

THE OLD BEDAN

1982

THE GUILD OF OLD BEDANS

Office Bearers and Committee 1982

President: Mrs. L. Youngs.

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

Chairman: Elsie White (Bailey)
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Vice-Chairman: Margaret Chapman (Hunter)
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Secretary/Treasurer: Irene Wilkinson
62 Charter Drive, East Herrington
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Asst. Secretary: Joan Hayton
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COMMITTEE

Anne Mitchell (Crosse) Tel:59301;

Rene Halliday (Downs) Tel:280030;

Dorothy Common (Carron) Tel:226656;

Lily Richardson (Lawson) Tel:482147;

Kathleen Scott (Bolton) Tel:73380;

Joan Bell (Turpin) Tel:484829;

Dorothy Pullan (Hunter)

Tel:289600;

Dorothy Middlemass (Sugden)

Tel:486211.

Staff Rep: Audrey Hudson (Henderson) Tel:227597

Co-opted: Brenda Johnston (Juler) and Robina Forster (Lawson).

Once again - "no sub - no magazine" - the cost of printing and postage etc. make this a 'must'.

Please let the Secretary, Irene Wilkinson, have your subscription (50p) for 1982/3 if you have not already paid. Life subscription is £3.50. Please make it clear in your letters which is your maiden name, and which your married name. We always try to use your 'school days' name and put married name in brackets.

THE WINTER RE-UNION. - Friday 29th January, 1982.

To attend the Winter Re-Union in these times involves elements of adventure. There is a walk in the dark from the outer school gates, past bushes fraught with danger, and even those who risk manoeuvring their cars beneath the gloomy arches in the quad must grope their way down uneven steps until they reach the haven of the Needlework Room.

Here all is light and warmth and good fellowship.

Here, on 29th January, displaying the unskillness of ageing St. Trinians, we were marshalled into taking part in games devised by the hard-working committee. These were four-letter words, lurking in anagrammatic groups (such as PATS PAST SPAT TAPS); there were financial problems to be faced, in a calculation where a stone was equivalent to fourteen pounds and a star, the moon and the sun were reduced to these far-things: in search of words beginning with CAT - we encountered cataclysm and catastrophic; and there was a tale of a misunderstood young man, whose plight we callously disregarded in our hunt for boys' names concealed in the text - in happier days he had possessed a well-NIED WARDrobe, but now, alas, was down to his last TOMato sandwich.

While we partook of a delicious supper made by Miss Mills of the present staff, Elsie, our chairman, seized the opportunity of the comparative lull to welcome our seventy Old and not-so-old Bedans. Among them were Edna Bothgate (Tolbert) on a visit from Ohio and a contingent of the staff including Mrs. Youngs our President who drew the tickets for the raffle and did no harm to Anglo-American relations by picking Edna's number twice. Several people had very generously donated prizes for this raffle, including Elsie Davison (Kirkwood) from far-away Dorset and Marjorie Carrer (Speed) who had made a beautiful cake in the form of a bowl of hyacinths. As a result almost fourteen pounds was acquired for the Social Service funds.

Turning-out time found us, as usual, with our chats uncompleted and the committee valiantly finishing the washing-up. After the final strains of "Auld Lang Syne", fortified by good cheer, we stumbled out once more into the darkness.

ANNUAL DINNER RE-UNION - 23rd April 1982.

The Annual Dinner Reunion was held in the Barnes Hotel on Friday, April 23rd. It was an absolutely perfect early summer evening when 70 of us met in the cocktail bar for the usual pre-dinner gossip and drinks.

Elsie Bailey, our Chairman, said Grace before the meal which was really excellent this year. We had asparagus soup followed by baked ham with peaches scooters then apple pie with cream and a cup of coffee. When the meal finished Elsie rose to welcome guests from far and near and School staff both past and present including Audrey Carrick, one of our Vice-Presidents. She then read a letter from Jessie Ridley (Pickard) thanking us for cards sent during her illness last year. Jessie sent a welcome donation to Social Service funds and good wishes to all members of the Guild. Jessie was a member of the Social Service Committee for some years before she left the town and did a great deal of work at Ryhope General Hospital when the Guild ran the Red Cross Library there. Elsie thanked all those who had helped so much with the organisation of the dinner this year and then proposed a toast to the School.

With Win at the piano we stood to sing the School Song - Nora Wilson wonders if Win could write contralto parts for "ladies" who just can't rise to those top notes! We were interested to learn or perhaps re-learn, that the music for the song was written by Edgar Bairston and the words by M.L.V. Hughes, an Old Bedon.

Then came the entertainment - what can we say about that - except that it was really delightful. Many of us had already heard Mr. Len Gibson and his sisters but those who had not did not realise what a treat we had in store. They began their programme with "Listen to the Ocean" and "The Last thing on my mind" and followed these with an Australian and a Chilean song, then three Geordie folk songs and a song from Greece. A medley of Bing Crosby songs had us all joining in and it really was a delightful "sound". We could almost see "Crutch" conducting the choir. We were just about ready to get up and dance to a selection of tunes for the Palais Gléde. Further songs from the Shows followed and then came Street songs and jingles which were oh so familiar to us all. All too soon came the time to go home. The programme closed with some World War II songs and we all echoed Elsie's vote of thanks most heartily. It had been a most happy and successful evening.

SUMMER OUTING - Friday 18th June, 1982.

Was it the Winter Re-union or the Summer Outing I was asked to report on? Why don't we change the format and have a day trip by Concorde to somewhere WARM & DRY?

I can't write about the country-side en route to Morpeth as the windows were all steamed up due to the atmospheric conditions and the hot air (no offence meant) from the 40 Old Bedons who, true to form and not a whit-depressed, chatted unceasingly to all within earshot.

Luckily the Church Hall where we were to be served supper by the Morpeth Methodist Ladies was warm and bright, and the tables were attractively laid with ham salads, buns and butter etc. and soon our hostesses were pouring lovely hot tea. I had three cups! The raspberry trifle was just as I like it - no contravention here of the trades and descriptions act.

We were loth to leave and face the cold and wet outside, but the bus-driver kindly offered to take us into the town centre, and as the rain had eased, we had a short while to stretch our legs in whichever direction we landed. Then all aboard for a quick run home with still plenty to talk about.

But surely we are due to one of those balmy summer evenings we all remember were commonplace in our younger days. I think it will happen next year, and you'll be jolly sorry if you miss it!

P.S.

FOOTNOTE: One of the Morpeth ladies was very envious of our gathering and wished her own School has such a Guild. She was amazed to learn that all these noisy and chattering "ladies" had attended the same school.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING - September 24th, 1982.

The Annual Business Meeting was held on Friday 24th September in the Needlework Room at Bede School. There were only fifteen members present and apologies for absence were received from the President Mrs. L. Youngs; Dorothy Codburn (Dugdale) and Nell Shiel (Widdington).

The Chairman Elsie White (Bailey) welcomed the 'faithful few'.

The minutes of the previous A.B.M. were read by the Secretary, approved and signed. The financial statement was read and showed a loss of £73.76% on the year's workings. This was mainly due to the increased costs of printing and postage. The Secretary then read the names of officers and committee. A special mention was made of the work done by the Asst. Secretary, Dorothy Cockburn (Dugdale) who felt family commitments forced her to retire from office, Joan Hayton has agreed to be Asst. Secretary.

Reports were read from the Social Services and the London Branch.

It was agreed the School Prize should again be £10. 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.

• The total funds of the Guild on August 31st 1982 were £1,205.14hp. They are made up as follows: 3½% War Stock £98.36; Sunderland Trustees Savings Bank Special a/c £960.10; Sunderland Trustees Savings Bank Ordinary a/c £55.35; Barclays Bank £31.71; Peoples Bank now called Peoples Trust £55.68. Cash in hand £3.94%.

Our income for the year came from subscriptions £39.50, Donations £1.50, profit from meetings £36.55 and interest on investments £107.91.

During the year we spent £135 on printing; £10.47 on stationery; £53.10% on postage, £4.80 on Flowers and cards; £40 Corporation Tax and £10 for School Prize. There is a loss of £73.76% on the year's workings.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

There are 455 members in the Guild at present.

NEW MEMBERS

Maureen Farnan (Herbert)

Barbara Swift (Broderick)

Olga Pheup (Sindler)

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Janet Paterson (Hallam)

Evelyn Phillips

BECOME LIFE MEMBERS

Margaret Nicholson (Gracey)

Irene Nicholson (Dickinson)

Elsie Gray (Pratt)

Rita Manning (Dix)

Joan Barnbrough (Washington)

Peggy Victory (Simson)

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

Only 20 attended the Annual Business Meeting on September 25th 1981.

The Winter Re-union was held in the Needlework Room at Bede School on Friday January 29th, 1982 and 69 attended. The refreshments were provided by Miss Mills of the Home Economics Dept. of Bede School. The games were once again arranged by Brenda Johnston (Jules) and Robina Forster (Lawson). There were 2 raffles - 1 for Guild funds and 1 for social Services.

The Annual Dinner was held on Friday April 23rd 1982 in the Barnes Hotel; 70 attended.

The Summer outing was on June 18th, a very wet night I am afraid, so we arrived back at the Goose Road by 10:15 p.m.

The Chairman and Secretary represented the Guild at the School Prize giving and the Guild have also been represented at musical evenings during the year.

LOAN AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND REPORT:

A total of £219.21 was available. No requests for assistance had been received. £104.00 was distributed to 9 girls going into Higher Education, the scholarships being awarded on a scale according to performance in 'A' levels, reducing from £20 to £5. Awards to 3 girls amounting to £22 were withheld until the following year.

L. Youngs.

Senior Mistress/Head of Upper School.

G.O.B. SOCIAL SERVICE REPORT 1981-2.

Our committee has met three times as usual this year, twice at the home of a committee member and once in the Needlework Room in the School, prior to the Guild's A.G.M.

We started the year with £91.30 in the bank to which was added £37.00 in donations and for these we are most grateful.

The Caravats parties raised £76.10 this year the loss of income from these could be attributed to the dreadful winter we had and our reluctance to go out unnecessarily. Thank you, too, to those who participated so generously in the raffles held at the Winter Re-union and the Summer Outing - the total from these was £24.48. We thank the G.O.B. committee, too, for their co-operation and support for these raffles. Bank interest £5.64 and collections at A.G.M. £3.55 made our total income for the year £240.07.

We have given our ladies £5 each at Christmas, Easter and Harvest time and all are so grateful and particularly pleased to be visited.

Anne Mitchell (Crowl).

THE LONDON BRANCH

Our October 1981 Re-union was as enjoyable as ever - four Old Bedans came to lunch with me, including Elsie Burnham (Jackson) who had corresponded with me for some years but had always been too busy with netball and babies to join us. Our number increased to nine for tea including two husbands.

In May only five of us met at Nancy Lawther's (Hubicka) and it was decided to make our own subsequent meetings buffet lunch and parties. Several of our members have to make long journeys to attend and it is hoped that more will turn up if they can be sure of getting home early.

I am sorry that the London Branch membership is so small but, although there must be many Old Bedams in the Greater London area, very few have contacted me in the last few years.

It is rather interesting that four of the "regulars" (Nancy Hubicka, Isabel Lumley, Eleanor Wilson and I) were at school at the same time and in the younger age group Marjorie Beales, Edith Broderick, Rita Craggs, Joyce Hebron, Helen Reed and Kathleen Young were all contemporaries! There is a lot of "Do you remember?" in our conversation!

Best wishes to the Guild of Old Bedams from all of us.

Doreen Macrae.

HOMES OF OLD BEDAMS

Edna Richardson (Philliskirk) is home from South Africa and living in Surrey.

Hilda Andrews (Moore) lives in Scruton, Northallerton and found that she has Laura Millbank's sister living opposite.

Marjorie Robson (Holson) is living in Canada.

Margaret Linda Henderson (Howe) is living in Parton Stoke near Swindon but commutes to London daily.

MEETINGS

Elizabeth Henderson and her husband visited Joan Gibson (Marco) in Johannesburg.

Recently Elizabeth Rowlandson (Longster), Margaret Nicholson (Gracey) and Joan Marshall (St. Julien) spent a very happy and nostalgic evening when they met Freda Smith (Phillips) and her husband, who were staying overnight at the Mowbray Hotel, on a visit from their home in Nova Scotia. There was much laughter and countless "Do you Remember - ?" amidst a feverish exchange of photographs in an endeavour to span 30 years in one short evening. They parted around midnight "tired, hot and extremely hoarse" wishing the travellers "Bon Voyage" on the next stage of their trip to stay with Dorothy Morrison (Peterson) in Denmark.

Dorothy wrote that there were tears of joy at the quayside meeting followed by three days of non-stop chatter in an attempt to bridge a 25-year gap.

Freda and Dorothy send regards to all Old Bedams of their acquaintance and hope that one day they may be present at a school reunion.

Marjorie Anderson (Curtis) met Peggy Dodds (Sharpe) for the first time since leaving school, at a Methodist Circuit Meeting where each was representing their church as Social Responsibility Secretary.

Joan Tweedie (Sanderson) and Nora Johnson (Wilson) with their husbands met by chance in the car park of a Nature Reserve near Dunkeld. The ensuing conversation over a shared flask of coffee must have startled the ospreys who nest nearby.

Following last year's successful reunion of some members of the 'Class of 1900', Buntie Wigham (Holl) suggested another get-together at her home at St. John's Chapel. Joan Tweedie, Nora Johnson, Mollie Kirby (Carter), Joan Bamfrough (Washington), Vickie Bamfrough, Nell Shiel (Widdrington), Doris Bourdy (McCall) and Margaret Chapman (Hunter) arrived simultaneously at High Rise bearing contributions to a lavish lunch which lasted all afternoon. It was a most enjoyable

occasion and all were most grateful to Bunty for the invitation and to her husband who tackled the washing up whilst the "girls" talked.

Carol Henderson (Bain) whose home is in Calgary, Canada, has recently met Elz. Henderson's son and his family whilst on holiday in Hong Kong. Elizabeth Henderson and her husband as a retirement holiday went on a Grand Tour in South Africa - from Durban via the Garden Route to Capetown - up to Johannesburg and then to the Kruger National Park and back through Zululand. In Johannesburg they spent a wonderful 10 days with Eileen Kirkaldy (Gibson) and her husband. It was a holiday never to be forgotten and a great insight into life in other lands. Sadly Eileen has since died.

Olga Sharp (Sinclair) whose home is in Milford recently celebrated her ruby wedding and Joan Ball (Turpin) and Marjorie Whiting (Smith) enjoyed the occasion and the opportunity to reminisce.

RETIREMENTS: Sheila Bagley (Coates), Joyce Robson (Bagley), Lily Richardson (Lawson).

NEWS - HOME AND OVERSEAS

Joan Marshall (St. Julien) corresponds with Dorothy Morrison (Peterson) whose home is in Denmark.

Laura Milbank is the present Captain of Durham County Post Rangers.

In the quarterly magazine of the National Association of Flower Arranging Societies, there was a limerick competition, which your ex-editor Winnie Scott (Thomas) entered, hopefully. The results showed that she had not won a prize in the 283 entries. The winners (four of them) were all Southerners.....

In September the Autumn magazine arrived and Winnie's limerick was quoted in an article on "Spray Away" as one of the sixteen finalists:

"A trendy arranger from Crewe
Liked arrangements done all in one hue.
Her azure creation
Was such a sensation,
That she sprayed all her daffodils blue".

Alas Rover Flower Club was not mentioned, but, at least one finalist was from the North.

Lillian (Hunnam) Cowie is first Vice-Chairman of the Floral Arrangement Association of Northumberland and Durham and will take office as Chairman next year. Hilde Udde (Rutter) was involved in helping with the Festival of Flowers at St. Nicholas Cathedral, Newcastle in September.

Cornie Robson (Udale) has a home in Harrogate but is shortly to join her husband in Saudi Arabia. Whilst at home she paid a flying visit to Win Thomas, who was enthralled at her tale of life in Saudi Arabia where no women, native or otherwise is allowed to drive so Cornie is chauffeur driven. She also wears the flowing dress and yashmak as worn by Moslem women and must abide by all their local customs.

Marjorie Sparring has been to Taise in Burgundy with a small ecumenical group from Sunderland and has also visited her sister Joan (Howe) who is now a widow and whose home is in the Isle of Man.

Bunty Scott (Hinkley) has recently been on a visit to Rio de Janeiro and Nancy Hahgood (French), who lives in Berkshireshire, recently visited Canada.

Muriel Anderson (Kensworthy) was presented with a trophy by Princess Anne on behalf of Torch Trophy Trust, an organisation which recognises and encourages voluntary work in sport and Muriel has a particular concern with swimming for the disabled in Saffron Walden. When Sunderland Keep Fit Association— celebrated its 25th Anniversary since the N.E. region joined the National Association it was our own Peggy Victory (Simpson)—their President, who cut the cake!

Ethel Foreman (Towers) has started a new venture in the North East, with the opening of a Branch of the Disabled Christians Fellowship, the aim of which is to meet the spiritual need of the disabled and offer encouragement and fellowship.

Enid Bell (____) who was at Bede from 1938-43, came from her home in U.S.A. to help her mother wind up her affairs in Sunderland and take her mother back to America to live with her family.

Golf News: After ten years of very hard work (time taking and efficiently done) Jerry Hey (Smith) is resigning as Secretary of the Durham County Ladies Golf Association.

Mary Blencarn (Enkine) and Nancy Mitchell (Crows) have attended the National Council of the Catholic Women's League in Jersey where over 600 delegates were sited and dined by the Jersey Tourist Board at Fort Regent on the eve of their Council Meeting. Mary was representing her local section as their Chairman and Nancy as Branch Treasurer of Heston & Newcastle Diocese.

BIRTHS.

Suzanne Butterfield (Robertson) a daughter,
Susan Melton (Moore) a daughter,
Pauline Carter (____) a son,
Kay Washington (Wright) a daughter.

DEATHS

Edith Alexander; Emily Anderson;
Lena Underwood (Mrs. Butchart);
Dorothy Stephenson;
Eileen Kirkcaldy (Mrs. Gibson),
Dorothy M. Wilman

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Our annual thanks go to all who have sent or given us news, and blessings on those who report on our meetings - particularly to Peggy Victory who "did" the Summer outing almost at a moment's notice. Also, thanks to our Auditor and apologies to him for omitting to thank him in the last two magazines - blame the new girl! I am especially grateful to Dorothy Dugdale for continuing to type the copy for the magazine even though she no longer felt able to act as Assistant Secretary. I must also thank Win Scott, who in spite of having a rather long and exhausting illness this year, from which she must be recovering, because she has given voluntarily her usual help and advice (and the loan of Miss Shearer's book in which you are all listed). I am sure I express the feelings of everyone when I wish Win a speedy recovery.

To all who have been bereaved during the year, we send our condolences and to all who are sick "Get well soon".

A happy and healthy 1983 to you all and please, please, keep the "news" rolling in....

DATES TO REMEMBER:

WINTER RE-UNION - 28th January 1983 in the Needlework Room at School. Tickets will be available from any committee member.

DINNER RE-UNION-15th April 1983 in the Continental Hotel-cost will hopefully be approx £6.00.

SUMMER RE-UNION-We hope to arrange a visit to the Little Theatre in Gateshead on Friday 10th June, details will be available at the Dinner.

Miss D.M. Wilman

It is our sad duty to record the sudden death of Miss D.M. Wilman on Friday, 29th October.

Miss Wilman belonged to that generation of school mistresses who devoted practically a lifetime of ungrudging service to a single school. She joined Bede Staff in January 1932 as a keen young teacher who inspired immediate respect and affection. In time she became Head of a happy and efficient Department in which staff harmony and enthusiasm were reflected in the keenness and mathematical achievements of many generations of Bede girls.

She also identified herself with other school activities. For many years she was the mainspring of the Charities Committee which not only did much to inspire in Bede a sense of responsibility for helping those less fortunate but also encouraged initiative and enterprise in ensuring that sympathy resulted in action. In the early days of the war, she served with Bede evacuees in Richmond and later during the 'Dig for Victory' campaign, she initiated many girls into the mysteries of horticulture when growing vegetables on what had been Bede's ranken rose garden.

Many will recall her beautiful handwriting and her penetrating, pertinent and forthright remarks on school reports. Others will remember her contributions to the activities and achievements of Ben House.

During the last two terms of Bede Girls' Grammar School's existence she gave valuable and unstinting service as Acting Deputy Head and, on the amalgamation of the Boys' and Girls' Schools, in September 1967 she became the first Head of Mathematics in the newly established Comprehensive School.

Miss Wilman retired in 1968 after thirty six years and two terms of strenuous effort and devoted service to the School.

Vigour and enterprise undimmed, she entered eagerly upon what proved to be a happy and active retirement. She took a driving test – and passed at first attempt – not because she wanted a car, but to prove to herself that her faculties were in good order. Her beloved and beautiful garden bloomed with even more active care. She supplied friends and neighbours with the fruits of her labours: especially appreciated was her raspberry jam. She indulged her interest in opera, ballet and drama – and found great pleasure in the affection of her cats, Tiddles and her successor Pitt. Cheerful, energetic and a loyal friend to the last, she will be sadly missed.

EDITH ALEXANDER 1900 - 1982.

To many who read this Edith Alexander will only be a name as she was seldom in Sunderland after her school-days.

To those who knew her she was admired and respected and throughout her life had a strong influence on those with whom she came in contact. After five years of training in general subjects and in physical education, she held posts in Crewe and in Northumberland before becoming Organiser of Physical Education for London County Council from where she moved to her final post as Principal of Dartford College of Physical Education. Edith was a great lover of the countryside and spent much of her leisure time and all her years of retirement in Teesdale.

A gifted person - she was a pianist and a singer and an able painter in water colours and oils.

Later in life, though crippled with arthritis and a serious cartilage injury suffered in her teens, she studied and qualified for a degree in the Open University. A task which often meant driving on to the moors above Teesdale where the reception on her radio was better than near Middleton where she lived. I am indebted to Edith's sister Isabel for ensuring that my facts are correct.

P.M. Peters.

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR
1st September - 31st August 1982

RECEIPTS

Subscriptions		
Annual	£15.00	
Life	<u>24.50</u>	£39.50
Donations		1.50
Meetings		36.55
Interest		<u>107.91</u>
		<u>£185.46</u>

Loss on Year's Workings 73.76½
£259.22½

Total Funds on
 Aug 31st 1982
 Balance 31.881 1278.91
 Loss on Year's
 Workings 73.76½

£1205.14½

EXPENDITURE

Printing	£135.00
Stationery	10.47
Postage & Telephones	53.10½
Flowers & Cards	4.80
Editorial Expenses	3.50
London Branch Ex'ces	2.35
Corporation Tax	40.00
School Prize	10.00

£259.22½

Made up as follows:

34½% War Stock	98.36
T.S.B. Ord A/c	55.35
T.S.B. Special a/c	960.10
Barclays Bank	31.71
Peoples Bank	55.68
Cash in Hand	3.94½

£1205.14½

Certified by
C.H. Hutchinson 21.9.82

Although our balance sheet looks healthy Irene has reported a loss on the year's working and this is due to the cost of the magazine. Costs are rising yearly and the interest on our \$960.10 in the T.S.B. Special account is no longer sufficient to cover the expenses of the magazine. The committee want the magazine to continue as we are sure you do. Therefore we feel and hope that we can rely on your generous impulses to forward a donation, large or small towards the cost - direct to Irene or through any committee member.

A. Cross

