrote in March "I had such pleasure in reading all your news, and was so glad to meet Marie Gilmore just before she left for Middlesbrough - I've not been to Sunderland for ten years - I don't suppose I'd recognize it".

**SCHOOL NEWS.** Mrs A. A. Y. Carrick, Deputy Head of the School in which she had herself been a pupil retired at the end of the Christmas term. Mrs Carrick is one who had given of herself with unstinting devotion to her work in a number of capacities and in a great variety of spheres of interest during her time, first as Head of the History Department in the Girls' Grammar School, then as Deputy Headmistress and finally as Deputy Head of the School in its reorganization. Mrs Carrick's sympathy and tolerance and her ready practical response to individual needs were qualities much treasured by her colleagues and her pupils. She takes with her to her retirement a wealth of regard and affection from them all. We wish her many years of happiness and content.

Mr. J. Fairlie who in the summer retired from his post as Deputy Head, in which he had succeeded Mrs Carrick, had joined the School as Head of Middle School in September, 1972. Mr. Fairlie came with a distinguished academic background and a wide experience covering work in the Church, Business and School. He proved a valuable asset in the developing structure of the School and was in due course made Senior Master. It was widely regretted, not least by him, that his period of Deputy Head was necessarily brief. His colleagues and pupils wish him and Mrs Fairlie a long and busy retirement. W, K, L.

At Christmas 1977, as well as to Mrs. Carrick, we said goodbye to Mr. Askins, who came to the school as second in the Geography Department in 1967 - the year of amalgamation. Able and well qualified in his own subject, Mr. Askins quickly established himself as a friendly and cheerful colleague, and a valued member of staff, liked and respected by those he taught.

In 1973 Mr. Askias became assistant to Mr. Clarke, dealing mainly with VIII Form social affairs, and in this sphere he was also most successful, establishing a very happy relationship with the VIII Form.

We were fortunate in keeping Mr. Askias for ten years and inevitably we lost him to King George Comprehensive School, where he was appointed Head of Department of Geography. Our affectionate good wishes go with Mrs.

In March 1978, Mr. George Carverhill (Technical Studies) left us for Houghton and in April and June respectively Mrs. Ellis and \*Mrs. Cole (Jean Taylor) embarked on extended maternity leave and each is now a proud parent: Mrs. Ellis of a beautiful little girl, Mrs. Cole of a fine bounding boy.

In July, as well as Mr. Fairlie's retirement, we had a number of staff leaving. Mrs. Goodruss, Home Economics (husband's promotion necessitating moving), Mrs. Hodgson, Geography (producing an infant - another fine boy), \*Miss Jackson, Music (promotion) and Mr. Robson, English (further advanced studies) had all been with us for four years, and Mr. Treadwell (Physics) who was appointed Head of Physics at Exnington Comprehensive, for six years. Mrs. Gibson (Remedial) was with us one year and Mr. Wilson (English) a term as a temporary replacement for Mrs. Ellis.

To all who have gone we say "Thank You" for what you have contributed to Bede and all our good wishes go with you for further success and happiness.

NEW STAFF In January we were delighted to have \*Mrs. Atkinson's (Pamela Byers) temporary appointment in the English Department, made permanent, and in September we welcomed Miss F. Bolton (English), Mrs. J. Rowden (P. E. temporary replacement for Mrs. Cole), Miss P. A. Williams (Biology), Mr. C. A. Rouse (Technical Studies), Miss M. R. Blair (Home Economics - sister of Mrs. Montgomery) whose long association with the school is affectionately remembered, and especially pleased to have with us once again \*Mrs. A. Hutchinson (Anne Nicholls) Mathematics. Mr. R. Stewart (English) returned successfully with his B. Ed. degree after his year's secondment. We hope they will all be happy at Bede.

We cannot overlook staff/wart services rendered the school in the Easter, Summer and Autumn terms by \*Mrs. Barnes (Nancy Oldfield) B. E., Mrs. Lofthouse (Technical Studies/Maths), Mrs. Elliott (Home Economics), \*Mrs. Lomas (Dorcas Walker) who came in part time capacity and made life easier for us all. To all these ladies our grateful thanks, and fervent hopes that we may call on you again in our time of need.

I, Y.

SIXTH FORM REPORT: The Sixth Form in 1979's continued the established tradition of previous Sixth Forms, by showing an admirable success in their support of school teams and in providing members of Town and County Teams; in their concern for the rest of the school by providing a good prefectorial service to the lower school,

and helping with remedial teaching and also in their examination successes, statistics for which show no decline in standards.

Applications to Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Higher Education were made with the same enthusiasm as in former years. The number who were offered places shows that the school is still in good standing with places of Higher Education, and we are obviously not relying solely on our past reputation for success in this field. Although numbers of successful applicants are not yet available, it is significant that our successes at Cambridge were as follows:

Stuart Lightfoot won a Scholarship to read Natural Sciences at Girton College, Cambridge; John Scott won a Scholarship to read Natural Sciences (for Chemical Engineering) at Trinity College, Cambridge; Christine Ennaw won a place to read History at Girton; and David Gill earned his place to read Economics at Queens College, Cambridge.

The Sixth Form also continues their efforts in support of local charities and in particular collected £100 for the Spastics Society.

The Sixth Form is still a lively society of young people who are taking advantage of all we have to offer and in return make a valuable contribution to the school and outside organisations.

**THE MIDDLE SCHOOL :** This has now had a fully comprehensive intake for two years. Consequently more pupils leave school at the end of the 5th year than was formerly the case. Keeping track of their progress is extremely difficult but a random sample showed that once again our former pupils are enjoying good success in entering employment or furthering their education elsewhere, at college or through the various job creation schemes.

Perhaps one of the more encouraging areas of the Middle School is concerned with the growth of entries for the Certificate of Secondary Education. All our pupils are encouraged to sit examinations and out of a total of 843 subject entries 95.4% were successfully graded for 1978 for the North Regional Board's Examination. Particularly pleasing are the results in English and the achievements of pupils who entered the school with real learning difficulties and who achieved grades in most of their examinations.

**GIRLS P.E. DEPT, Jan. - Oct. 1978.**

**Hockey - March 1978.** U16 school hockey team runners up in the U16 County Schools Hockey Tournament.

**Netball - March 1978 :** Senior Netball Team qualified for the National Netball Schools Tournament at Doncaster. Finished 15th out of 25 Schools.

**Athletics - May 1978:** School Athletics Team won School Athletics at Gateshead, also won Shield for being North Wearside Schools Athletics Champions. Julie Joking represented Durham County in the High Jump.

Tennis - July 1978: U18 School Tennis Team semi-finalist in U18 County Knock out Competition.

U18 Tennis Team runners up in Owen Williams County Tournament.

Helen Wright and Ashley Auld represented Town.

Hockey - October, 1978: 8 Girls from Bede School chosen to play for Durham County Hockey Teams at Junior level-

- 1st XI Julie Wilson - Goalkeeper  
Barbara Yendall - Right Back  
Jill Robson - Left Wing  
Karen Bead - Left Inner
- 2nd XI Susan Atkinson - Goalkeeper  
Katherine Oliver - Left Half  
Elizabeth - Davison - Left Inner.

Reserve XI Isabel Davison.

Nethall - October 1978: Bede School Senior Team have qualified for the Regional round of the National School Nethall Tournament.

BOYS P. E. DEPT., 1977 - 78

Soccer: Town Cup Winners, Kark Cup (County Championship) Winners. Record equalling third time.

Badminton: Town U18 Singles and Doubles Champions. County U18 Singles and Doubles Champions. Town U18 Singles Champion. County U18 Singles Runner up.

Cricchet: U18 Town Cup Runners up. U14 League Runners up. U18 League Runners up.

Tennis: Town Mixed Doubles Champions. Paul Craven and Ashley Auld (only school to win three times).

Athletics: Steven Ferguson Town Long Jump Champion.

The following boys represented the County: Robert Beasey and Paul Miller at Soccer. Graeme Clarkson at Tennis and Badminton.

SCHOOL MUSIC ACTIVITIES: The Junior Orchestra, Senior Orchestra, Junior Brass Band, Senior Brass Band, Woodwind Ensemble and four school Choirs (some 400 performers) gave a Concert at Christmas and again in May to large audiences in the school hall.

In February a smaller group of musicians were invited to give a concert of Brass and Orchestral music in Biddick Arts Centre.

March 14th was the turn of the singers to perform outside of school. The Senior choir gave a performance of Stainer's "Crucifixion" in St. Andrew's Church, Rokeby, and the school was able to give a £50 donation to the Mayor's Silver Jubilee Fund from the proceeds.

At the end of March the Bede Gilbert and Salliman Society gave a performance of "The Gondoliers" One of the principals taking part was Peter Hale the son of Mary Hale (nee Davison). (Peter is also our present Head Boy). It was nice to see so many Old Bedians in the audience! Do come again!

At the end of September the Senior Brass Band played in the Market Square for two hours and helped to raise £300 for UNICEF.

Over the next few months the musicians of the school are hoping to raise £1,000 to buy some much needed instruments for the band and Orchestra. The Music Department would be delighted to hear from any Old Bedans who could help in any way.

Maureen Lewis LVI has recently been awarded the Amy Mills Robertson Prize for Piano playing - she gained 133 marks for her Associated Board Grade VII. Maureen is a pupil of Miss Edward now retired from Bede.

FROM YOUR LETTERS : Lynn Lancock (Symonds), who is married to a Norfolk farmer, remembers being offered cold tea once by Miss Mead, as a cure for bloodsugs; and the leaving ceremony which made such an impression at the end of her first year at Bede (1958). "I would love to hear from any of my year living in or visiting 'East Anglia'. Lynn's address is Church Farm, Great Melton, Betherest, Norwich.

Elaine Davidson (Kirkwood) wrote after the April Re-union "Please convey to the Committee my sincere grateful thanks for a wonderful Re-union long to be remembered. I am very glad that the Guild of Old Bedans is thriving, long may it prosper and bring happiness to all Old Bedans. I am quite sure that the friendships made at Bede would never have survived without the Guild. There was one regret - Miss Shearer had not lived long enough to share in the celebrations."

Mary Mackintosh (Pidderson), unable to be at the June Re-union, wrote "How encouraging to have had so many at the party, and such a spread of good food. You really spell me with your friendship and kindness. I lap it up and love it all. Every good wish to you all".

After the June Re-union, Miss Bradbury writes, "What an enjoyable and memorable party! Thank you for your splendid hospitality, and the magnificent flower arrangement that is going to give me infinite pleasure. I wonder at what time the committee got away on Friday evening? You must have been exhausted, but very satisfied by the success of the undertaking that was a triumph of planning and organisation. Though cooking may not have occupied an exalted place in the curriculum in "the good old days", Bede certainly produced some highly accomplished cooks!"

Elaine Colling (Swanwick) wrote from Winchester in October "When my 'Old Bedan' arrives, I sit down and devour the news, regardless of whatever else I should be doing..... When Morna Colling now Mardin) and I got together, we have long 'do you remember' sessions, which entail a lot of giggling and helpless laughter".

In June, Miss Mead was "intrigued by the small parcel I received - it was a lovely generous piece of Anniversary cake. I was sent the cutting from the Echo of the first ever Bede photograph taken 44 years ago. I recognised the staff, of course, but alas, few girls. Thank you all for remembering me!".

We are sorry to record that in November, Miss Moad was still in hospital after a slight stroke, and pneumonia, and indeed has been in hospital for some fifteen weeks. The Guild has sent get-well messages; Doreen Ward (Marrat) has visited her, and we hear the latest news of her condition from Audrey Hayton (Mrs. Carrick). In November, Audrey wrote:-

I wish to thank the G. O. B. for the gift, on the occasion of my retirement as President of 'The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady'. A delightful book, it is the kind one wishes to have over at hand to dip into, whether to admire some exquisite illustration or to muse over some extract from the text. It is doubly precious because of the inscription so beautifully lettered by Eileen (Old Kirkcaldy) who was trained in the art by my colleague of many years, Miss L. Crane. It will be my constant and happy reminder of my long and treasured association with Bede School and the G. O. B.

I remember, as a small *F* (not *F* or *Forer*) in 1928, delivering notices from Miss Shearer inviting co-operation in establishing the Guild. As an old 'Old Girl', I myself have long enjoyed the cheerful good fellowship of the Guild and shall, I hope, continue to do so for many years to come. Even though, owing to changes in recent years, the Guild is tending to become a society of 'aging' ladies, may it long preserve its identity, liveliness, warmth and fellowship and win to its ranks more of the younger Old Bedans.

The Guild will, I know, extend to my successor, Mrs. L. Youngs, the warm welcome she deserves. May her period of office be as happy as mine has been.

EDITORIAL COMMENT (with apologies to Robert Gintion of the Sunday Express): I once lost my diary. It was dreadful. Everything in it is my diary - appointments, telephone numbers, birthdays, golf partners, how many metres for a sail, books borrowed, music lent, motorway routes (door to door), expenses incurred - the lot! Short of informing the local police, ~~anybody~~ looked for my diary. One week later it turned up - what joy! what relief! And where may you ask is this leading? To your diary, dear readers. DATES for your Diary 1978. Please write them down NOW.

Winter Reunion (in School) January 28th (tickets approx. £1 entering by Baytree).

Summer Reunion - to be arranged.

Annual Business Meeting - usually last Friday in September.

To those who cannot join us at our reunions, please let us hear from you. Without letters this magazine would be all reports and no chat!

As the Guild passes its fifieth birthday, so have many of our readers. Advancing age, alas, so often brings illness; to these Old Bedans we send good wishes for their recovery, and for their conduct.

Our usual thanks to our faithful typists, Margaret Hunter, Olga Stewart, Elizabeth Longster, to a new typist Dorothy Dugdale, and to our auditor, Mr. Hutchinson. Greetings to you all for 1978.

W. T.





