

THE OLD BEDAN

1980

THE GUILD OF OLD BEDANS
Office Bearer and Committee 1980

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Vice-Presidents: Mrs. A.A.Y. Carrick, Miss J.E. Bradbury, Mrs. E.I. Kirkwood

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Committee:

Moira Cuddeford (Dixon), Margaret Chapman (Hunter),
Gladys Stewart (Sidney), Brenda Johnston (Jule), Robina Farmer (Lawson),
Winnie Scott (Thomas), Marjorie Brown (Breese), Pat Deans (Webb)

Staff Representative: Dorothy Pellan (Hunter)

Again we must say "No sub. - no magazine". Printing costs, postage etc. make this necessary.

Please let the Secretary, Irene Wilkinson, have your subscription (50p) for 1980/81 if you have not already paid. The Life Subscription is £3.50. Please make clear in your letters your maiden name and married name. In this magazine, whenever possible the "schooldays" name is used with the married name in brackets.

A MESSAGE FROM THE RETIRING EDITOR

After twenty-five years of editing "The Old Bedan" it was surely time for me to retire this year! During that time news has been passed on (a) willingly, (b) helpfully by letter (bless you!), (c) offered apologetically, diffidently, humbly, reluctantly - or (d) not passed on at all (shame on you!). Your new editor or editorial committee need your help, as always, to achieve an end product - a magazine which everyone is very ready to enjoy. Do send your news to your secretary or chairman - don't leave it for someone else to do. Success to future magazines, and my thanks to everyone who has helped me in various ways over the years.

My lovely dark green figurine-container presented to me by the Guild is much-used, much admired and greatly treasured. Thank you all.

Winnie Thomas

WINTER REUNION - Friday January 25th 1980

Once again we assembled in the "new" needlework room, which was practically bursting at the seams with all eighty of us.

The committee had been busy posting round the walls clues for the first game. Greetings and gossip were exchanged as well as suggestions for answers.

These concerned items in the larder – ("tightly packed" – jam, "When Mary annoyed the goat, what did it do?" – butter"). As usual, the claims of alternative answers (should it be *Yea* or *Fra*?) were noisily pursued.

Next, scripts were issued of a story in which blanks were to be completed by names of animals. Although this was by no means a stag party, nor did we *don* (not bear) our tammies, yet we were surely chertahs.

The secrets of our handbags were revealed in the game which has become almost a tradition. On this occasion, such were the numbers in each team, that it developed into a mad scramble where points were gained by foul tackles in the attempt to score first.

In her welcome, Anne Crowe, our chairman, expressed delight at the increased attendance, but this was tempered by the thought that we may have to seek another venue to accommodate us all. This and other meetings continue to be very well supported by present and former members of staff.

Several people had generously donated gifts for a raffle. Mrs. Youngs, our president, acting as *Ernie*, drew out the winning numbers and as a result, £15.60 was added to the Guild of Old Bedans' Social Service Fund.

A delicious supper with much welcome tea for tired tongues was served by the committee.

The noise and merriment of this reunion must have rivalled the festivities of Burns Night with which it happened to coincide. What has become of the lively rendering of "Auld Lang Syne" with which we used to end the evening?

M.R.

ANNUAL DINNER RE-UNION – 18th April 1980

The evening was bright and breezy, and so – needless to say – were our members re-uniting at the 'Barns'. More than 100 were present, including exiles from Alston, Leyburn, Hartlepool, Norwich and York. The proceedings began on a slightly unusual note, with the Chairman using Rabbi Burns' grace. She hoped we wouldn't mind – it was the only one she knew. After that, we half expected to hear the pipes bringing in the haggis, but the 'great chieftain o' the puddin' race' was not on the menu. Perhaps it was out of season. However, we enjoyed what was on, and then passed in our conversation to allow Anne to address us.

She was very pleased, she said, to see such a good attendance, and – never satisfied! – hoped for an increase next year, despite our aging society. There were apologies from our President, Mrs. Youngs, attending a conference at Cambridge; Miss Eadbury, on holiday; Elsie Davidson (Kirkwood), who said she would be with us in spirit ("we haven't had much of that tonight, have we?" Anne remarked, looking round at the virtually T.T. tables); and from Edith Broderick (Berge). Anne was particularly pleased that Marjorie Brown (Breznai) was well enough to be with us. But for her illness, Marjorie would now have been Chairman, and Anne – very modestly – felt that she was only here as 'second choice'. She hoped that the Summer outing to Blanchland would be well supported – names, please, to Irene or her assistant, Dorothy Cockburn (Duggale) who, being 'new' to some of us, was required to stand up for inspection.

There was a slight technical hitch about the piano for the School Song. It was facing the wrong way and the keyboard was inaccessible: the Chairman was sorry, but we would just have to sing in our heads. However, suddenly

somebody somewhere waved a wand, and there was a piano, right way round, but on the very edge of the platform, so that Winnie Scott (Thomas) had to stand up to play. That of course presented no great problem – we all know that Winnie could play hanging upside down and blindfold to boot – but it prompted her to remark that she had played in some funny places: she recalled a posh hall in Hartlepool (she thought) where she was asked at which of three grand pianos she wished to have the microphone placed!

Before returning to her seat, Winnie, who has 'retired' after editing the 'Old Bedan' for 25 years, was thanked by the Chairman for all her efforts and the many, many hours spent on our behalf. Anne presented her with two mementos – a 'Bede' plate, painted by Eileen Old (Kirkaldy) and a very impressive pedestal vase. Knowing Winnie to be a keen (and, indeed, qualified) flower-arranger, Anne hoped that the vase would provide inspiration and scope for her skill. Winnie seemed delighted with the gifts and accepted her retirement, had another little story to tell. (She seems to have quite a fund of little stories – worth recording in her idle moments?) Seeing a Hamrick competition advertised in the 'Echo', she decided to have a go – or rather, 5 for 50p – and was rather pleased with her entries. However, when in due course the results were published and her name did not appear even in the list of 14 runners-up, she thought it was time to retire from the literary scene!

The Chairman wished to emphasise that the 'Old Bedan' would continue under new management – lots of news, please, to herself, herself, or any committee member.

Then came a second presentation – to Margaret Chapman (Harrow), our Secretary for 11 years, whose quiet efficiency had, as Anne said, done so much towards keeping the Guild together. Margaret, too, received a plate, and a large parcel whose contents were obviously just what she wanted – a wooden box to hold materials for her new recreation, painting.

Next, a 'commercial' from the Chairman, for a record made by Bede choir, orchestra and brass band. Having heard it, she could thoroughly recommend it, and would be very pleased to take orders

. . . . but for our present entertainment, here was Chris Short, a lady who leads a double life as P.E. adviser and exponent of Northumbrian songs and humour. Inviting us to join in 'Adam Backham' – 'all the verses, not just the ones you were taught at school' – Chris remarked 'your school song was far too high for me.' 'And us!' came a chorus! Some of Chris' songs were less well known – e.g. the one about Dolly, a popular lady (?) who lived in the days when Newcastle was a garrison town – but we were back on familiar ground with 'Broom-buzzards' and again joined in the chorus. Between the songs were stretches of Geordie humour (not unsuitable, but very difficult to translate!) and 'a bit of culture' – two Bible stories, in the vernacular, which disclosed some surprising facts. The David v Goliath match, for instance, somehow led to the Israelis winning the World Cup, while Pharaoh's brick-makers, led by Moses, probably founded the Trade Union movement. (Just think – if there hadn't been a straw shortage . . .) The title of the final song sounded appropriate – 'Wrap up' – but actually it was about a baby; 'never knew we had a hairie till we heard the greeting on 'Y'.

All too soon, as usual, the Chairman had to call 'time'. She thanked our entertainer for her most enjoyable programme, and hoped to see us all, and even more, next time. By then, perhaps, Margaret will be able to exhibit a

painting of a flower arrangement by Winnie?

N.W.

SUMMER REUNION - Friday 20th June 1980

In the piercingly cold winds of midsummer, groups of muffled figures were gathered at pick-up points from Gorse Road to Herrington. Thence three score of us, by bus and car, took off into the wilds of Darham and by the time we reached Chester-le-Street the sun had broken through.

As we passed through the empty streets of Gossett, it seemed as though the town were already abandoned in anticipation of the closure of its iron-works. Thereafter, however, our way lay through beautiful country lanes, past Edmondbyern and the Derwent Reservoir with the final swoop down into Blanchland.

Amid the old stone buildings, with no sign of T.V. aerials, the village hall stood out as of more recent date, and here we were welcomed by the Women's Institute who sat us down to eat and drink. The charge for the meal is used to raise funds - a practice which is of great benefit to all concerned. It is not surprising that, considering the delicious food and warming tea provided, they have more requests than they can cope with.

Some of our party who came by car (they shall be nameless but have musical connections) arrived a little late. They stoutly denied that they had been carrying in the Lord Gosset Arms.

There was just time for a brisk walk and a visit to the twelfth century Abbey before we took our leave, wondering if there were any other enterprising W.I.s within travelling distance to cater for another such enjoyable outing.

M.R.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting was held on Friday 19th September and 22 were present. Apologies for absence were received from the President, Mrs. Youngs, Marjorie Brown (Breese), Pat Deans (Webb) and Dorothy Pullan (Hunter). The Chairman Anne Mitchell (Crowe) welcomed those present and apologised for the date of the meeting but hoped it would be on the last Friday in September in 1981. The meeting opened on a sad note as the death of Mary MacKintosh (Alderson) was announced and a minute's silence was observed.

The minutes of the previous A.G.M. were read by the Secretary and approved. The financial statement showed a loss of £14,300 on the year workings.

The Chairman then read the names of the new members of the committee.

Reports were read from the Social Services and the Loan & Scholarship Fund.

It was discussed and agreed the School Prize should be £10, for this year.

The Winter Re-Union, the Annual Dinner and the Summer Re-Union were discussed and dates suggested.

Before the close of the meeting it was suggested and approved a donation be sent to Mr. Walton Alderson for the United Reformed Church in memory of Mary.

The Meeting ended with tea and biscuits.

TREASURER'S REPORT

On the 31st August 1980 the total funds of the Guild were £1,252.96. They were made up as follows: 3½% War Stock £28.36, Peoples Bank £45.00, Sunderland Trustee Savings Bank Ordinary Account £103.80, Special Investment Account £960.10, Barclays Bank Current Account £41.23 and Cash in Hand £4.97. Our income for the year came from subscriptions - £56.00; donations £13.94; Profit on functions £38.24 and Interest on investments which amounted to £80.56. From the sale of 3½% Savings Bonds which matured during the year we received £77.25. During the year we spent £95 on printing; £12.44 on Stationery and £36.25% on postage and telephone. Flowers and cards cost £3.00 and retirement gifts £33.94. Editorial expenses were £3.50 and £10 was given for a School Prize. Corporation Tax for the year amounted to £41.16. There was a loss of £14.30% on the year's working.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

We start the year 1980/81 with 482 members. 6 new members paid annual subscriptions during the year. 4 new life members were enrolled and 3 existing members paid life subscriptions. Some members did not pay subscriptions during the year but I hope they will remember to pay in the coming year. The donations we receive from members are very welcome.

The Guild met on 4 occasions during the year and there were 3 committee meetings.

The Annual Business Meeting was attended by 23 members. The Winter Re-Union was held in Beke School on Friday January 25th and 80 were present. The Dinner Re-Union in the Burnes Hotel on Friday April 18th was a successful evening and 102 attended. Retirement gifts were presented to Margaret Chapman (Hunter); who received an engraved plate and an artists box for her paints and brushes as she enjoys attending an Art class, and also to Winnie Scott (Thomas), who received a vase for her flower arrangements and an engraved plate. A small token of appreciation to them both for the many years of hard work they have done on behalf of us all. The entertainment was provided by Miss Chris Short - not an old Bedian but known to many, as a P.E. adviser, who sang Northumbrian songs.

The Summer Re-Union was a change from our usual pattern. 57 of us went by coach and car to Blanchland where we had an enjoyable supper in the village hall. The supper was provided by the Blanchland W.I. and we are grateful to Nancy Harrison for passing us the necessary information. The Guild was represented at the School prize giving, the Christmas concert and two musical concerts during the year.

Thank you to the committee for their help during my first year of office and especially to Margaret Chapman (Hunter) whose experience I have needed to call upon on several occasions.

LOAN AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND REPORT 1979

A total of £204.62 was available. No requests for assistance had been received. £205 was distributed to 24 girls going into Higher Education, the scholarships being awarded on a scale according to performance in "A" levels, reducing from £14 to £6.

R. Clarke

SOCIAL SERVICE GROUP REPORT 1979/80

The committee of thirteen with Mary Arkless (Robinson) as Treasurer have had three meetings since the last A.G.M. and continue to raise money and to distribute the same to our needy folk.

We had fifteen people on our books this year and we gave them gifts of money at Harvest time, Christmas and Easter, as well as small gifts of sweets to our lady in Grindon Hostel.

We started the year with £102.15 in hand and received £164.81 from donations and Canasta parties. We have, therefore, been able to give a total of £198 to our needy folk.

We are grateful to those who send us donations and are deeply indebted to the card-sharps who have met regularly during the winter months and given the result of their parties to help to swell our funds. Please continue to help us, because, judging by the letters we receive, our people really do appreciate our visits and gifts.

Anne Crowe

OLD REDANS HOCKEY CLUB - Annual Report 1979-80

Another season playing at Houghton School, where we have enjoyed the hospitality of the staff, and the use of the all-weather pitch, finds the club thriving. We still somehow manage to field two outdoor and one indoor teams due to the hard working band of officials supported by keen players, not forgetting our enthusiastic schoolgirls drawn mainly from Bede, Houghton and the Church High School.

This regular fulfilment of Saturday and Sunday fixtures is difficult to maintain as we have so many players and officials taking part in hockey affairs at County level.

Players in Durham County Senior 1st XI

Norma Dix (Batty - ex staff) also North 1st XI

Kathleen Laythorpe - retired mid season to await arrival of second baby.

2nd XI

Gillian Langford, Judy Stewart, Carolyn Naisby, Di Farrer.

Schoolgirls 1st XI

Barbara Yendall.

2nd XI

Helen Reid, Isabel Davidson, Fiona Scott, Elizabeth Davidson - Res.

County Indoor XI

Norma Dix, Brenda Peart, Judy Stewart.

Chairman Schoolgirls Selectors

Jean Pillans.

Senior Selectors

Jackie Clish, Jean Cole.

This season our 1st XI reached the final of the County Knock-out Cup but on a day when we were unable to field a full strength side were swamped by the weight of Norton at their best (their entire team had county experience, ten were also territorial level players and of course Ann Whitworth and Ruth Grainger, their International players, were outstanding). Our only consolation was that they won the England Club Championship and will represent us all in the European Championship in 1980-81 season.

We too had an excursion to the Continent however. A mixed group of local players went to Rotterdam at Easter to be entertained in the homes of club players belonging to Tempo 34 a mixed sports club. Judy Stewart, Di Farrer, Angela Stephenson and Jean Filans were the members who travelled and enjoyed wonderful hospitality and hockey which was somewhat different in style. A tournament was organised and umpired by the menfolk (their women lack authority!) so we played to very loud pop music blaring from loudspeakers in the trees round the pitches. A break for lunch, a lovely buffet and drinks (gin for the umpires!) proved a breathing space much needed on a glorious day in the sunshine. The play, and umpiring seemed less serious in the afternoon somehow. We hope our Dutch friends will be able to return next year. Our thanks to all members of the Guild for their continuing interest in the club.

Jean Filans (Umpire)

THE LONDON BRANCH

We had our usual two meetings during the year – October 1979 at the home of Kathleen Cragg (Young) and in May 1980 at Nancy Hubick's (Lewther).

Several members who have to make long journeys came to me for lunch – Nancy lives quite nearby.

We were pleased to see Marjorie Kewish (Bailes) again – her first visit since she moved to Farnham, Surrey, over two years ago.

Many thanks to our hostesses for their hospitality.

Doreen Macrae, 39 Birch Grove, London W 3 9BP. Tel. 392-3007

FROM NOVEMBER 1979 – NOVEMBER 1980

New Members of the Guild

Annie Berwick – who has since died, Sylvia Donnelly (Randle), Betty Shepherd (Gray), Jane Thompson (Burlison).

New Life Members

Dorren Sainsforth (Sloan), Maureen Richardson (Robson), Ross Carter, Vera Kitson (Lynn).

The following have become Life Members

Pat Cradock (Snell), Marjorie Snowball (Gaddeford), Berna Johnson (Juler), Doris Boudry (McCall), Eileen Robinson (Temple).

MARY MACKINTOSH (Mrs. Walter Alderson)

After several years of suffering with emphysema, Mary Mackintosh died on September 17th in the Royal Freeman Hospital, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Any tribute to Mary would be incomplete, for she will long be remembered by many people in so many different ways; by friends from schooldays at Reda, by her early associates in the Guild of Old Redans (she was the Guild's second chairman); by the path she taught, by her fellow Keep-Fit leaders and classes, her former teaching colleagues, hockey enthusiasts, local golfers, Inner Wheelers. Her move to Thropton was a sad loss to the Guild, but organisations like the W.I., and the young and old people of the Rothbury area inherited and enjoyed her many talents.

Integrity, honesty, loyalty, sincerity – these were "bank" to Mary. She hated anything pretentious or artificial – she hated "burnbug". Wholehearted

herself in all that she did, she expected the same kind of effort from others. Working with Mary was demanding but stimulating, never dull, and always an experience. It was easy to be caught up in her enthusiasm — she could "lift" a class, a team, an audience, an event, with that inimitable spark, yet she could take a back seat and listen; so gifted herself she fully appreciated the abilities of others. People responded to her wonderful gift of communication, in joy or sorrow. Of steady independence, a cheerful appearance and an irrepressible humour were her almost constant companions.

Towards the end, when her voice deserted her, she was still able to enjoy the countryside she loved; she both wrote and spoke of the windswept fells, the bracken and heather, the early snowdrops in the copse near her home, the country-bright colours of the lark beside her window, and the wonderful views up to the Cheviots — indeed "All things bright and beautiful".

Her little grandson brought her much joy; she was surrounded by the love and devotion of her family and close friends as her illness brought her life to its close.

At a simple, dignified and very moving funeral service in Thropton United Reform Church, the minister spoke sincerely of her contribution to the life of the local community. He ended his address — "Thank you for Mary".

Old Bedans, with no irreverence, would perhaps add to this "and for those magic moments".

A donation from the G.O.B. was sent to Thropton United Reform Church in lieu of flowers. It is hoped to buy new hymnbooks for the church with the proceeds of the memorial fund.

If any old Bedan would like to help towards this donation in memory of Mary, here, our Secretary Treasurer would be pleased to receive it.

HOMES OF OLD BEDANS

Jean Nichol (Nichols) now lives at Kerdsworth and Evelyn Johnson (Ellis) at Wakefield. Judith Yendall is now in Enfield and Jennifer Stewart (Lovell) in Harley near Gainsford. Isabel Rolfe (Fransby) sends greetings from New Malden, Surrey. Pauline Humphreys (Hunter) met Pat Ritch (Lord) at the theatre in York and they arranged to visit each other. Pat's home is in Selby and she sees Corrie Wilson (Udale) whose home is in Harrogate. Pauline is also in regular touch with Leonore Jacobs (?) whose home is in London. Susan Hart (Cameron) now lives in Aberdeen.

MEETINGS

Winnie Scott (Thomas) and Joan Ball (Turpin) visited Mary Ableman (Macintosh) in June. Although in poor health then, she was delighted to see them and before they left perked up enough to do one or two of her little impressions of Miss Shearer. Seeking information in Fulwell Branch Library, for a City & Galilee Flower Arranging exam., Winnie Scott came upon Jennifer Rogers (Harden) who is Senior Librarian.

When Miss Wilman rang Tooby's to arrange for her lawn mower to be collected, she was surprised to find that she was talking to Jean Colquhoun. Miss Wilman also met Edna Wright (McKenzie) in the Market Square and found that Edna is now working at Sunderland "Polytech."

Doris Saphron (Crighton) stayed with Bessie Peake (Green) in Sunderland and they met at the Sceptomists Coffee Morning, Miss Bradbury, Vera

Shenton, Sybil Brown and Daisy Lakin (Croisdale).

Kathleen Watson, whose home is in Southampton visited Kathleen Mair and Vera Harrold whilst staying with relatives in the North.

Nora Johnson (Wilson) and Emily Dumart (Lawson) have met a couple of times during the year in Hartlepool, when news of Emily's children was the main topic of conversation. All that lovely news going to waste because the children are not old Bedans.

Marjorie Frost (Douglas) and Nora meet at National History Society meetings in Hartlepool.

Jean Richardson (Kudkin) and Nancy Mitchell met in the bread shop in Grangetown. Jean was staying with her sister for a few days and was grieved to learn of the death of Edd Fotts (Wilson).

BEDANS AT WORK

Lorna Payne is to become one of only nine W.R.A.F. Chaplain's Assistants in the country. She was to report to R.A.F. Holton in October where her job will involve helping people to cope with the restricted life in the W.R.A.F.

Rosamund Carter is teaching music at Birkenshead School and Judith Carr is studying music at Birmingham.

Gillian Leete was chosen as the best all-round recruit in the R.A.F. School of Recruit Training at Hereford. She now goes to R.A.F. Cosford for training.

Elaine Alderson is doing scenic theatre design for B.B.C. productions. Valerie Stewart (Newbolt) is now teaching German part-time at Sheffield.

Allan Breeze (Smith), working with the Inland Revenue District Valuer's Department in Leicester, has qualified and is now an Associate Member of the Royal Society of Chartered Surveyors.

Susan Hunter is teaching English and Drama at Monkwearmouth. Vic Sharp, who is an Old Bedan and also former member of staff, runs the bookshop at Ely Cathedral.

Faithine Humphreys is now secretary to Mr. Edmundson-Jones, Solicitor, at York Minster. She works at St. Williams College and part of her duties is to arrange teas round the Minster.

Paula Howden (Simpson), who is now a doctor, is in partnership with her husband in a joint practice in Leeds.

RETIREMENTS

Sheila Turpin (Stephenson), Margaret Langham and Eunice Bruce (Wood) have retired from teaching.

Elizabeth Rowlandson (Longate) has retired from her post as a Secretary in the General Hospital, Sunderland. She was presented with an alabaster jewellery box, an opal ring and a gold chain from her hospital colleagues.

Ethel Freeman (Townes) has retired from Bede. Joan Twiddle (Sanderson) has also retired. Marie Anderson has retired from her post as Headmistress of Florence Tebbear School for Physically Handicapped Girls and Junior Boys at Holybourne, but not for a life of ease, for she has embarked on an Open University Course in Art.

Evelyn Thompson (Pitt) whose home is in Stoke Bishop, Bristol, is also retired.

Dorothy Thompson (Watt) and Nancy Mitchell both retired from the "Tax Office" during the year; receiving a handbag and clogs clock respectively

from their colleagues in "Taxen".

NEWS

Was it Margaret or Malcolm — the M. Berry who won a book token for a correct solution to the General Knowledge Crossword in the Sunday Express in September?

Lynne Lascock (Symonds) from Great Milton writes after attending the dinner which was "delightful and bewildering", that she found the Staff of Beds had not changed after 15 years. Maybe they know the problem of age — or perennial youth; She wonders if her present pupils will think of her with the same affection that she feels for the Staff at Beds.

Elie Watson wrote from Carlisle wishing everyone an enjoyable evening at the Dinner and has many happy memories of earlier years when she, Frances Gilles and Elizabeth Fraser were able to meet and attend the dinner together.

Brenda Hodgson (Petrie) is the present Chairman of the Wearside Ladies Circle. Muriel Anderson (Kensworthy) has been awarded a special trophy by Ucklesfield District Council, Essex, for her work for the St. Christopher's Club for the Handicapped. She received this trophy from Cliff Morgan.

Elie Kirkwood wrote to wish us well at the September A.G.M. and apologised that she could not be with us. She tells us that her G.O.E. rose bushes have had a good year and should still be blooming at Christmas. Grace Caldwell (Allinson) still keeps an eye on Elie and takes her to various charity functions.

Nan Stirling (Jeffrey) writes from Seahouses that her sister Jean has returned to England after spending 9 years at the Convent of St. Jude's Ranch Colorado City, Nevada, as a Sister of Charity. She is now at the Convent of the Sisters of Charity, St. Agnes Avenue, Bristol, Somerset, and although she was sorry to leave America she is pleased to be back in her "own" country. Nan suggests a luncheon re-union might be easier to attend for those who have to travel. I am sure the committee will weigh up the "pro's and con's" of this idea.

NOTABLE OCCASIONS

Jessie Ross (Scott-Bailey) now widowed, was invited to perform the opening ceremony of the New Tyne Metro in July in view of her late husband's active participation in the scheme.

Marjorie Anderson (Cartis) was present at the 125th Anniversary service of the Y.W.C.A. in Westminster Abbey in February when the Queen was also there.

HOLIDAYS

Betty Peters (Spencer) has visited the Taj Mahal during her visit to India this year.

Nancy Harrison is in New Zealand for 6 months visiting her brother and his wife. She is staying in Tapanoroth Island and has already experienced a slight earthquake and been lost once for two hours whilst out shopping — she has been found! She has joined an Art Club so she does not mean to be idle whilst on holiday.

Joan Bassell (Rough) called on Joyce Galton (Hodgson) in Australia. Joyce sent good wishes to everyone and firmly believes that the "Bedan"

is instrumental in keeping "Old Bedans" together. They spent 3 days together in Joyce's lovely home overlooking the sea.

Dorothy Middlerais (Sagden) went to Kitwe, Zambia, to visit her son and while there she spent a week at a remote fishing camp on Lake Tanganyika - sleeping in a round thatched, open sided African hut.

Lena Thompson and Phyllis Peers having had their "holiday of a lifetime" in 1977 cruising up the Nile, have not yet settled down. At the time of going to press they should be flying from Heathrow to Lima in Peru for the next "holiday of a lifetime". They hope to travel into the mountains and isolated regions of the Andes visiting Cuzco then Macho Picchu where they will explore the Lost City of the Incas. They hope to fly to La Paz in Bolivia and also spend these days sailing up the Amazon.

OVERSEAS NEWS

Olive McDonald (Adams) writes from Washington, U.S.A. to let us know that she received her last magazine safely via Western Australia because the address had been abbreviated to W.A. Full marks to the Post Office! She sends good wishes to all Old Bedans and says her greatest claim to fame was that she was the smallest in the school and played the Guinea Pig in Alice in Wonderland.

Patricia Dransdon (Korings) now lives in Nijmegen, Holland and teaches English.

Sheila Wilson (Walter) who was at Bede 1948-50 is now living in New Jersey U.S.A. Her husband, Robert, also an Old Bedan, is Senior Vice President in Engelhard Industries Division of Engelhard Minerals & Chemicals Corporation.

Meg Dochray (Robson) is helping to run a Nursery School in Sharjah (U.A.E.) She finds the work very interesting because all the children are different nationalities, who, at the time of writing are unaffected by the war in the Middle East, even though there is a feeling of unease.

Rosemary Bolton (Celins) now living in Kakerpaustron, Rhineland, has been visited by Dorothy Snowball (Duffell) and her 14 year old son. Also by Sheila Johnson (Harrison) and Joan Tulloch, Joan is to make her home in Sydney, Australia.

MARRIAGES

Susan Ann Forster (Craddock); Sheila Jane Hartley (Bosman); Ann Dickinson (Gray); Alison Forbes; Audrey Mawson; Barbara Downes; Joan Tulloch (Jansen); Patricia Densings (Korings) and Vivienne McKay (Young).

BEDAN BABIES

Barbara Richardson (Wilks) had a son; Pamela Carr (Russell) a girl; Sandra McHale (Muley) and Rona Henderson (Wall) both had sons and Rosemary Bolton (Celins) and Pauline Carter had daughters.

J.T. Robson Jr (Old Bedan) and his wife Margaret had a son in January, grandson for Barty Robson (Wilson).

DEATHS

Vera Clark; Mary McIntosh (Alderson); Dorothy Botcherby (Aris); Nancy Welch and Dorothy Sinclair.

SCHOOL NEWS

Staff Changes

In December, 1979, Mr. A. Burton, Mr. P. McCluskey and Mr. G.D. Griffiths all moved to gain promotion, and in March 1980 Mrs. E.J. Cole (Jean Taylor), Mrs. J. Taylor and Mrs. C. Haddock left us for the same reason, the two latter, both members of the Home Economics Department, only temporarily, on extended Maternity Leave. All three are now proud mothers of a girl, a boy and girl respectively.

At the end of the Summer Term we had some sad farewells to take of staff who were retiring after serving the school for many years. Mrs. Towers (Ethel Foreman), Mr. Cowie and Mr. Fell took advantage of early retirement; Mr. A. Smith whose long connection with the school, as pupil then valued member of the English Department in both Boys' School and Bede Comprehensives, must constitute a record; finally, Mr. Lewis, Head of English, then Deputy Head in the Boys' School, and Senior Master then Deputy Head of the present school, who will be greatly missed by his colleagues and pupils. Bede School owes a debt of incalculable gratitude to Mr. Lewis for his contribution to the staff and pupils for almost 30 years.

In July Mr. Hirst (Head of Department), Mr. Richardson, Mrs. B. Cook, Miss Bolton and Mrs. M. Watkins also left us, and in September, Mrs. Lynn Smith to await the arrival of her first baby. In October, Mrs. Chapman departed to take up her post as Deputy Head at the Church High School in Newcastle.

To all those who have gone, to well earned retirement, to promotion or to a new challenge: motherhood, we say thank you for all you have done for Bede School. Our best wishes for success and happiness go with you.

New Staff

In January we welcomed Mrs. Alexander (Chemistry/Home Economics), Mrs. Bower (former member of Staff - Chemistry), Mrs. S.J. Brown (English) Mrs. B. Petrie (Brenda Hodgson) in a new role as a teacher of Classical Studies and Mrs. E. Tyler (Chemistry/Maths.). In April Mrs. Lothhouse returned, this time to the Physics Department, and Mrs. B. Wase took up her appointment as Head of Girls' F.F.

In September Mrs. P. Cook (Pauline Furnon) joined the Classics Department, Mrs. G. Ellison (Chemistry), Mrs. Gale (Home Economics), Mrs. T. Moore (English), Mr. J. Taylor (Technical Studies), Mrs. C. Warren-Smith (Mathematics), Mrs. V. Watkins (French), Mr. M.W. Richards (Physics) and Mr. P. Witham, Deputy Head.

L. Youngs, Senior Mistress

I was sorry to miss the Annual Dinner Re-Union (18th April 1980) but had to travel to Cambridge that day to represent the School at an Open Day at Girton College on Saturday, 19th April.

There I was delighted to renew acquaintance with Dr. Jill L. Mann (Gillian Ditchburn) Lecturer in English at Girton, and to meet Mrs. D. Mellor (Margery Humphrey) who is now Deputy Head at Croham Hurst School, Croydon.

L. Youngs, Senior Mistress, October 1980

'CHATTER' FROM BEDE SCHOOL.

Dorothy Pullan (Hunter) and Hannah Read (Rogerson) met Pat Carty (Turnball) while out for the evening and had a chat, each deploring that one was older than the other two.

Dorothy Pullan went to see Jane Hartley marry Duncan Boseman and chatted to many Old Bedans including Amanda Foster, Julie Pratt, Nicola Suffield, Hilary Stevenson, Alan Pattinson, Ken Hutchinson, Brian Clapper, Michael Hunter and Anne Guthrie.

Alan Pattinson (Ex Head boy) married Sally Auld. Michael Hunter married Anne Hamman.

Andrey Hudson's (Henderson) daughter, Maureen, who is now living in London, and working in the City, came back to Sunderland for a few days after having spent a week walking around Landay.

Ann Lockey's (1940-47) husband is Chaplain of Watford Football Club.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

This year has seen a growth in the variety of subjects and growth in the variety of examining boards for which Fifth Form pupils are entered, e.g. J.M.E. and K.S.A.

It is pleasing to report that a higher proportion of our pupils gained at least five passes (including C.S.E. Grade 1) than in 1979 and also there has been a considerable improvement in the number of C.S.E. Grades 1-3 which reflects our changing entry.

The two outstanding candidates were Mark Hodgson SPY with 11 Grade A's at O Level and a C.S.E. Grade 1 and Paul Blewison SEB with 10 Grade A's at O Level and one C.S.E. Grade 1.

For the second successive year lack of opportunity to find work is reflected in the known figures of unemployment amongst our Fifth Form leavers.

Last Christmas a separate Fifth Form Leaver's Re-union was held just before the Christmas Holiday. It was well supported by staff and former pupils and hopefully will become an annual event.

J.R. Auld, Head of Middle School

BEDE SCHOOL MUSIC

As many readers may already know, the Music Department at Bede School recently recorded a long playing record, and this is now available at a price of £5.75. The emphasis is on music which is easy to listen to and there are contributions by the Orchestra, the Brass Band and the Service Choir.

With Christmas approaching this might just be that slightly different gift that you have been looking for!

Geoff Lawson

Those of us who have heard the record would consider no praise too high for the end product, which could only be the result of endless hours of practice and perfect co-operation between Staff and pupils. Congratulations to all concerned.

THANK YOU

The Guild of Old Bedans have appreciated the invitations from "School" to attend Speech Day and concerts. Nancy Mitchell, and Irene Wilkinson

attended the concert in May and thoroughly enjoyed the musical entertainment — and the warm welcome and buffet provided in the School Library. They both felt that Valerie Northorpe and Mrs. Watson had worked hard (and so had the pupils) to achieve such a polished performance. Changed days from our singing lessons way up in the Singing Room.

Elsie White and Anne Mitchell attended Speech Day — again changed days from a sea of white dresses, long black stockings and Staff in caps and gowns, but it was encouraging to see parents accompanying their children or receiving prizes for their absent children. We feel that at future Speech Days our Chairman should wear our beautiful "chain of office" and let the old Bede badge be seen and recognised and not hidden away for most of the year.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Winter Re-Union — 30th January in School (Needlework Room). Tickets (price not yet known) will be available from any committee member.

Dinner Re-Union — 10th April, Barnes Hotel (price not yet available, but about £6).

Summer Outing — 15th June. Destination as yet unknown.

Please remember that our Secretary Irene Wilkinson, tel. 280500 is teaching and therefore most easily contacted in the evenings or weekends. But Dorothy Dugdale — assistant secretary — tel. 280614, is available during the day.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Maybe you have reached this Editorial Comment much sooner than usual and quicker than you expected and if this is so, I am sorry. This year the G.O.B. committee felt that, even though Winnie Thomas has, most unwillingly, been allowed to retire as your Editor, the magazine must be produced. We have worked as a committee and done our best with the news we have received and we hope that, if you have found the magazine disappointing, you will try a little harder to send us news. Also — if your friends have complained that they have not received their copy of the magazine — please forward changes of address to Irene as soon as possible.

I am sure you will want me to thank all the committee who have done this extra "choir" willingly or otherwise — and helped me to produce this magazine, which means so much to Old Bedans far and near.

We all wish Winnie much pleasure and enjoyment in her extra "leisure hours" and thank her once again for all her work on our behalf.

We are particularly grateful to Dorothy Dugdale and Margaret Hunter for typing the copy for the magazine.

We extend our sympathy to all who have been bereaved during the year and wish a speedy return to health to all who are sick.

Happy New Year to you all and please, please help us to keep the "Life-line" of the Guild in print for many years to come.

A.C.

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR SEPT. 1st 1979 - AUG. 31st 1980

RECEIPTS			EXPENDITURE	
Subscriptions			Printing	95.00
Annual	24.50		Stationery	12.44
Life	<u>31.50</u>	56.00	Post & Telephones	56.25%
Donations		13.94	Flowers and Cards	3.00
Meetings		58.24	Editorial Expenses	3.50
Interest		80.54	School Prize	10.00
Loss on year's workings		14.50%	Corporation Tax	41.14
Repayment of Savings Bond + Int.		77.26	Retiring Gifts to Sec. & Editor	53.94
			Cash in Hand	45.00
		<u>£280.29%</u>		<u>£280.29%</u>

Total Funds on Aug. 31st 1980

Balance on Aug. 31st, 1979		1297.266	Made up as follows:-	
Less £75 National Savings Bond 75.00			34% War Stock	98.56
Loss on year's workings 14.50%		89.50%	T.S.B. Ordinary Account	105.50
			T.S.B. Special Account	960.10
			Barclays Bank	41.25
			Cash in Hand	4.87
		<u>1207.96</u>		<u>£1207.96</u>

D.J. Wilkinson

I have examined the Receipt Book, Bank Books and Statements and certify that everything is in order.

C.H. Hutchinson
31 August, 1980

