

THE OLD BEDAN

1988

IMPORTANT NEWS

Before you read your magazine, please make a note of these dates in your diaries — preferably in **RED INK**.

Friday, Jan. 27th 1989 — Winter Session in School. 7.00 p.m. — 9.30 p.m. Price about £2.50.

Friday, Apr. 21st 1989 — Annual Dinner in the Seaburn Hotel. Price about £18. Please book a full week before.

Tuesday, June 6th 1989 — Summer Brunch at 7.00 p.m. in the Riverside, Durham.

Friday, Sept. 29th 1989 — Annual General Meeting in School at 7.30 p.m. in Needlework Room. Please try and attend and let us know **YOUR** wishes for 1990.

GUILD OF OLD BEDANS

Office Bearers and Committee 1988-89

Vice-Presidents

Mrs. A.A.Y. Carrick, Miss J.E. Bradbury, Mrs. E.I. Kirkwood.

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5489279; Joyce Plumper (Watwick), Tel: 5367225; Co-opted: Doreen Stanniforth
(Sims), Tel: 5480912.

New members are always welcome! If you came to the Diamond Jubilee Dinner and enjoyed meeting old friends — why not join and meet more often. Irene will be pleased to accept all your subscriptions for 1988/89 as soon as possible. Cost — £1 for Annual Subscriptions and £3 for Life Members. Don't forget that we use our "school names" — married names to be in brackets.

WINTER RE-UNION 1988, January 29th

The star of the evening for many of us was Jane Liddle (Telford). Her performance in a game of 'Call my bluff' was hilarious, a revelation to those of us witnessing her talents for the first time.

We were given insights into the daily lives of officers of the French Foreign Legion never before revealed to the world, delivered in the ripest of rich, rolling, French accents. (Shades of Chevalier himself).

Not a gathering for the faint-hearted, these Annual Meetings in the Needlework Room, to gossip, have supper and play old-fashioned parlour games. (This year supervised by Lily Richardson (Lawson) and Doreen Stamford (Sims)).

"Ding-Bats" led to much amusement and more risikly, so much so that many definitions could not be printed in our account of the evening. Our thanks to those who took part so willingly and those who organised so capably.

We did enjoy ourselves and supper, as always, was delicious.

Jean Brown (Pillars)

DIAMOND JUBILEE DINNER — 22nd April, 1988 at Seaburn Hotel

Briefed warmth surrounded us as we gathered, gossiping in the cloakroom, happy to leave the chilling April wind sweeping Whitburn Bay with its customary gusts.

Inside the Ballroom, a long table near the entrance was set out with a most interesting display of school photographs, spanning many years, kindly loaned by members.

A small, square table near the centre of the room held the beautiful celebration cake, iced in white and decorated with a coloured Beke Badge. Round tables lit by candlelamps bearing blue and yellow candles, set with alternate blue and yellow serviettes with a printed, ribboned bookmark by each place, as a memento of the occasion, were ready for our meal. The scene was set for an evening of pleasant companionship and reminiscences, albeit on a slightly larger scale than usual.

Jeanne Koch (Maltus) our present Chairman, welcomed the company in her usual charming way and said grace.

We sat, with friends, for a simple pleasant meal of Florida Cocktail, Chicken Pine Hula (Roasted Chicken with an interesting sauce of ginger, honey and almonds). This course was accompanied by fresh vegetables, new potatoes, cauliflower with white sauce and green beans. We finished with Baked Alaska, coffee and mints. The meal completed, everyone had a glass of sweet or dry sherry and a piece of the cake with which to offer a toast to the Guild.

No outside entertainment had been engaged, the committee deciding that we could well provide our own amusement.

A succession of members telling anecdotes, both of the founding of the Guild and of incidents, most amusing, but all entertaining, of life at Beke School, then took the floor.

Of the many tales we heard, the difficulties of three angels in a Nativity Play, struck a chord. The first angel was unable to hear any cues because her hair-covered her ears too tightly. The second angel performer had to stand in one place during the entire performance because she was hooked to the backcloth. At our table we were laughing so much that we never did learn what dire tragedy overtook the third angel.

How we shared in the pathetic plight of the sole remaining member of the Rambling Club, who having turned up at the meeting place and waiting for the other two intrepid walkers, found herself abandoned. She returned home and ate her picnic in her own garden — alone. "Sunderland", said the Secretary, "did not seem to be a good centre for Rambling".

How surprising that statement seemed to the many present active rambles.

Another picture stayed with us, of a small first year girl in the cookery class, on being told to put a rice pudding on the oven shelf — doing just that, without first of all putting it in a dish.

Memories and incidents flowed on — the football crazy town in 1937 when "Sunderland won the Cup" — of Peggy Victory looked in the loo — of school uniforms in the difficult days of rationing and clothing coupons — of staying away from lessons to see the visiting cricketers at Ashbrooke — of playing hockey, running the ball down the furrows of a previously ploughed field — of two years at the old school before the move to the handsome building on Durham Road.

We were amazed and entertained delightfully for some time and our thanks are due to so many people who took the trouble to think back and give us their memories, obviously remaining fresh after so many years, of succeeding generations of girls educated at Bede School — of staff who taught there and of the boys next door.

Our narrators were: Margaret Chapman (Haxter), Nora Johnson (Wilson), Doris Forster (Robinson), Mary Arkless (Robinson), Peggy Victory (Simson), Marjorie Snowball (Cadderford), Doreen Stannforth (Sims), Nancy Mitchell (Crowe), Lily Richardson (Lawson) and Win Scott (Thomas) who introduced the items and who had "put it all together". She rounded them off with a delightfully observed tribute to the continuity of interest in life and events, linking the different age groups represented at the dinner. Apart from the Rambling Club, previously mentioned, the Social Services Group still functions, the Ladies Branch still exists, and although the Hockey Club has moved away from Bede School there are still many ex-Bedes and ex-staff members playing in the Philadelphia Bedes Ladies Hockey Club, carrying on the traditions of skill, enjoyment and good fellowship in modern competitive sport, which continually many other clubs envy. Throughout the evening the enjoyment of life, the good humour and energy of so many members of the Guild, came through strongly giving those who feel dependant at the thought of another year passing by, an example of courage in the face of infirmity and life's many difficulties. Indeed the words of the School song, remembered fortunately by most of us, as we sang lustily without our songbooks, seemed more appropriate than ever.

Our good wishes to all those who were present at the Guild of Old Bedes Diamond Jubilee Dinner and more particularly to those members unable to be with us — I can assure them they were not forgotten.

Joan Brewis (Pillars)

Elsie Davidson (Kilwood) sent a letter of good wishes to all who attended the Dinner and told us of the constituting of the Guild in Room 37 in the Tin Tab on May 2nd 1928.

A.C.

THEATRE OUTING — May 1988

On the Thursday of the Old Bedlams' annual theatre visit to the Westovian Theatre Society production of John Dighton's 'The Happiest Days of Your Life', two of us, Marjil Searle and Dorcas Simen, left the car park drinks to collect tickets, order interval coffee, weave our way through the crowded foyer and settle down with our programmes. We entered the little auditorium to the music of children's voices singing 'Tiptoe through the Tulips' and 'Let's all Sing like the Birds Sing'. The combination of nostalgia and amusement took us back to our own gym-slip, hockey-stick days.

What would the Westovians make of this play? People inevitably went along with thoughts of Rutherford, Grenfell and Morley.

It was announced that the part of one of the staff of Hilary Hall Boys' Public School, Export Billings would be played by Michael Gallagher replacing Lawrence Clark.

Certainly up-threw the degree of effort made in evoking the period and atmosphere of a boarding school headmaster's study in 1946. There were the chenille cloth, solid oak furniture, windows with a rural aspect, sports trophies and bronze statuary. Drab browns, mortar board, bookcase and the head's red upholstered floside chair established the academic autocracy.

Audience members were still arriving as the play began, a discourtesy which must irritate the players as much as the rest of the audience, but as Rex Harrison's voice singing 'Why Can't a Woman be like a Man?' faded we appreciated the clear diction of the tony, formal, status-conscious headmaster played by Alan Tall, and the relaxed acting of his two staff, conspiratorial, micky-taking young men.

Inevitably there were the clichés and old jokes to get across to an eighties audience such as the line from the St. Swithins headmistress to the Hilary Hall school porter: 'How many mistresses have you?' spoken in a strangely mixed accent, half horsey, half South Shields, or the pun on an 'approved school'. Collisions and tumbles on the uneven floor were somewhat monotonous. The waddy Miss Gossage in checked suit with bun and back-pack, while contrasting suitably with her headmistress, was not always easy to hear.

We settled down to enjoy the irony of a master returned from the war and deploring the dearth of interest and women to be followed by the fainting of the head on discovering that St. Swithins, the school about to share his premises, was a girls' school, and the discovery by the arriving headmistress, of boxing-gloves in the sanctum of a head she still expected to be another female!

The success of farce depends so much on credibility and carefully orchestrated timing. At times the Westovians found this difficult to achieve in the opening Act but met the challenge with enthusiasm and the backing of a very supportive audience.

Good casting combined with an amusing use of gesture to reinforce the statements in

the play that female teachers were either mannish, aggressive and clever or Amazons, strident and muscular, especially when the female head played by Beryl Henderson was taller, larger and more aggressive than the male head. The attractive Miss Harper therefore created a sensation, while the mime of the young master, Billings, taking a swipe at the Amazonian Miss Gossage, and observed by the two headteachers, was well done.

At the interval, Maureen Farnon an old Bedan from Robina Foster's year recognised Marjil and chatted over the welcome coffee. There were two clever touches in the foyer: a large "whole school" photograph of the kind that hang in Bede corridor (from before our era) and a blackboard announcement with spelling errors.

Effective too were the dulcet tones of 'Lavender blue diddle diddle' and other rhymes as the former classical severity of the study was transformed with soft furnishings, china, flowers and flower pictures (not to mention the females in the comfortable chairs) which marked the supremacy of the girls' school staff. The shyness of flirtation and the noisy comments on repairs to female underwear were pure 'kitchen' while the strident Miss Gossage's lively interest in and navy-knickered gyrations round Mr. Billings resembled a Ronald Seale cartoon.

The battle of the sexes was played with enthusiasm. Highlights included the scruffy gin on the face of Hyperbolic Manor on receiving pocket-money instead of the cane for flogging the fire, and also the adoption of schoolgirl crash language by an infuriated schoolmaster. Entertaining too was Rainbow the porter's Aul Wiederein accent as he had to repeatedly replace the 'contusions with butterfly nets' (football posts) with cricket-stumps to hoodwink visiting parents of a boy into belief in a state of single-sex normality.

Modern parents accustomed to girls' woodwork and boys' needlework in today's co-ops, could laugh at the efforts of staff and caretaker to sort out the stealing of the girls' clothing from the baths, the schoolgirl letter home, and the female pyjamas in a mending basket and flowers discovered by aggressive parents with broad accents visiting the 'boys' school'.

The parental cross-talk and the myths kept up by the staff gallantly hiding the scandal of boarding co-education gave us Westonian theatre at its best right to the climax of Act III with the Ministry intervention, the barricading, the proposal to Gossage and the singing of 'Land of Hope and Glory'.

An appreciative audience felt that the outing on such a dismal evening to see a play familiar to most had been made very worthwhile.

SUMMER REUNION — Agenda

Date:	Tuesday, 7th June, 1988.
Venue:	Our new "usual" reserved tables in the small room next to the Pemberton Suite.
Turnout:	Excellent. 43 members present. Some regulars missing but quite a few new faces.
Business:	Chatter, chatter, march, march, chatter, chatter, march, march, chatter and march.

There being no other business the Meeting was closed.

Three cheers for the Committee and Chef.

Betty Robson

Betty has omitted to state that being on the fringe of our gathering she tried very hard to get the folk near her, who were not 'Old Bedlans' to sign "The Book".

LOAN & SCHOLARSHIP FUND REPORT 1988

A total of £145 was available. Twenty girls qualified for awards but of these eight had elected to resit one or more of their Advanced level subjects. The remaining twelve girls have gone on into higher education and therefore will receive awards this year amounting in total to £86. The balance of the sum available this year will be held over in order to make awards to the eight students who will, doubtless, pursue the option of higher education next year. This will obviate the necessity of funding their awards from the sum which will become available for distribution to next year's candidates.

A.G.M.

The A.G.M. was held on Friday, 30th September 1988 in the Needlework Room, Bede School at 7.30 p.m. and 14 were present. Apologies for absence were received from Wis Scott (Thomas), Rene Halfiday (Downs), Betty Shephard (Gray), Joyce Plomper (Westwick) and Edna White (Robb).

The minutes of the last A.G.M. were read, adopted and signed. The Secretary gave a report of meetings held during the year. The Treasurer's report showed a loss on the year's workings of £69.85. It was also reported the cost of the magazine had risen by £27.

Dorcen Stannforth (Simon), due to retire from the committee having served 3 years, did the entertainment with Lily Richardson (Lawson) for the Winter Ression and it was suggested she be co-opted for a further year. The new members of the committee are Iris Harvey (Bennett) and Joyce Plomper (Westwick).

Anne Mitchell (Crowe) read the Social Services report and the London Branch report from Doreen Ward (Macrae) was read by the Chairman.

The School prize would be £25 again this year.

The Magazine Editor Anne Mitchell (Crowe) appealed for news for the magazine.

The dates for reussions for the coming year were discussed and these will be printed in the magazine.

The meeting closed with tea and biscuits.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The membership on 31.8.88 is 448 members of which 3 are new annual members, 11 are new life members and 2 have become life members.

There have been 3 committee meetings, the Annual General Meeting and 2 Re-unions.

The A.G.M. was held on Friday, 25th September 1987 in the Needlework Room, Bode School.

The Winter Re-union was also held in the Needlework Room on January 29th, 1988. There were 80 present and the catering was supplied by "Something Special" and was most appealing. The entertainment was organised by Lily Richardson (Lawson) and Dorren Stanforth (Simon). They did a super job and thanks are due to them both.

The Raffle raised £48.20 which was to help the expenses of the Diamond Jubilee Dinner.

The Diamond Jubilee Dinner was held in the ballroom of the Seaburn Hotel on Friday, 22nd April 1988. We were pleased to have 130 present at this special occasion. We had sherry and cake to toast the Guild of Old Bodes. The entertainment consisted of various memories of happenings at school over the years. Win Scott (Thomas) did a lot of work on our behalf to gather this material together. Many thanks to her and all who helped to make our special dinner a success.

The Summer re-union at the Riverside Hotel on Tuesday, June 7th was attended by 41 members.

The Annual prize giving at Bode School in December 1987 was attended by Joan Hayton and Irene Wilkinson.

Thank you to all the committee who have been so helpful over the year, selling tickets etc. and doing anything required to make our meetings a success.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Joan Wilkinson (Dyson); Greta Boodle (Pyburn); Audrey Walker (Colbeck); Marie Winter (Patterson); Marjorie James (Martin); Audrey Ragg (Jackson); Joan Budge (Kilner); Marjorie Conlin (Bouldge); Jessie Cook (Cain); Sheila ? (Lindsay); Brenda Cave (Danaher).

HAVE BECOME LIFE MEMBERS

Dorothy Dell (Davidson); Joyce Dunning (Henderson).

NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS

Elizabeth Christie (Mitchell); Joan Walk (Bather); Betty Sweeting (Jenkins).

TREASURER'S REPORT 1987-88

I am afraid I must report a loss on the year's working of \$89.06. The cost of the magazine rose by £27.00.

The balance on 31.3.88 is £1,085.23. The Balance Sheet shows how this is made up.

GUILD OF OLD BEDANS SOCIAL SERVICE REPORT 1988

We have had our usual three meetings this year. November 1987 we gave £15 to each of our six recipients and passed round the "thank you" letters which we had received. At Easter we gave £10 to our old folk and received verbal thanks from them. Irene reported that she had received a phone call from the daughter of a lady we have had on our list for many years — thanking us for our constant interest and reporting that her mother had recently died at the age of 92 years.

We will be pleased to consider the names of anyone who could do with our very limited help.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 1987-88

Income	Expenditure
Canasta Parties £94.50	Harvest Gifts £80.00
Donations £20.00	Christmas 'Do' £80.00
Committee's Coffee collections £3.50	Easter 'Do' £50.00
Interest from Building Society £4.00	<u>£290.00</u>
Balance from 1987 <u>£136.71</u>	Balance in Hand <u>£58.73</u>
<u>£258.71</u>	<u>£258.73</u>

We were rather sorry to be able to give only £10 to our recipients this year and are hoping for a miracle to enable us to give our Christmas gifts as always.

Our thanks as usual to the ever-faithful Canasta crowd for their continued support and we will continue to pray for our "miracle".

We regret the death of Ethel Stewart (Bush) sister of Gladys Stewart (Sidney) who for several years has come to our Canasta parties — bearing sumptuous cream-cakes and who has on several occasions made us a "special — very special" cake to raffle and therefore boost our funds. Our sympathy goes to her family at this sad time.

Anne Cross

THE LONDON BRANCH

We have had our usual two "lunch re-unions" in October 1987 and May 1988 at my house and Nancy Lawther's (Hubicka) respectively.

Isabel Lundy described the trials involved in putting on a play with a large cast. Her husband had written the play about St. Ethelreda and Isabel was responsible for the costumes, as well as playing one of the characters.

Despite the usual anxieties as to whether all the cast would be present for performances (they never were for rehearsals!) and whether they would know their lines, Isabel and producer husband had their reward. There was a good audience in Ely Cathedral and the final performance of the tour in a Southwold Church was well attended

and the hospitality much enjoyed. £500 was raised towards Ely Cathedral's Restoration Appeal.

Liz Koster (Barton) who moved to Bickford last year to be Headmistress of Edgwall College wrote to say that she had settled-down happily. She and her husband were about to tour Peru by local bus and train. They were taking only old clothes as they expected to be robbed and the trains were reported to be filthy! Some old Bodans are masochistic!

Dorcas Ward (Macone)
39 Birch Grove, LONDON W3 9SP
Tel. 963-3607

NEWS (I)

Joyce Prince (Bell) talks of her first "One Man Exhibition" in this country, of water colours. She had already had several exhibitions whilst living in Israel. Hope it was a great success.

Not only have we had our Wonderful Diamond Jubilee Dinner this year, but 1977 "states" at Bede had an excellent re-union in July in the Roker Hotel. They were:-

Enid Spendley (Tindle)	Kathleen Young
Joyce Robson (Bagley)	Joyce Teasdale
Molly Charlton — living in Darlington	Evelyn Iainis
Margery Conlin	Maureen Crawford (Smith) living in Dorset
Jean Tumball	Jean Robinson living in Oxford
Dorothy Taylor	Brenda Riddle (White) living in Sheffield
Marianne Allinson — living in Alborough St. John, Nr. Darlington	Mary Kirkpatrick (Boston)
Marjorie Phalp living in Stockport, Cheshire	Audrey Stocks (Wadhvan)
Audrey Robson living in Glasgow	Joyce Pillam
Marie Winter living in Hexham	Ada Tweedie — living in Horncliffe, Lincs.
Norma Taylor living in Saffron Walden, Essex	Jean Milner — living in Glasgow
Sheila Adamson living in Addingham, Hkby	Olga Stone (Hawkins)
Annie Butcher	Edna White
	Yara Price
	Irene Goss
	Freda Haverider
	Elsie Lynn, living in Newcastle

Someone must have gone to a great deal of trouble to contact so many girls who all enjoyed the occasion.

A letter from Maureen Richardson (Robson) from Northallerton resulted in her neighbour making contact with her "little escapee" — Patsy Thomas — who lived at their farm at Melsonby at the beginning of the war. An announcement at dinner set the wheels in motion and a few phone calls in the ensuing days made sure that a re-union (by phone) at least would follow.

Old Bodans in Hartlepool are a musical lot according to a note from Nora Johnson (Wilson) who found herself in front of Olive Armitage (Fryer) and Marjorie Frost (Douglas) nearby at a talk by Antony Hopkins.

Elsie Davidson (Kirkwood) took time to send a greeting to the Guild on the occasion

of the Diamond Jubilee. This, in spite of having to nurse her husband before the removal of an eye — with hourly treatment, night and day. They are both “juggling-along” and ever thankful for their many blessings and their lovely roses which still bloom beautifully.

Denise Broderick (Robertson) now living in Seaham is becoming quite a local celebrity, being described in the “Echo” as “Dear Denise”, North East’s favourite Acutey! She has appeared on B.B.C. Radio’s “Any Questions” and on “Breakfast Live” T.V.

Gladys Elliott (Canning) has ‘appeared’ in the Echo having won a valuable “Roles” watch as first prize in a competition run by Prestige-Cookware. She had to guess the time to prepare a three course meal and was almost exactly correct with her answer.

On a busy happy 80th birthday in September, Gladys Stewart (Sidney) heard a record request played for her on a Bob Holness programme and about the same time featured in the list of winners for various cakes and jam in the Townswomen’s Guild.

Jessie Ridley (Pickard) — although confined to a wheelchair enjoys life despite its limitations. She greatly appreciates the “good wishes” cards we sign, which are forwarded via Laura Milbanks.

We heard from Nancy Habgood (French) — living in Darlington — who was so disappointed that a bout of ‘flu’ made it impossible for her to attend the dinner. Hope you’ve made a good recovery.

Anne McClement (Robson) is now living in Leagrave, Bedfordshire and made it to the Jubilee Dinner this year where I was pleased to have the opportunity to renew her acquaintance. Anne lived with her parents next door to me at the time of my marriage—60+ years ago so we had both changed somewhat!

NEWS OF STAFF

Early in the year I received a letter via Bede School from Mrs. Nicholson — formerly Miss Doris H. Thompson — who taught music at Bede 1938 and then went on to Sunderland Training College. She was very nostalgic about those days and had prepared an article to send for this year’s magazine. Unfortunately she was taken into hospital and died quite suddenly in April but her husband (who sent me three letters within the week prior to her death) compiled the article which I quote — almost in full.

“In early September 1938, I joined the large Staff at Bede Collegiate Girls School as Music Mistress. In those early days morning prayers were followed immediately by Air-raid drill with about 650 girls trooping down to the huge cellophane gas masks at the ready! Fortunately very little warlike happened in England and the girls and I settled down to making our music in a very cool gable-end room. The temperature did not deter and the reluctance to leave was only matched by the keenness of the next class to start their lesson.

Three choirs were formed — Junior, Middle and Senior Schools and once weekly at 8.40 a.m. there was hymn practice. It was a great delight to be able to order large amounts of sheet music, song books etc. for our delighted use.

In early September 1939 came, for us, the great adventure of evacuation from Sunderland to Richmond in Yorkshire. A great part of the Staff and those girls whose

parents were agreeable, set off by rail on the comparatively short journey. We assembled in the Market Square where groups of girls and Staff were allocated to addresses in Richmond and to outlying villages. I was part of the group which went to Aldborough St. John — of pleasant memories. There was a sense of quiet safety in our daily life thereafter.

The main School headquarters was the Wesleyan Chapel in Richmond — thought by some to be of questionable stoutness — and the Headmistress Miss Moul used to speak to the School from the pulpit, whilst girls in the gallery had a vantage view of me doing my musical gymnastics on the harmonium — great days. My music room in Richmond was the Church Hall with coal fire and brass guard at each end of the room. This was most useful on wet days when it became the meeting-place for large crowds of girls, complete with gas masks, hockey sticks and musical instruments. It was always a comfort to be able to 'dry out'.

In church one Sunday, the speaker mentioned with some eloquence, that what one saw, when looking around, was all the horrors of war, for example the 'black-out', evacuees etc. (to the understandably amazement of the evacuees in the congregation, who must surely have preferred Miss Moul's term of 'little messengers of peace').

We often enjoyed our music lessons out of doors on fine days and I recall one snapshot of Miss Briggs teaching Recorder playing to a group sitting on a haystack.

War activities, fortunately, seemed to pass Sunderland by as well as Richmond and with some girls returning home and some Staff having to follow them, it was decided that the School's home should once more become Sunderland and we all met together once again in the School Buildings with a full complement of Staff and Pupils.

For the first time in the School's history, a group of Fifth Form girls took music as a subject in School Certificate Examination and all did very well indeed. Our lunch-time choir practices were joined by violin lessons, piano lessons and Recorder groups — musical progress indeed. I loved every minute of it and made no attempt to hide my appreciation and enjoyment of the keenness, ability and application of my splendid pupils.

The majority of my colleagues on the 'Bede' Staff have been out of my 'ken' for many years, but I recall many pleasant memories of Miss Carrick, Miss Showell (with whom I fire-watched), Miss Briggs, Miss Shauer, Miss Arkle, Mrs. French, Miss Orms and Miss Parker and the headmistress Miss Moul.

Some of the less pleasant memories relate mainly to wartime when we carried out restored fire-watch duties, such as the moonlit night on which two nearby houses were badly bombed and almost disappeared from sight, I felt much heavier on another occasion when my husband joined me in the overnight vigil, whilst on leave from the army, in the Head's Study.

I keep fresh in my thoughts many of the names of the girls whom I taught — Joyce Bagley, Brenda Riddles, Mary McIntyre, Kathleen Bell, Helen Garrick, Moira Mahoney, Rosalie Walker (now in U.S.), Sheila Snowball. I wish I could remember all the others but human frailty being what it is, I must be content.

Quite a number of my Bede girls followed when I took up an appointment at Sunderland Training College as Music Tutor and I was so pleased to lead them in a production of Purcell's 'Dido and Aeneas' in which Brenda Riddles sang the role of 'Dido' with great charm and talent, backed so ably by many others."

Maybe Mrs. Nicholson's wartime memories of Bods during the evacuation will help assuage the regret of those who felt the omission of this period during our reminiscences at the Jubilee Dinner.

I have been pestering Peggy Victory (Simson) for the 'News' of the Keep Fit Movement — having heard odd snippets over the years — the last being that she was a National Officer of the Movement. I was always interested because I could remember Norah Reed coming to Valley Road School in my days there and never forget her vital personality. At last — Peggy writes:-

"It all began in Sunderland — Exercise to Music for Women! There's going to be quite a lot of publicity early next year about Sunderland Branch of the Keep Fit Association celebrating its Pearl Anniversary and I'm proud that Phyllis Peters and I were founder members, even if it is a sobering thought to realise how time has passed. Pete, as P.E. Organiser, was the 'brains' and I was, well not exactly the 'braves' as I was quite skinny, but well, can we say the worker in the field!

But Keep Fit classes were flourishing long before the Association was formed. There are many Old Bedlams who knew and loved Norah Reed, the tiny, dynamic P.T. Organiser who, after visiting Scandinavia and seeing the popularity of their "Voluntary-Gymnastics" classes, was inspired to start similar classes for the women of Sunderland, in the depression year of 1929. So began the Keep Fit Adventure, and throughout the years the Keep Fit Leaders in Sunderland, through their natural gifts and cultivated art, have continued Norah's work so that today there are classes in all parts of the Borough, catering for all ages, abilities and interests. And just as Norah had the valued support of the Education Authority in those pioneering days, the Keep Fit movement in Sunderland owes a great deal to the P.E. & F.E. Organisers employed by the Authority over many years. They have financed the Courses in theory of movement, body mechanics and practice of teaching leading to a certificate so that all Keep Fit teachers employed by them are qualified.

I count myself very lucky to have had such an absorbing life-long interest in Movement to Music; as a teacher seeing the improvement in class personal performance and in social relationships; as a performer enjoying working with others; as a choreographer experimenting with different movements, and different rhythms in response to the music. And lately I have been very involved as an administrator and office-holder at National and Regional level, but the office dearest to my heart is that of President of Sunderland Branch, the biggest in the Region with over 500 members, with a dynamic committee full of ideas for development and a wealth of workers who match the dedication of those early Leaders. Their objective, which was to send their classes of unemployed and mothers from depressed homes away ready to face their difficulties having had at least one hour's respite, thankfully is not of primary importance today, yet fundamentally the philosophy, aims and objectives as laid down in the Keep Fit Association's Constitution are unchanged from those expounded by Norah at the beginning of it all.

Peggy Victory (Simson)

In October this year Lena Thompson and Phyllis Peters travelled to Sunderland to join 16 ex-members of West Southwick Staff for a re-union dinner. This annual get-together started 21 years ago, when Lena retired as Head of West Southwick School, and has continued ever since. Although Miss Peters claimed to be just an honorary member at first, we hope she now feels she is "one of us!"

Neither she nor Lena seems to have changed at all over the years, still so enthusiastic about all their activities — the spirit which has kept us together for so long.

Another 'red-letter-day' started some years ago when we were all invited to Cumbria in the Spring — a buffet lunch at the Rothay Manor Hotel in Ambleside, and then to enjoy the delights of their home at Braybay Fell Cottage and its beautiful surroundings. This too has become an annual event for West Southwick Staff, many of whom are also Old Bedans.

D.F.

MEETINGS

Joan Boswell (Rough) and her husband had a 3 month holiday in New Zealand — spending most of the time with their grandchildren but then went over the Tasman Sea to Australia to visit other friends before tackling a 15 hour train journey to spend 2 weeks with Joyce Galfon (Hodgson) and her husband Clive. The inevitable "do you remember?", "What happened to?" went on and on as the news was told. Olga Phang (Simkins) visited for a day and the "gossip" continued midst the glorious sunshine. Joan and George revelled in the many outings — picnics and meals in the garden. It was with great regret that "Auf revoir" was said but Joyce has renewed her invitation to any Old Bedans —visiting Australia — to call and be made welcome. As she says "you can't reminisce with new friends like you can with school friends".

SPORT

Pauline Veitch (Creder) has been in great form at Boldon Golf Club this year —winning numerous competitions.

Olga Wright (Stewart) and Win Scott (Thomas) have also featured among the winners.

Ethel Leibe (Leakosky) had a mini re-union of Old Bedans among the golfers when Jen Hey (Smith), Kathleen Carr (Ritch), Olga Wright and Winnie Scott enjoyed coffee together. Dorothy Grierson (Kennedy) was away from home and therefore unable to join them.

Joan Brabham (Morrison) becomes Vice-Captain of the Club at the end of the year.

HOMES OF OLD BEDANS

Another letter early in the year from Isabel Eaton (Hatchinson) "missing the mug" since her move to Cupar in Fife. Also missing the G.O.B. news from friends who used to call on her when she lived in the Lake District. She has, however, located Ruth Chambers (Day) also living in Cupar and working as a Consultant Town Planner. Isabel issues a warm welcome to any golfers — en route by road to St. Andrews — to call — "you'll pass her Road End".

Evelyn Leonard (Scott) now Allen is living in Houghton-le-Spring.

Maira Mahoney (Barnborough) whose husband became the youngest Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, is still living in Cambridge.

Green Marley (Chessman) is now living in Giggleswick and Joan Hunt (Wilson) has moved to Alnmouth.

Jean Ball (Turpin) thoroughly enjoyed her long holiday in Australia at the end of 1967 — visiting Olga Phaup (Sinclair) in her new home there and managing to visit Joyce Galton (Hodgson) during her stay. More Old Bodan gossip to report.

In September of this year Margaret Laidlaw visited Mavis Berriman (Jackman) and her husband Tony who are living in Indianapolis. Mavis continues to teach part-time at a local clinic. She has a lovely home and her four children, Kathleen, Valerie, Alistair and Geoffrey are still with her, the eldest three working in Indianapolis and Geoffrey at the State University studying medicine. "Mavis and Tony showed me the state, including the 500 race track, the beautiful National Parks and downtown Indianapolis. Mavis is well and happy and sends her greetings to all Old Bodans who remember her — I am sure there are a number who do. We had a week of reminiscences and laughter before they drove me the 900 miles to Montreal, visiting Niagara en-route."

Marjorie Bailie — now a doctor in Skelton, Cleveland — writes news of Christine Charles, teaching Biology at Ripon Grammar School and of Elspeth McCoughey (Pincott) on the move from Sheffield to Kent and Annabelle Carr (Alcock) who has emigrated to Australia.

Brenda Case (Danaher) writes from Bexhill-on-Sea and sends news of Marjorie Edwards, Jean Dunnett, Rita Sherriff, Peggy Turner, Margaret West, Mary Wilson, Marjorie Telford. Irene Wilkinson can supply Brenda's address to anyone wishing to reply.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

Dorothy Morrison (Peterson) was delighted to attend the Jubilee Dinner in April, during her visit from Norway — made possible by a great deal of planning and help by Joan Marshall (St. Julian) and her husband. Later in the year Dorothy paid a longer visit to Sunderland and was able to see the "Illuminations" bringing back memories of yesterday. She "lunched" with Ann Pace and Louise Selley (Proctor) when much gossip was exchanged.

DEATHS

Doris H. Thompson (Mrs. Nicholson) ex Member of Staff 1938 onwards.
Jean Macaskill.
Gladys Sidney (Mrs. Miller).
Betty Greig (Mrs. Douglas).
Eva Barton (Mrs. Dawson).
Winnie Graham.

MARRIAGES

Evelyn Leonard (Scott) now Allan

RETIREMENTS

Margaret Laidlaw has retired from her position in D.H.S.S. Maureen Richardson (Robson) retired from her teaching post in Northallerton in 1986.

Sheila Snowball (Richardson) retired from teaching in 1967 and then went to teach (with her husband) in Kunming in China for a year and now has returned to Henley-on-Thames.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

I was pleased to receive my first "Guild" correspondence before 1988 began! Do write your news to me whenever you have any — it gets harder as the years go by to think back and remember "in-bits" that could possibly interest those who know you. We are all thirsty for news — good or bad — about our school friends.

May I appeal once again for financial assistance — it is increasingly difficult to cope with the rise in postage and printing and it is hard to juggle with the cash situation. We want to keep the magazine going as long as possible and I am sure all our readers do too! It's up to you.

Meanwhile thanks for your letters — thanks to Irene for her hours of hard work arranging our meetings and coping with our monies. Thanks to Mr. Scott for Auditing our Accounts and to Dorothy Dagdale for typing the copy for me, and to Win Thomas for her continued personal support to me. Let us not forget thanks to Joan Hayton who "issues" the magazine.

Our deepest sympathy goes to all who have been bereaved during the year and our best wishes for a speedy recovery to those who are ill. Happy New Year and God bless you.
Anne Crowe

BALANCE SHEET — 31st September 1987 — 31st August 1988

RECEIPTS

Subscriptions: Annual	16.00	
Life	65.00	81.00
Donations		58.20
Meetings		35.68
Interest		51.70
Loss on year's workings		68.86
		<u>£287.64</u>

EXPENDITURE

Printing	150.00
Stationery	11.73
Postages & Telephones	62.04
Cards	.60
School Prizes	25.00
Gift — Auditor	2.44
London Branch Expenses	5.83
	<u>£287.64</u>

Total Funds on Aug. 31st 1988

Balance on Aug. 31st 1987	1154.29
Loss on year's workings	68.86
	<u>£1,085.25</u>

Made up as follows

3½% War Stock	98.36
TSE Investment Account	752.68
TSE Ordinary Account	156.17
Barclays Bank	73.16
Cash in Hand	4.86
	<u>£1,085.25</u>

