

THE OLD BEDAN

1981

THE GUILD OF OLD BEDANS

Office Bearer and Committee 1981

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

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tel: 284600; Rene Halliday (Downs) tel: 280030; Joan Ball (Turpin) tel: 59086

Staff Representative: Audrey Hudson (Henderson) tel: 227597

Co-Opted: Brenda Johnston (Juler); Robina Foster (Lawson)

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 1981/2 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 "school days" name is used with the married name in brackets.

Mr. HARRY WILLIAMSON

We were sorry to hear of the death on June 5th 1980 of Mr. Harry Williamson, who was for many years responsible for the printing of the Old Bedan magazine. His courtesy, understanding and co-operation were always much appreciated. We were interested to know too, that, after his retirement owing to ill health, he still kept in touch with the "Old Bedan" by checking our copy for the new printer. We wish to record what a pleasure he was to work with over the years.

W. Thomas (former Editor)

THE WINTER RE-UNION - Friday 30th January 1981

The Winter Re-Union has developed a ritual modified by the passage of time and place. From the draughty spaciousness of the old Art room, we are now established in the warmer confines of the "new" Needlework room. Here the ritual is varied by the ingenuity of successive committees in devising games which nowadays

tend to exercise our minds, in contrast with the energetic team games of old.

This night they were organised by Robina Porter (Lawson) and Brenda Johnston (Jaker). The first game required answers beginning with "mar-". "A nobleman?" was a "marquis" and "a tent?" - a "marquee", whereas "work?" was "Marabou" and decidedly not "margarine".

Greater latitude was allowed in a subsequent game when parts of the body were involved. For "you've got it?" - "chuck, neck or nerve" were all conceded and more collaboration than usual was necessary to come up with answers for "bright flower?" - "tulips", "good soldiers should be?" - "instep". Winners of these games included Nellie Shield (Widdington), Kathleen Scott (Bolton) and, inevitably Dorothy Grierson (Kennedy), on whom it is surely time to impose a handicap, as in her golf.

The committee had taken some trouble in preparing the next game. They had recorded the signature tunes of T.V. programmes and we were expected to identify these. It was surprising how difficult this proved, as we muttered and speculated about "Fear the Engine" or "It'll Fix It".

Perched on high and low stools, we partook of a delicious meal, consisting of a variety of savouries and sweets with lots of hot tea for our parched throats. Anne Mitchell (Cowe) firmly interrupted our chatter to welcome us all. She said, however, that it was very sad that she was taking the place of Marjorie Brown (Breeze) who would have been her predecessor as Chairman. We remembered Marjorie's brave struggle against her final illness and her bright energetic presence on occasions such as this.

Articles to be raffled had been donated by several people including Elaine Kirkwood who sent her good wishes for the re-union all the way from Dorset. The luck of the draw fell to Dorothy Pullan (Hanter), Marjorie Curran (Speed), Margaret Robinson (Dixon), Joan Liddle, Dorcen Dent (Stoddart), Muriel Searle and Pat Crudden (Snell).

A total of £16.30 was thus added to the Old Bedan's Social Services Fund.

There followed more time for chat and the passing round of photographs (with an increasing number of grandchildren) and then, clapping hands across the tables, we once more sang "Auld Lang Syne".

ANNUAL DINNER RE-UNION - 10th April 1981

Another year had passed, April had arrived and Old Bedans began to wind their way to the Barnes Hotel for their annual dinner.

Upstairs in the cocktail bar, friends spotted each other and gathered round for convivial drinks and gossip. It seemed no time at all until dinner was served. The meal was appetising and the service good. Anne then stood up to welcome us all warmly, with a special greeting for our President, Mrs. Youngs and Vice-President Mrs. Carrick, and for the many past and present members of staff who were with us. Although there were not quite so many Old Bedans present as last year a number had come from out of town and it was a great pleasure to welcome members from:- Sunney, Birmingham, Leyburn, Rotherham, Weardale, Teeside and Hartlepool. Apologies for absence had been received from Miss Bradbury and from

Elsie Davidson (Kirkwood), who were both very sorry to miss the occasion.

Taking the opportunity of having a captive audience, Anne emphasized the ever present need for news for the magazine and also appealed for funds for the Social Services group who do so much good work for our very own charity. A "begging bowl" had been strategically placed on the platform. She then told us of the plans being made for the Summer Re-union in June.

We raised our glasses to toast the "School" and then, in the absence of Win, Scott (Thomas) and Valerie Northcote, Joyce Robson (Bagley) stepped in to play the piano for the School Song. The ageing group at Table 1 had great difficulty in reaching the high notes and were left breathless but not defeated.

The entertainment by the Riverside Singers took us through more than a decade of song and brought happy memories to us all. The trio, who explained to us that they should have been a quartet, and who professed to have been delighted with our singing, began their programme with a selection from the "roaring twenties" which included "Vanity Rag", "Yes sir, that's my baby", "Ma, he's making eyes at me", "Oh we ain't got a barrel of money", "Side by Side", and "Sing Halleluia". We joined in with gusto when we could remember the words. Following a beautiful rendering of a folk song from Majorca by the ladies, the mood changed with the appearance of Andy Cap, dressed in a Union Jack and a long red and white scarf singing "I look on the bright side", "Always merry and bright", and "Cheer up Ollie you will soon be dead". We laughed and appreciated the fun. Next we were transported to Austria and "The Sound of Music" and then to France with a young Maurice Chevalier singing "I remember it well", this was followed by a beautiful female solo "This is the man", and then the trio treated us to a selection of songs made famous by the "Seekers", the original ones they hastened to assure us. Some ever popular "Geordie" songs were followed by the arrival on stage of Tommy Cooper singing a humorous song about Cleopatra. The finale was a lovely solo from "Fislan's Rainbow", and when we came back to earth the applause was loud and sincere.

Anne proposed a vote of thanks to the Riverside Singers which was echoed by all. There was still a short time to chat but all too soon we were on our way home after a most enjoyable evening.

SUMMER OUTING - Friday 19th June 1981

True to form, the mid-June evening arranged for the Summer Outing was cold, with the threat of rain.

Shivering groups at intervals, as far as Herrington and beyond, waited, thinking harsh thoughts of those who, it seemed, had delayed the departure from Gorse Road. Forty minutes late they greeted the 'bus', to find that it was a replacement for one which had broken down. The unfortunate driver had been obliged to take over when he had reported in to the depot on what he imagined to be the end of his working day.

All now safely aboard, we sped along the motorway to Scotch Corner. Here we turned aside to pass through the picturesque village of Middleton Tyas. Soon after, we came to the Herb Centre of Mrs. Heather Bates. She, too, had been patiently waiting and briskly assembled us before her. The land, which she had comparatively

recently acquired, was divided into thirty-six plots, each constituting a day's labour. Passing from time to time to pluck and pass round specimens, she discoursed on the merits of each plant, especially its medicinal and culinary uses. From the main mass of us murmurs of interest greeted details of cures for migraines or rheumatism while more enlightened members like Renee Halliday (Downs) and Winnie Scott (Thomas) nodded knowingly at the names of those plants with foliage beloved of flower arrangers. Winnie, indeed, in her attempt to ward off the chill winds, was barely recognisable as a cross between an Eskimo and a penguin.

Mrs. Bates, like a kindly headmistress, guided us into the comparative warmth of the greenhouse where plants for purchase were arranged in pots. More thankfully still, we entered a barn and while the more nimble scrambled on to the back benches, we sat down to hear further descriptions of the use of herbs in cooking and methods of storing dry or in the freezer.

Regaled with pate made before our eyes and with warm pizza, cake and much appreciated hot coffee, we at last thawed out.

Pat Cruddas (Soell) who had joined us from her caravan at Richmond, departed thence and the rest of us embarked on the 'bus', now scented from all the little bundles we had purchased, the odour of pineapple mint mingling with that of Sweet Basil. Warm and drowsy, we arrived home, like Cinderellas, not long before the stroke of midnight.

M.R.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting was held on Friday 25th September in the Needlework Room at Bede School. Twenty were present and apologies for absence were received from the President, Mrs. Youngs, Pat Deans (Webb) and Dorothy Pullan (Hunter).

The Chairman, Anne Mitchell (Crowe) welcomed those present and said it is the "faithful few" who regularly attend the Annual Business Meeting. Please make a note that the Annual Business Meeting 1982 will be September 24th.

The minutes of the previous A.B.M. were read by the Secretary and approved. The financial statement showed a profit on the year's workings of £25.95 but the Treasurer pointed out that the Corporation Tax demand had not arrived.

The Secretary then read the names of the committee.

Anne Mitchell (Crowe) handed over the chain of office to Elsie White (Bailey) and hoped Elsie would enjoy her term of office as much as she had done. Anne also thanked all the committee for their help during her two years as Chairman. Reports were read from the Social Services and the London Branch.

It was 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.

The meeting ended with tea and biscuits.

TREASURER'S REPORT

On 31st August 1981 the total funds of the Guild were £1278.91. They are made up as follows: 3HS War Stock £98.36, Sunderland Trustee Savings Bank Ordinary a/c £92.80, Trustee Savings Bank Special a/c £960.10, Barclays Bank Current a/c £75.59, People's Bank £46.38, Cash in Hand £5.68.

Our income for the year came from subscriptions £68.50, donations £49.59, profit on meetings £8.61 and interest on investments which amounted to £104.32.

During the year we spent £105.00 on printing, £10.10 on Stationery and £45.97 on postage and telephone. Flowers and cards cost £8.87. £10 was given for a school prize and £10 in memory of Mary Mac (Alderson) was sent to the church in Rothbury to buy new hymn books. We also bought new bars for the Chairman's chain of office. We had a credit of £23.95 on the year's workings.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

There are 457 members in the Guild at present. Six of these are new life members and 8 members have become life members. There are 2 new annual members. I am sorry to report that we have a number of lapsed members. In most cases, it is unintentional forgetfulness and not lack of interest.

The Guild met on 4 occasions during the year and there were 3 committee meetings. The Annual Business meeting was attended by 22 members.

The Winter Re-union was held in the Needlework Room at Bede School on January 30th and 74 attended. The refreshments were provided by Smytha, Anne Mitchell (Crowe) and Moira Cuddeford (Dixon). The games were arranged by Brenda Johnston (Juler) and Robina Forster (Lawson).

The Annual Dinner was held in the Barnes Hotel on Friday, April 10th and 83 attended. We were entertained by The Riverside Singers. I was sorry to have to charge 3 members who were, at the last minute, unable to attend, but the numbers had to be given 3 days prior to the dinner and the managers would not accept last minute cancellations.

The Summer outing was to a Herb Centre at Middleton Tyas near Scotch Corner, where we had an interesting tour of the gardens and green-house, followed by a short demonstration and some very tasty refreshments. Thank you to Gladys Stewart (Sidney) who reconcoited this outing for us.

The Chairman and Secretary represented the Guild at the School prize giving and at two musical evenings during the year. We are very grateful for these invitations from the Headmaster.

Thank you to Anne Mitchell (Crowe) for her help and hospitality for committee meetings during the year.

LOAN AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND REPORT 1980

A total of £204.80 was available. No requests for assistance had been received. £188 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 £4.

L. Youngs, Senior Mistress/Head of Upper School

G.O.B. SOCIAL SERVICE REPORT 1980/81

Our faithful committee of 13 have met 3 times this year – always at the home of a committee member who provides us with coffee and biscuits, for which we give a token donation to the Social Service funds.

We started the year with a balance of £76.16 to which was added £184.14 raised by Canasta parties, raffle at Winter Reunion, begging bowl at the Dinner and generous donations. This enabled us to give our 13 needy folk £169 during the year.

Mary Robinson (4 Westfield Grove, High Barnes, Sunderland) is always delighted to accept donations, either directly or through any committee member. It was hoped that even the A.G.M. of the Guild be a source of income, so we hopefully suggest that a "little extra" in the bowl when paying for the welcome "cuppa" would never be missed.

Our "thank you" letters arrive – as always – expressing grateful appreciation of the visits – and the gifts – so please – Old Bedans – keep us uttermost in your minds when you are feeling generous.

Anne Mitchell (Crosse)

OLD BEDANS HOCKEY CLUB 1981

The Old Bedans Hockey Club are still playing regularly, but now they are based at Philadelphia and feel that they should become full members of that Sports Club and therefore, can hardly consider themselves to be strictly "Old Bedans". We wish them every success in the future, and will always feel that they still belong to us.

THE LONDON BRANCH

We had our usual cosy get-together at my house in October 1980 and at Nancy Leather's (Habicks) in May '81 after lunch with me.

The three husbands present in October were rather quiet – not surprising having regard to the competition!

All our members (only 15 in number) seem to be so busy that it is difficult to find a Saturday that suits most of them. We would welcome newcomers!

Doreen Ward (Macrae), 39 Birch Grove, London W3, 95P. Tel: 992-3907.

A late report – but still "news" from London – after 10 years Eike Burnham (Jackson) was, at last, able to join us for lunch and tea!!

Netball (playing or coaching) and on two occasions a new baby (she now has 4 small daughters) prevented her from making the trip to Ealing, but she always wrote and gave us her latest news. We did enjoy meeting her at last and she did not seem to mind that we were all old enough to be her mother.

Isobel Lundy (Manro) was in charge of "Cambridgeshire County Drama Wardrobe" supplying costumes for school and amateur drama productions. She is officially retired but helps her successor and still designs and makes costumes for two Drama groups – even acts occasionally.

D.M.

FROM NOVEMBER 1960 - NOVEMBER 1961

New Life Members of the Guild:

Norma Scott (Ralph); Marjorie Currier (Speed); Marial Seade; Mary Seath (Cox); Evelyn Leonard (Scott); Christine Cox (Dennis); Kathleen Allen (Brown); Margaret Nicholson (Gracey).

New Annual Members:

Rita Manning (Dix); Brenda Snowball (Trewitt).

The following have become Life Members:

Betty Shepherd (Gray); Millicent Richardson; Burtie Wigham (Hall); Valerie Northorpe; Jean Harrison (Morrison); Joan Emma (Murdy); Mildred Raine (Ellison).

HOMES OF OLD BEDANS

Gwen Oliver (Cogdon) who is now widowed is moving to Twickenham to be near her daughter and family.

Katherine Flowers (Bell) is now living in Liverpool.

Olga Sharp (Stclair) is leaving Tunbridge Wells for Mitford, Northumberland.

Hilda Andrews (Moore) is living in Scruton, North Yorkshire.

May Peadman (Dymond) writes from Finchley of the pleasure she and her sister Dorcas (Winstman) have, when they read news of Bedans everywhere.

Angela Porter (Cassels) is living in Glasgow.

Christine Weston (Johnson) opened a village shop 2 years ago in Medand near Appleby and Penwith and intends to open tea rooms too in the near future.

Kathryn Gordon (McClood) cousin of the above, is teaching mentally handicapped children in Derby where she now lives.

Pauline Carter (Beard) lives in Wansop and has a year old baby daughter. Her sister Vivienne is a technician at Perrywell Comprehensive School.

The Tindle sisters:— Ann is nursing; Kay is an S.R.N. and Lynne is teaching in Birmingham.

Anne Martensman (McKlacklan) is in King's Langley, Herts., where she is teaching.

Pat Lockenby (Cowey) and her husband Alan, both Old Bedans, are living in Oxford with their three girls.

Anne Blacknell (McBain) and husband Ian (both Old Bedans) live in Hertfordshire.

Shella McBain (Slabottom) is living in Leadgate, whilst Margaret Short (Ungley) lives in York.

Gillian Garraworthy (Graham) and family are at home in Learnington Spa.

Valerie Williamson (Triggs) sees Muriel Woodruff (Heron) in Durham at meetings of old girls from Northern Counties Training College of Domestic Science. Valerie enjoys living in the precincts of Durham Cathedral where her husband is Clerk of Works and she teaches Domestic Science part-time at Durham High School. She also sees Edith Osborne (Linfoot) whose home is in Canterbury.

Maureen Linda Henderson (Howe) now lives in a 300 year old beamed cottage in North Miamet.

Annabelle Carr is married and has emigrated to Australia.

MEETINGS

Muriel Liddle visits Emmy Anderson at her home in Seitter, Northumberland, every year. Emmy unfortunately has not been in good health recently.

It doesn't seem like 20 years since Joyce Galton (Hodgson) emigrated to Australia and Joan Borwell (Rough) was sorry to miss her whilst visiting Australia this year.

Christine Holt (Atkinson) called with her husband Fred to see Brenda Johnston (Juler). Christine's home is in London but she travels abroad with her husband - Mexico and Sweden.

Christine Aym (Mallow) and Marjorie Foley (Burlinson) met in Newcastle, City Hall, each there to receive their Open University B.A. degrees. Christine is teaching Science at St. Thomas Aquinas School, Sunderland, and Marjorie is a tax officer, in Gloucester.

Marjorie Coonan (Maarsten) came to Sunderland during a European tour from Capetown, Africa, and met Elsie Agar who is headmistress of Mowbray Road School, South Shields.

Pat Carty (Turnbull) and Jean Henderson (Telfer) travelled from Acklam and Birmingham respectively to attend the dinner in April. There they joined Isabel Rolfe (Patonby) from New Malden, Surrey, and Nancy Mitchell (Crowe) and all four reminisced happily over their school days and their "working" days as G.P.O. telephonists during the war years.

Audrey Carr (Arnoff) went from Stewage to Ewell and stayed for a few days with Mary Booth (Scott) to attend the funeral of Mary's sister Lucy (Hodgson). During the visit they went to a production of Chekhov's play "Three Sisters" and were joined in Epsom by Edith Robinson (Robson).

Local flower festivals are fast becoming mini old Bedan re-unions - when Rene Halliday, Win Scott, Gladys Stewart (Sidney), Hilda Udale (Ratner) and Elizabeth Rowlandson (Longster) can find themselves happily practicing their floral art as a united effort, with wonderful results.

Lena Thompson and Phyllis Peters, on a brief visit North, included a call on Elizabeth Keenlyside (Arnall) in Bedale.

Burty Wilson (Robson) and her husband called to see Mollie Garbutt (Johnson) at her charming house in Scarborough and had a most enjoyable afternoon talking about school days and mutual friends.

Doris Foster (Robinson), Peggy Victory and Mary Arkless visited Miss Peters and Lena Thompson and enjoyed their slices of the holiday in Peru and up the Amazon.

Edith Booderick (Burge) visited Miss Franklyn in Harrogate this summer, a visit greatly appreciated by Miss Franklyn, as was a visit by Doreen Macrae and her husband, who spent a most enjoyable afternoon with her. Miss Franklyn loaned her album of photos taken on the tour to Norway in 1936 which was presented to her by the girls concerned - so that Joyce Heboon (Aylen) can see herself again as a schoolgirl! We thank Doreen for her offer to lend us the photo - but the cost of re-printing would probably be too great. It was nice to know that all the girls were smiling - or saying 'cheese'.

A very chance meeting between Nellie Hinkley (Madison) and Doreen took place at the hairdressers in Wolsingham. Each recognised the other despite the lapse of time.

On holiday in South America, Muriel Woodruff (Heron) discovered that one of her fellow travellers was also an Old Bedan, Marjorie Humphries (Mellor).

In October, Nora Johnson (Wilson), Joan Barnbrough (Washington), Vicki Barnbrough, Doris Boundy (McCall), Emily Durant (Lawson) from Glasgow, May Wilson (Ferry) from Nottingham, Joyce Elliott (Farrar), Nell Shiel (Widdington), Mollie Kirby (Carter) and Margaret Chapman (Hunter) met at the Crossdale home of Muriel Woodruff (Heron) for a "faith" lunch, each having provided for at least three people, it was indeed a feast - Miss Littlehades (Mrs Beasley) would have been proud of her pupils. During the afternoon Betty Peters (Spencer), on her way back from a holiday in the Isle of Man, persuaded the coach driver to set her down at Muriel's gate and also joined the party. Old photographs and even school reports were produced - some of these having been given to Emily by Miss Franklyn whom she had visited when attending a conference in Harrogate. Memories came thick and fast and it was tea time before the party broke up. Everyone was most grateful to Muriel and John for their hospitality.

Hilda Richardson spent September in Canada - she met Beryl Johnson (Foster) and her husband at Edmonton and enjoyed a week in the Rockies before going to their home at Nanaimo, Vancouver Island. She was delighted to see moose, elk and bears roaming at will along the highway - they are protected by law and therefore have no fear of man. Hilda was taken salmon fishing but her only catch was one undermixed cod which had to be thrown back. Beryl and her husband are very well and are now proud grandparents.

25 YEARS ON

In July a number of 'Old Bedans' met 25 years after taking G.C.E. O levels. After many 'we's' and 'ah's' these present managed to give the following information:

| Maiden Name | Married | Present Job | Children |
|----------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Norma Walsh | Farrow | Teaching Houghton | 1 boy - 9½ 1 girl - 5½ |
| Cornie Tate | Smithson | Housewife | 1 boy - 15 |
| Maureen Farron | Herbert | Market Research | 2 boys - 12 and 9 |
| Joan Clifford | Moore | Housewife | 2 boys - 12 and 10½ 1 girl - 4 |
| Anne Harrison | Witherington | Teaching | 3 girls - 13, 10½ and 4 |
| Valerie Mason | Mitchell | C & A | 3 girls - 20, 18 and 15 1 boy - 13 |
| Betty Howat | Ferrier | Teaching | |
| Hazel McCree | Ernie | Lecturer | |
| Martha Lockie | Cousdon | Teaching | 1 girl - 17 1 boy - 15 |
| Liz Christie | Mitchell | Nursing | 2 girls - 18 and 16 1 boy - 12 |

| Maiden Name | Married | Present Job | Children |
|---------------|----------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Eileen Reeve | Anderson | Teaching | 1 boy - 19 1 girl - 18 |
| Joan Bailie | White | Librarian | 1 boy - 9 1 girl - 5½ |
| Connie Bailey | Hall | Teaching | 2 boys - 8 and 6½ 1 girl - 6½ |
| Gwynne Page | | Civil Service | |
| Robina Foster | Lawson | Teaching | 2 girls - 16 and 14 1 boy - 15 |

Anyone from this year group (1951-58) wishing to join us next year please ring 289458.

RETIREMENTS

Joan Hayton; Ann Pace; Peggy Victory (Simson); Irene Wilkinson; Olga Stone (Hewkins); Louie Solley (Procter); Clouie Solley (Dewitz); Betty Rough (Herburn); Laura Milbanks; Dorothy Pullan (Harter) and Mrs. Resdman.

NEWS

Angela Auld had the honour of playing on the England School Girls Netball team this year. Joan Hunt (Wilson) had a hole-in-one at Weirside Golf Club this summer. She used a 9 iron at the 96 yard 7th hole to achieve this and was rewarded with a bottle of whisky.

Kathleen Carr (Ritch) has retired after four years from her presidency of the Durham County Ladies' Golf Association. At the A.G.M. in November she was presented with a Doulton figure in appreciation of the many hours she has given and the tactful and charming way in which she has fulfilled her many duties as President.

Eunice Bruce (Wood) also had a hole-in-one at Whitburn's 17th hole.

Caroline Baker has been awarded a B.A. Honour Degree in Law at Newcastle University.

Lesley Anne Cooper has been offered a research studentship at Dundee University, having recently graduated with a B.Sc. Honour Degree in microbiology.

Olga Stone (Hawkins), recently retired, expects to be kept busy after her holiday in Canada with her work as Chairman of the Monkwearmouth Action Group Bible Society and also as Chairman of a Guild for Guides in Sunderland.

Marie Sarremsen has won yet another free holiday - the eighth - with her singing and dancing in a talent show. She has also won the North East Senior Song and Dance Championships and competes in the finals in Leicester in December.

Renee Halliday (Downs) is present Chairman of East & Middle Herrington Garden Association and recently won a prize for her floral art at their Annual Flower & Vegetable Show.

Christine Ennew has been awarded a B.A. Honour Degree in Economics at Girton College, Cambridge. Whilst at Girton, Christine captained the second eleven

hockey team and was awarded a half-blue for hockey. She also represented the East of England Under 23's at Hockey.

Caroline Baker has been awarded a B.A. Honours Degree in Law at Newcastle University.

Edna Bailey (Robb) is the new President of Sunderland Inner Wheel.

Elsie Davison (Kirkwood) from Dorset wrote of her sadness on hearing of the death of Mary "Mac". "The G.O.B. was very fortunate in having Mary as an active member for so long - giving of her time and talent to amuse us. There was nobody just like Mary." Elsie and her husband keep well and from time to time invite old folk for lunch and tea, - one used to be milliner to the late Queen Mary, Princess Marina and the Queen Mother - going to Buckingham Palace to fit the Royal ladies. Elsie loves to receive visits from friends any time if you are in Poole.

Gillian Dowell has gained a B.A. Honours Degree in History at Hull and started an executive course at Harrods in September.

Betty Shepherd (Gray) has at last met her pen pal from Ohio, America, after corresponding for 39 years. She went to America three years ago and stayed with her correspondent and has been able to return the hospitality this summer.

Praline Anderson has been awarded a commission in the R.A.F. and she looks forward to a career in the Education Branch of the Royal Air Force.

Joan Tullock (Jarvis) is teaching English to Asian students at Sydney University and has met Susan Melton and her family.

Winnie Knapper (Lonsdale) wrote from Malvern of her sadness as her Christmas came and went and no magazine appeared and of her ultimate joy a few days later when her Old Bedan arrived. How she wished she'd been at the dinner when Winnie and Margaret received their gifts.

Helen Reed was chosen to attend the Vaux School of Sport in Durham in July.

Jessie Charlton (Ferguson) has corresponded for 55 years with her German pen friend and finally in 1977 was permitted to visit her in Pina - near Dresden - for a holiday.

Jean Mitchell (Pentolfe) who has spent most of her married life in Rhodesia is now living in Hampton (Middlesex) and paid a flying visit to Sunderland in the spring and called on her cousin Nancy Mitchell. A most enjoyable few hours were spent on school and family news.

Whilst on holiday at Amble this summer, Patricia Dears (Webb) met Ann Thompson (Tornletti) shopping at the greengrocers. Ann lives nearby with her husband who manufactures farm buildings and they have an 8 year old daughter. Pat's daughter, Deborah, is a 2nd generation Bedan - her grandmother being "scholarship" girl Dorothy Cabert (Deans) in the same class as Miss Carlin.

From Melbourne, Susan Melton (Moore) writes of her enjoyment when her mother Anne McKerny sends her the magazine. Susan, who has a small daughter, lectures at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and was recently visited by Carole Smith (Swetenham) and they had a wonderful month together - even camping in the Australian bush. Carole lives near Chester and works as a Personnel Officer for Ruthin County Council. Susan also keeps in touch with Jennifer Stewart (Lowell) who lives near Dartford, Kent.

Audrey Midwood (Thomas) writes from Slough that she retired in 1979 but has since gained an Open University Degree in Science and Technology.

Lilian Bower writes from Rugby and Nan Stirling (Jeffrey) from Seahouses tells us that her sister Jean is now back in Sunderland at St. Columbia's Mission House at Southwick.

Barbara Yendell - a Venture Scout, recently did a parachute jump from 2500 ft. at Sunderland Airport and enjoys the variety of activities provided by the Scouts.

Marianne Leck (Lewin) became Head of Art Dept. and later Head of House at a comprehensive school in Nottingham.

Kathleen Cowe, who has been manageress at G. Urwin - Chemists at Whitburn, for the past seven years, has now taken over the shop. We wish you well.

On a bus outing recently we learnt that Kathleen Burnside (Scott) and Peggy Victory are related to Captain Cook!!!

Win Scott won a camera in an Echo Competition in July.

Sybil A.B. Ward (Dennison) sends warm greetings to you all from Southport, where she is now enjoying retirement and being a housewife even if not in perfect health.

Minnie McMillan (Richards) on holiday from Pasadena, America, met Miss Wilman and both enjoyed an exchange of news. Minnie has been given a professorship in the Medical School at the University of Southern California near Los Angeles - where she is working on cancer research.

Joan Tweedie (Sanderson) has been helping in the Tourist Information caravan at Leyburn during the summer season.

Ermy Durant (Lawson) was elected Chairman of the Scottish Branch of the Institute of Clay Technology in May 1981. She is the first woman Chairman of the I.C.T. and possibly the first lady official of the Institute. She has recently retired from her work at the Building Research Station, East Kilbride. Her home is in Glasgow.

NOTABLE OCCASION

With great reluctance Peggy Victory has sent us this account of her visit to Buckingham Palace on July 14th 1981.

At last the Day had arrived, and I was going to have to wear the frock that I had searched for high and low, and then wondered if I should buy another, and the hat that I didn't want to wear and probably would never wear again. Luckily it was a lovely day, and at 3.30 there I was, feeling very conspicuous amongst the other few hundred chosen, queued up along the Palace railings, waiting for opening time. I was only thankful I wasn't a man dressed in topper and tails, gawped at by the ordinary sightseers. Of course we'd had a taxi, but we were still dumped at the gates, as there were cars as far as the eye could see. Yet, once through those gates, mindful that I represented the Keepfit Association, I pulled in my Tummy, tucked in my Tail, and walked very Tall. Through the inner courtyard, into a beautiful drawing room whose pictures and displays of china etc. I would have loved to examine, the closely-packed throng at last reached the garden. Here long lanes were

forming, and I scurried from one to another, finding out which Royal personage would be there from the elegant and charming equerries who were sorting out those being presented and bringing them into the middle of the lane.

Promptly, at 4pm, the band struck up the National Anthem, and there was the Queen, with the Duke, Prince Charles, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and Alice, Dowager Duchess. I decided the best strategy would be to worm my way into the lane just where the presentations were being made, have a good look, and then move to another. No mistaking the Queen's lane, lined by Beefeaters, and as she stood talking to her guests, I drank in all the details to tell my friends. I didn't think I'd be asked to recall it all for this magazine after a three-month lapse, but I do remember the Queen's beautiful chiffon-type dress, plum and purple and navy, with a big-brimmed hat of plum straw, swathed with the material of her dress. I felt that the clever ruching on the sleeves was not so flattering when repeated from waist to hips, and I didn't like the cream bag, gloves and shiny shoes. But she is beautiful! Charles was very smart, not as tall as I imagined, but most attractive. Philip, too, was an elegant figure, except for his blue and white striped shirt and rust-coloured cravat, which, in my opinion, looked odd with his formal dress. Alice, the Dowager Duchess, is still a beautiful woman, and looked lovely in deep blue. It took a long time for the Royal Family to work down the lanes and make their way to their tea tent, then we went to one of the many marquees where trestle tables were laden with plates of – no, not cucumber sandwiches – but small rounds spread with cream-cheese type mixtures, scones, cake, and small icecreams. The tea was served from ornamental urns with lovely flower arrangements everywhere. We were able to take our tea to a table on the lawn, and watch the fashions, which were so varied that one minute we were exclaiming "Isn't that super", and the next, "heavens, who let them come like that!". But the band played on, and the sun shone, and we explored the extensive gardens, peeped into the summer-house where D. and C. were interviewed before the Wedding, and then it was 6pm., the band played the Anthem, and it was all over.

HOLIDAYS

Lena Thompson and Phyllis Peters had an excellent holiday in Peru and Bolivia. They found that living at 12,000 feet was difficult at first, and the airports tedious, but the hotels were excellent. 50 miles up the Amazon where the atmosphere was very humid and exhausting, they spent three days living in primitive fashion in the jungle. Luckily, the weather in England was mild when they returned.

Audrey Hayton (Carrick) has been on holiday in Canada and Grace Turner (Hayton) is also to holiday in Canada.

Nancy Harrison visited her brother in New Zealand and enjoyed the sight of the blue, blue river edged with wattle trees and mimosa. She spent two days living in a commonsense type of camp where the men caught and cleaned and cooked the fish and the ladies prepared other foods. The group of 30 "from babes to grannies" had great fun. She met Bertha Bergess (Forman) who has settled really well and loves the life in New Zealand, taking an active part in the community.

Brenda Bryers (Reed) writes:—

COME FLY WITH ME!

'To travel hopefully is better than to arrive' may be a well known quotation but definitely does not apply when the destination is to see the most perfect architectural monument in the world, the Taj Mahal.

Whether you see it in the early hours of the morning, opalescent in the first rays of the rising sun, or breathtakingly beautiful in the silvery light of the moon, this marble mausoleum, built in 1650 by the Mogal Emperor Shah Jehan, in memory of his favourite wife, is well worth the long journey to the mystical Sub Continent of India.

And inside, the glittering white marble tomb is garlanded with leaves and flowers, iris, lily and lotus, each flower consisting of over 60 precious and semi-precious stones, amethyst, jade, cornelian, lapis lazuli, ruby and sapphire, to name but a few, so skilfully inlaid that the whole surface is smooth as silk and fascinating to behold.

From Agra, the old capital, to Delhi, the present one; a city sharply divided into two; the original Delhi, crowded, noisy, full of hustle and bustle, poverty and squalor, contrasting vividly with the new, designed by Sir Edward Lutyens under the British Raj with wide, tree-lined streets, the magnificent mansions surrounded by beautiful gardens now either Government residences or offices, but all immaculate, and the gardens so well tended that if a leaf fell from a tree you feel that a gardener would be waiting with his brush to sweep it up into his litter bag.

If you ever dream nostalgically of returning to the days of gracious living, the hotels in India are ready to gratify your every wish; a little lady waits with a large towel as you emerge from the swimming pool, drinks and food can be had at all times (if you come down at five o'clock in the morning to go sightseeing before the heat of the day, the staff awaits you in spotless white, with freshly brewed coffee and newly baked buns,) and oh what joy! they all appear to be so happy in their work.

An invitation to a Moslem wedding was an unexpected pleasure, the Bridegroom sitting under a canopy made from strings of marigold heads and wearing a golden helmet, which contrasted rather oddly with his western style cream coloured suit, and the lovely little Bride sitting at his feet wearing all her dowry on her head, hands and feet, in the form of diamond studded golden rings, bracelets and chain.

And then to Kashmir, to escape from the dust and heat of the plains to a Houseboat on the level Dal Lake in Srinagar where we were cosseted and fed by Rasool, our House Boy, who anxiously asked us, as we had the first mouthful of every dish, "You like?" so that it would be only a heartless visitor who dare say "Not really".

Our Houseboat, although in the middle of the lake, had a little garden, a lawn on which stood a gay umbrella, and a table and chairs for the ever ready cups of tea, and these were surrounded by a lovely border of very English flowers, pansies, lupins, lilies, cornflowers and marigolds, but what perplexed me was that the whole garden, although it felt perfectly firm and solid, was floating!!

Our Shikara man was always patiently waiting in his little canopy covered boat to paddle us to the jetty for excursions up the valley where wealthy Indians spend their holidays pony trekking or enjoying the splendid fishing in the fast flowing river which races down from the mountains, indeed one big pool below a cascading waterfall displays a notice "THE FISH HERE ARE JUST WAITING TO BE CAUGHT". Then, for the more adventurous, there are the foothills of the snow covered Himalayas to be climbed and, of course, the never to be forgotten sight of Everest in the far distance.

Whether you go to enjoy the pure, crisp air of the highest mountains in the world or the beauties of the lotus lakes and the Shalimar Gardens laid down three hundred years ago by the Mogal Emperors, it would be hard to find so much to interest and mystify combined with such beauty and grandeur, which all makes that journey to Northern India so worthwhile.

BIRTHS

Marjorie Crompton (Mitchell) a girl; Rosa Henderson (Wall) a daughter; Dorothy Snowball (Duffell) a daughter; Margaret Binding (Cox) twins; and Doreen Close (Storr) a third daughter; Dina Graham (Parker) a boy.

DEATHS

Mary Zilia (Mrs. Graham); Dorothy Morton (Mrs. Stoddart); Marjorie Brown (Mrs. Brear); Evelyn Thompson (Mrs. Pirron); Elizabeth Fraser; Alice May Goig (Mrs. Leag); Margaret Lindsley; Rose Peafman (Mrs. Levine); Lucy Booth (Mrs. Hodgson); Frances With (Mrs. Gillies); Elsie Watson; Anne Wilson (Atkins).

Staff: Miss Dora Harding and Miss Lucie Franklyn.

MARRIAGES

Kathrine Flowers (Bell); Judith Kirtley (Claxton).

SCHOOL NEWS

Staff Changes:— At the end of the summer term we said farewell to four members of staff who were retiring after giving many years of loyal service to Bede School. Mr. Clark (head of Vth form), Miss Milbanks (Home Economics), Mrs. Readman (Geography) and Mrs. Hunter (Dorothy Pullan — Remedial Department). All took advantage of early retirement. The total of their working life at Bede School is 75 years, so we must say thank-you for such a marvellous effort, and wish them every happiness in the future.

In July the school also lost Mrs. Graham (English) who went off to foreign parts, viz. South Africa; Mrs. Taylor (Home Economics) to foreign parts less distant — Houghton, and Mrs. Veitch (Maths) who left to await the arrival of a bouncing baby boy. Best wishes to these too for success in the future.

Old Bedans at School: A very happy event took place in August. Judith Kirtley (Old Bedan Member of Staff) was married in St. Marks Church, Millfield, and became Mrs. Claxton. There were several staff present, and an Old Bedan — Jean Macaskill — was her bridesmaid.

Other news: In June the school received a letter from an Old Bedan – Judith Ann Harrison (Maths) – who left school in 1959 as did Miss Moul and Miss Waggott. She evidently has lived in U.S.A. since 1964. She wrote to say she was to visit Sunderland in late June, bringing her two daughters, aged 14 and 12, with her. They intended visiting the school, but unfortunately did not manage to do so. As no address was on the letter, perhaps some Old Bedan reading this could pass on to Judith our best wishes and our hopes she may eventually be able to carry out her visit to school.

Coincidentally, another visitor from the U.S.A. was present at the School Concert in July. She did not leave her name, so we do not know her connection with Bede, but hope she enjoyed the performance and her brief glance at English school life!

Another set of wedding bells rang in late July for another member of staff. Miss Rhona Mather (Geography) became Mrs. Wilson. Best wishes to both the new Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Claxton.

Andrey Henderson, Staff Rep.

NEWS OF STAFF

Mrs. Jean Bell is Vice-Chairman of the North of England Cancer Research Campaign.

Miss Carlin still has children from Fulwell Infants School (120 in all – but arriving in relays) to watch the frogs in her pond. She provides 2 tea strainers and 2 enamel dishes and the children then have a tadpole catching contest. After an impromptu lecture on pond life aided by a magnifying glass, the tadpoles are returned to the pond and the children leave – winner – and happily armed with many plants.

Miss Wilman still takes a keen interest in the welfare of ex-pupils and is always pleased when there is time for an exchange of news.

The committee regret that the announcement of the death of Miss Vera Clark in last year's magazine did not make it clear that it was Miss Clark who taught English at Bede. We sincerely regret the omission.

It is with regret that we have learnt of the death of Miss Lucie Frankenburg (later known as Miss Franklyn) in Harrogate. She taught Maths at Bede from 1930.

Also, we mourn the passing of Miss Dora Harding in October. Miss Harding taught Maths, Physics and later, Biology from 1941 till her retirement in 1968. Our sympathy is particularly extended to Miss Bernard.

THANK YOU

The School Summer Concert was enjoyed to the full by the Chairman and Secretary of the Guild. The choir, brass band, wind band and guitars and voices were all of the same high quality that we have come to expect under the leadership of Valerie Northcote and Mrs. Watson. The welcome buffet, too, was a credit to the Home Economics Department.

Speech Day was attended too by Nancy and Irene who presented the Old Bedans prize and the Constance Wray Cup respectively. Our "lovely chain of office" was worn and well admired.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Winter Re-Union - 29th January 1982 in School (Needlework Room). Tickets (as reasonable as possible) will be available from any committee member.

Dinner Re-Union - 23rd April 1982 in Barnes Hotel (probably about £6 - £6.50).

Summer Re-Union - 18th June 1982 - hopefully to Morpeth. Details will be finalised at the Dinner.

Please note that our Secy is now retired and available at Tel. 280500 and that Dorothy Dugdale, Asst. Secretary, tel. 280614 will also take messages.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

On behalf of the committee who worked so hard on last year's magazine, I would like to thank the Bedans who complimented us on our efforts to follow Winnie as your Editor. It was such a relief and so heartwarming to have a phone call at 8.30a.m. from one Bedan, who said breathlessly "I've read the 'mag' from cover to cover and it's great." Also - praise indeed from Marjell Bruce (Anderson) in her letter of thanks to Winnie "I can read in the pages of the present copy of the Bedan, the same spirit of friendliness and warmth which has always characterised it". Thank you Marjell for your good wishes for our future efforts. With these and many other encouraging remarks the magazine must continue to thrive and give pleasure to you all.

I'd like to express my thanks to all the committee who have made visible efforts to gather in the news and to those who report on our Re-unions. It must take the edge off their own enjoyment of these occasions, knowing that all must be remembered correctly and reported faithfully, so - on your behalf I thank them all most sincerely. In particular - thanks to Nora Johnson (Wilson) who not only travelled from Hartlepool every year to the dinner, but has done the dinner report for several years. Now you, too, can enjoy the dinner, Nora.

Once again Dorothy Dugdale has made this job so easy for me by her very willing typing of the copy for this magazine.

To those of you who are sick, we wish you a speedy return to health and our sympathy is always with those who are bereaved.

A final thank you to Win for being "behind me" in the production of this magazine.

Keep the news rolling in Bedans - wherever you are - and a Happy New Year to you all.

A.C.

P.S. - We have had a request again for a luncheon re-union which might suit those who live in or near Sunderland. This would be an extra re-union. If you are interested please contact Irene.

A.C.

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR

RECEIPTS

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------|
| Subscriptions: | | |
| Annual | 19.50 | |
| Life | <u>49.00</u> | 68.50 |
| Donations | | 49.59 |
| Meetings | | 8.61 |
| Interest | | 104.22 |

£231.02

EXPENDITURE

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Printing | 105.00 |
| Stationery | 10.10 |
| Postages & Telephone | 45.97 |
| Flowers & Cards | 8.87 |
| School Prize | 10.00 |
| Donations to Social Services | 11.50 |
| London Branch | 1.53 |
| In Memoriam, Mary Mackintosh (Alderton) | 10.00 |
| Badges for Chairman's Chain of Office | 2.10 |
| Credit on year's workings | <u>25.95</u> |

£231.02

TOTAL FUNDS ON AUG. 31st 1981

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Balance on Aug. 31st 1980 | 1207.96 |
| Investment in Peoples Bank | 45.00 |
| Credit on year's workings | <u>25.95</u> |

£1278.91

Made up as follows:—

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| 1980 War Stock | 98.36 |
| T.S.B. Ordinary a/c | 92.80 |
| T.S.B. Special a/c | 960.10 |
| Bardays Bank | 75.59 |
| Peoples Bank | 46.38 |
| Cash in Hand | <u>5.68</u> |

£1278.91

1st SEPTEMBER – 31st AUGUST 1981

Certified by
C.H. Hutchinson 30.9.81

