

THE OLD BEDAN

1990

IMPORTANT NEWS

Please make a note of these dates in your diary before you begin to read the magazine.

- FRIDAY Jan. 26th 1991** WINTER MEETING in the Art Room at School at 7.00 p.m.
- FRIDAY April 26th 1991** ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING in the School Hall 7.30 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.
Price £10 - 0.00
- TUESDAY June 18th 1991** SUMMER MEETING at 7.00 p.m. in the Kennels,
Durham.
- FRIDAY Sept. 27th 1991** ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at 7.30 p.m.
"Hopefully somewhere at Bide".

GUILD OF OLD BEDANS

Office Bearers and Committee 1990-91

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We are delighted that so many of you have decided to join the Guild and lots of you as Life Members, too. There's no limit to the number so if you are one of those "who means to do something about it" - do contact Irene at the address above and send her your £1 for an Annual Subscription or £5 for Life Membership. Please remember that we are "schools' girls" for ever and use your maiden name first and your married name - if applicable - in brackets. Also - don't forget to catch up with us if you move home - drop Jean Hayton a line at the address above and she will assist her records.

It has been a wonderful year of re-unions and recalling our school-days and many contacts have been made and friendships renewed.

It was a typical Old Bedan evening - lots of noise, chatter and laughter. Once more we were away up in the Staff Room between the School/Post-College and no longer in the cosy little (pocket-like-sounding) Sewing Room on the old hockey pitch. Where to put what? Good question! One group gleefully found two spare chairs tucked away in a corner behind a rubber plant, so piled up their coats - only to see the secretary threatening to fall over - busy re-adjustment of chairs and coats. "I'm the only one from my year" said Rhida Andrews (Moore) from North Yorkshire. "There's no-one here from mine" said Dorothy Gibbons (Kennedy). But did it matter - not a scrap! We just mixed up... Inez Wilkinson tried to save us from being mixed up - about our orders for the Centenary Service in the Cathedral in April and other important matters. We budgeted for throughout the evening for Centenary pieces - attractive and very good value for £2 made by Pyrex, - ties and scarves. Inez was wearing an M.C. because of her stenographer tones which made us listen to her explanations. We asked when we should sit, we didn't know when we should - a right steady state was we!

Important Bedan business matters dealt with temporarily, we settled down to a game organised by Lily Richardson (Lawson) - our Chairman. It was a good game "Quick Quizzes" - in groups "too hard" we guessed, writing the answers hasty. The only one we all got right was "Frankly my dear I don't give a damn" - *Movie Butler*. Did this indicate anything? Not exactly! Instead Johnson or Shakespeare. In pretty answered questions we managed to guess Angela Ripston, Sue Lawley, Peter Ustinov, Cliff Richards, Mrs. Thatcher, Princess Margaret (Charlie's Aunt), Patrick Moore, but failed badly on others. The prize winners only got 18 out of 25 - this was a younger group than some present - Frances Welch (Crosier), Jean Graham (Morrison), Miss Cuddeford (Dixon) and Finch.

Then came SUPPER - delicious. The committee members were run off their feet as they brought round a variety of sandwiches - ham & egg pie, cheese puffs, cakes and tea. They positively beamed with the huge and happy "smile" and altogether did a fair old mileage waiting on us. Meanwhile there was a break between being done at the trading post - scarves, ties, plates and cups. Whew!

"Where was the nearest bar?" someone enquired. On being told - "Thanks, I won't bother!" (Frustrated thought - poor old Staff).

Chided by Inez for some of our questions - we prepared for another game - Musical this time. But the cassette recorder would not co-operate and time was running out "Oh well, we'll do the raffle" said Lily cheerfully. The money made was to share between Social Services and Maggiano coats (the latter being £80 this year!).

Then it was time to go (laughter alarms and caretaker etc. at 9.30 p.m.)

Thanks to Inez, Lily and committee for a relaxing and happy evening. Is there anything quite like a G. O. B. Re-union?

Winnie Scott (Thomas)

OLD-BODANS DINNER — April 27th 1990.

Knowing that our numbers would be larger this year because of the Beale Centenary, an early attempt to book the Roker Hotel was made in October but it was fully booked, due to the vast reservations at the Seaburn Hotel which were taking longer than expected.

However, when Puffin Billy management said they could accommodate us, we were relieved because this was an 'easily reached' venue for most people. Little did we realize that with our number of 145, we would have Puffin Billy bulging at the seams. The Old Bodans were all eager to meet and chat, and this being a special year, many had come to their first Old Bodans dinner. They didn't seem to be in a hurry to eat - just to catch up on all the news.

At last we sat down. The seating was a little squashed, and the cloakroom was overflowing, but undoubtedly, with our numbers, we couldn't manage to have all the tables of eight or twelve and it must have been hard work for the waitresses weaving up and down between us.

The meal was rather disappointing since we were all expecting festive guest-meal status but as one Old Bodan said "The food is of secondary importance compared to the company on our Old Bodans Dinner night". Nevertheless, it wasn't as good as we had hoped.

Our Chairman Lily Richardson (Lawson) gave us a kindly welcome and said Grace.

We were delighted to see Irene Wilkinson (our Secretary and Treasurer) looking so well after being poorly until resignifying to us but more relaxed without having to cope with ticket money on her evening out. Thanks to everyone who was their ticket money to her early.

After apologising for absences, Lily thanked all the Bodans who had travelled so far to be with us. Dorothy Morrison (Peterson) from Denmark, Nancy Robinson (Perlick) from Canada, Joyce Hallin (Widdow) from Australia and all the others who had travelled from all over the British Isles. It was lovely to see you all.

Unfortunately, we didn't have the use of a 'piano' but Winnie Thomas apologized and accompanied us on a keyboard as beautifully as ever for the School Song. The piano was hardly missed against the fervour of the 145 voices. The entertainment was by the "Three in Harmony" group but unfortunately, one of them was singing that night in the Desert Song at the Empire Theatre. The two members of the group sang us a very pleasant selection of songs which we all enjoyed very much.

Our Chairman Lily Richardson gave the singers a vote of thanks and this was quickly followed by another vote of thanks to the officers and committee by Mabel Woodruff.

The chat went on until late, and at last we said our 'goodnights' but also we made arrangements for meeting at the Cathedral Services next day.

This was just the start of a memorable weekend that all Old Bodans who were present will treasure.

Elise White (Bailey)

CENTENARY SERVICE, DURHAM CATHEDRAL

April 28th 1990

(An unofficial Old Bedan Version)

There was none of the rough North "weather" that we sing of in our School song on this occasion. A wonderful welcoming Spring day saw hundreds of Old Bedans pouring across Palace Green into the Cathedral. The exchange of greetings started on the way in, continuing before the Service, and long after. All sorts of transport - plane, train, car, motor - had brought Bedans together for this occasion.

It was a wonderful service of thanksgiving, solemn, dignified, but happy and personal in our beautiful Cathedral. The soloists, soloists, singers and readers produced a high quality of music and readings with well-chosen pieces. The organ pealed out dramatically; the young choir voices soared. Aging Old Bedans sang heartily the well-chosen hymns.

The Litany was especially memorable - a modern version read by one of the staff.

Altogether, the organization was splendid with members of the audience having a lovely breakfast as a reminder of an occasion of whole-hearted enjoyment and pride in our School. A truly memorable afternoon.

Many Old Bedans arranged meetings and reunions prior to the GREAT DAY. Some of these arrangements succeeded, others didn't. For example, how many people on the Saturday afternoon were looking for Molly Gairton (now Johnson)? She had contacted several old friends, hoping to see them before or after the service, but thanks to British Rail (delays, electrification, altered train times) she arrived late and had to leave early to get back to Scarborough. On Durham and York stations Molly had been approached by younger Old Bedans which helped to make the altered journey more rewarding. She was sorry not to have time to see more of her contemporaries. Palace Green rang with other enquiries - "Have you seen?"; and "Where is?"; "I've lost?"; "I had to miss?"; "Is that?"; It was all glorious confusion, and fun. Happy emotions were in the air, specks of delight (or despair) at the change in people after 30 - 40 - 50 years.

Husbands, wives, friends, offspring were all involved in this wholesome camaraderie. Face-saving life could easily be glossed over on a day such as this. Old Old Bedans sometimes couldn't remember the "youngsters" from schooldays. "You were not from school", "I was married of you" - (oh dear), "I used to carry your hockey bag" - so it went on. Photographs (informal) were taken, to be home off later to Canada, America, Australia, Scandinavia etc.

Miss Peters and Miss Kathleen Herbert (Mrs. Jackson) had wisely seated themselves towards the back of the central aisle. This was splendid as Bedans could have a word either going in or coming out with them and other former members of their staff - Mr. and Mrs. Harkley were tucked away in one pew; Audrey Hayton (Mrs. Carrick); Miss Milbank; Betty Coates (Wilkinson) to name but a few.

How sad it was that Ethel Kirkwood – a loyal and faithful servant of the Guild of Old Bedlams, and its Secretary for so many years, was unable to travel up from Dorset for the service. As always, she sent her usual message of good wishes to the Guild for the occasion.

A further opportunity to talk, or find old friends was afforded us in 'school' where tea and biscuits was being organised and served by a superb staffed! Mr. Robin Auld. His non-stop work for the whole centenary service had been much appreciated by the Guild of Old Bedlams in the run-up to the great day. One Australian visitor wrote later "The reunion and service in Durham Cathedral were the highlight of our trip". Lena Thompson wrote "Of course I made Peter tell me all about the Cathedral service – it had obviously been a great success and every well organised. I particularly liked the Litany of Celebration. I was so sorry not to be there, but I realised a week or so ago that I couldn't make it". (Lena has had a knee operation).

Wanda Thomas

CLUBBER RE-UNION 1990

This was held as usual at the Ramside Hotel on Tuesday evening, 19th June.

By the time I arrived, most of the tables were taken. Heads were together deep in conversation and food and liquid refreshment was being consumed at a fast rate! Thankfully Maria Childsford (Dixon) hailed me, and we commiserated the last table. Dorothy Cookburn (Duggals), Brenda Johnson (Jules), Christine Hill (Alkison) and Dorothy Clifton (Cross) quickly arrived to join us. Brenda passed round photos of her daughter's engagement party and also some taken at the Centenary Service at Durham Cathedral. Everyone was still saying what a lovely service it was, and how tears came to the eyes while singing "Jerusalem".

During the evening I was particularly pleased to have a chat with Mrs. Ethel Lindley, a former colleague of mine, and hear news of her grandchildren. I also had a few words with Margaret Hogg (Berry) who taught with my sister Audrey at Broadway Junior School. Jean Brown (Wilks) and I were swapping information about a strained back (mine) and a spine fractured ankle (hers) and being in hospital on a bed rest. Age will tell! Talk was of engagements, holidays, retirements, what to do with your husband when he retires, how useful it is to drive a car, judging cakes and wine at a Guild competition etc. etc.

It was a pleasure to renew acquaintance with Christine Hill (Alkison) from Westend, who was staying with Brenda Johnson (Jules). Soon after 10 p.m. people started drifting homewards. I think our party was the last to leave inasmuch as the lights were switched off as a last.

Another successful, enjoyable evening thanks to Irene Wilkinson who organised it once again.

Marjorie Cabart

LOAN & SCHOLARSHIP FUND REPORT 1989

A Total of £17.28 was available from the fund. As there were forty-one girls who qualified for awards this year (as opposed to sixteen last year) it was decided to make available £17.28 from other sources so that the intentions of the Guild of CM Mothers might be honoured. The total available for distribution was therefore £475.00. It was agreed by the Committee to award all forty-one girls proceeding to Higher Education, using a pro-rata system of £10 or £10 per award.

This year we had four girls who achieved at least two 'A' grades at A-level and one of them, Gillian Brown, succeeded in gaining a place at St. Catherine's College, Cambridge where she is now reading Combined General Science.

D. Snow, Senior Tutor

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held on Friday 26th September 1989 and 12 were present. There were many apologies for absence because we were competing with Tom Allen's appearance at the Empire Theatre.

The Minutes of the A.G.M. 1989 were read, accepted and signed. The Secretary gave a report on re-unions held during the year.

The Treasurer was pleased to report a credit on the year's workings.

Anne Mitchell (Cross) gave the Social Services report. Jeanne Knox (Mather) read the London Branch Report.

Dates for future reunions were discussed and they will be printed in the magazine. Please make a note of them and do try to attend.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m. with tea and biscuits.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The membership on 1.9.90 is 68 of which 3 are new annual members, 42 are life members, mostly new but a few were yearly members who had lapsed.

There have been 3 committee meetings, the A.G.M. and 3 re-unions.

The A.G.M. was held on 26th September 1989 in the Needlework Room in the Home Economics Department, Beke School, 38 attended.

The Winter Re-union was also held in Beke School on Friday January 26th 1990. This was in the Staff Room, as last year, and the cost was £2.50 each. Something Special did the catering. Much of the time was taken up disposing of Cathedral tickets for the Centenary Service also selling plates, tea and coffee. There was certainly time for chatter at this meeting! The Guild was pleased to get £22.50, our half share of the raffle. The Social Services having the other half.

The Annual Dinner was on April 17th 1990 and had 140 present. This was a wonderful response because of the Cathedral Service next day. I am writing a separate apology on my feelings about the Puffin' Billy. I complained very strongly to them before I paid the bill and they deducted about £80. The atmosphere at the dinner was excellent. We all "belonged" in a school that was celebrating 100 years but not that it was closing. This wonderful feeling was present in the Cathedral too but I am sure there will be others writing for the magazine about that great occasion.

The Guild also had our informal meeting at the Starboard Hotel on June 19th.

We gave £2 for the school prizes and the Guild was represented at the prize-giving ceremony.

Thank you to Lily for arranging the Committee meetings and also for her daughter's kind hospitality. A personal "thank you" to the committee for their work but also for their many kindnesses to me when I was slightly incapacitated!

AN APOLOGY

The Dinner at the Puffin' Billy on April 17th 1990 was specially arranged for that date as the Centenary Service was the next day at Durham Cathedral. Many more Old Bedians than usual came along and there was a lively atmosphere in French and English—they had not seen for a very long time—some not since school days!

I do wish the moral, service and organisation at the Puffin' Billy had come up to their premises. I wish to apologise on my behalf and that of the committee for what I felt was a disaster on such an important occasion.

I hope you have not been put off coming to Old Bedians Association dinners and that many of you will return. A warm welcome awaits you!

D. J. Williams

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to report a credit on the year's working for the second year running. It is £178.68 for this year mainly due to the collection on the Dinner plus generous donations amounting to £140.50.

Postages keep rising, 17p for each magazine for 1990 and printing too is increasing in cost.

The Balance Sheet explains more fully our financial position.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Edna Sharp - Robinson
Kathleen Truesdale - Williams
Shella Swetschall - Richardson
Lillian Campbell - Harding
Gella Batey - Anderson
Margaret Harris - Steward
Edna Wilson - Dorrell
Shella Bartley - Chambers
Joyce Kesteven - Wallage
Christine Wallage - Hartson
Eileen Young - Oliver
Marion Stadden
Beryl Schwab - Morris
Edna Talbot - Johnson
Kenna Gibson - Kipling
Carole Stacey - Jones
Joyce Pillars - Hall
Fay Trumbert - Kemp
Audrey Anderson

Judith Rosenstein
Hilda Wharton - Laycock
Dorcas Doble - Emerson
Mary Reed - Lanson
Joan Brooks - Richardson
(South Africa)
Ruth McEain - Hartson
Margaret Diana Curry - Sykes
(since died)
Irene Leitch - Register
Kathleen Ralph - McCann
Mary Thompson - Thomas
Eileen Walker - Murray
Maryna Stankala - Kossak
Marianne Fraser - Pendergith
Nancy Robinson - Pyrlitz (Canada)
Elin Robinson
Joan Wilson - Craig
Mickey Gibson - French

The following were lapsed annual members but are now Life Members -

June Thompson - Hartson
Judith Bartock - Thacher
Lorna Macurdy - Raymond
Anne Bulmer - Foster
Kathleen Stromberg - Mallory
Lillian McCoy - Newman

New Subscribers

Gladys Bowman - Sharp (Just 80 years old)
It is never too late to join!
Kathleen Hall - Henderson

GUILD OF OLD BERGANS SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT 1990

We have had our usual three meetings during the year - the third being immediately prior to this A.G.M.

We only have 4 people on our books, and they all express gratitude for our continued interest in them.

We started the year with £16.32 in our funds and have given people £20 each at Christmas, £20 each at Easter and this evening have agreed to give them £15 each.

We remembered Elin Blocker last Christmas with the gift of a plant (given by a committee member).

We did have a request to help another lady - but as she was an unmarried mother with two children it was decided that this was not the kind of person we were set up to help.

Eric has since died and we will miss her support.

Once again we thank the Canada players for their continued support even though some of us are "getting past" the age(s) necessary to make our homes suitable to accommodate 14 or more team card-thumpers!

Thank you, too, to those who send donations and support letters on our behalf.

STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS SEPTEMBER 1990

Income		Expenditures	
Balance from 1989	\$160.32	Harvest Gifts	\$88.00
Canada Parties	\$88.00	Christmas Gifts	\$88.00
Winter Reunion Buffet	\$70.04	Easter Gifts	\$88.00
Donations	\$97.00		
Collegians-in-Committee			
Meetings	\$4.90	Balance in Hand	\$97.00
Holding Society Interest	\$8.11		
Suspense from last years to:			
Consecration Celebrations	\$2.00		
	<u>\$507.98</u>		<u>\$507.98</u>

W. M. Robinson (Hons. Treasurer).

THE LONDON BRANCH

A few of us have met for lunch as usual during the year, at my home and Nancy's and it seems to get more difficult to pick a date that suits the majority, but some of all absentees is passed on at the meetings, as those whom I do not phone (now local calls) usually write to let us know what has been happening to them.

Nancy Lawler (Habitak) was our hostess in May and we were delighted to meet a new London "Old Butler" - Margaret Curry (Sykes) whom Nancy had not seen for nearly fifty years! She had been to the Commemorative Service in Durham Cathedral and the celebration dinner, so we had a first-hand account from her. At lunch we raised our glasses to "The School".

Three of us celebrated our Golden Wedding during the year - Isabel Lundy (Miers), Majorie Butler (Kawick) and me. It doesn't seem long since our Silver Wedding.

My husband and I recently spent an enjoyable weekend with Eleanor Wilson (Tilberidge) and her husband in Picketing, where they retired last year. They have settled down happily and made many friends. The sunsets were glorious even from their kitchen - there was such a lot of sky!

We would welcome new members - give me a ring if you are in the Greater London area - Dorcas Ward (Maurice) 081 992 3887

Dorcas followed her report with a note to say that Margaret Curry (Sykes) who had so recently joined the London Branch - died suddenly while on a walk with fellow archaeologists.

STAFF NEWS

We regret the death of Miss E. M. Carrick - former member of Staff attended her Requiem Mass at St. Columba's Church on August 16th and the Guild of Old Bishops was represented by Winnie Scott.

Miss Kathleen M. Carrick

Miss Kathleen Carrick joined Bode's Staff in 1936. A fine looking lady with and immaculate dress sense - (as a young girl she once held the title, 'Miss From Soap') - she was proved herself to be no mere fashion plate but a remarkable addition to Miss Wood's band of 'dear warblers'.

Arrived in her capacious green overall, she inspired, in her chemistry lab., an iron discipline which commanded unwavering attention and hence fostered a sound knowledge and, in many cases, a real love of the subject. Many who left overcame in their subsequent years, have developed a grateful appreciation of the force which had driven them and ultimately inspired them to high and merited achievements.

In 1950 Miss Carrick's worth was recognised when she was appointed Deputy Head of the School.

Happy memories of the Science Society, which Miss Carrick inaugurated, still abound. The stimulating speakers at the monthly meetings attracted many lively and interested members while the annual meetings in places of scientific importance - were always well attended events.

Retirement in 1961 proved dull and uninteresting. Soon, however, Miss Carrick found an interesting outlet for her still abundant energy in a task supervising the teaching practice of students from Bode's College, Durham. Thereafter she was invited to plan a science laboratory for the Durham Cathedral Choristers' School where she taught with evident pleasure. Apparently she was known (affectionately) as 'The Dragon'. No doubt she instilled a sound scientific knowledge in the boys until a fall, resulting in a badly broken elbow, forced a reluctant second retirement.

One of her other main interests was in St. Columba's Church. She was secretary of the parochial council for twenty years, retiring only in 1985. She also organised the 1983 pilgrimage to Iona, which marked the 1000th anniversary of St. Columba's landing on the island. This involved the chartering of a special train to Oban as well as air transport to Iona. It became so many parochial affairs attracting, as it did, people from many parts of the country as well as Ireland. Important pilgrims included the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Michael Ramsey.

Miss Carrick remained relatively alert until the age of eighty nine but thereafter she found increasing disabilities cruelly frustrating: she died in August 1990 aged 91 years.

When Miss Carrick heard that she was known as 'the Dragon' by the Parkers Choir School boys - her "laughter was unbounded".

According to St. Columba's Church Magazine - At Bude Boys School she was known as - that fearsome person "Carrick's Aunt Kate" but, nevertheless she was greatly respected.

STAFF NEWS - continued

Miss Hooley had a brief note this year from Miss Amy Wiggott who wrote "I'm now 92 and especially my sight has failed seriously. I cannot get about without help and I have not been out of the house for two years, but I have no wish to go". Miss Wiggott's address is - 15 Fairhill House, Suffolk Square, Chesham, CL63EF.

I too had a letter from Miss Wiggott in February describing herself as a "positively antique member of R.C.G.S." She was only 18 years old when she entered the school in 1908 and was housed in the "The Tabernacle" until moving into the "big school" as a fourth formers. There was no school gymnasium and they had to use a building hired for the purpose and the playing field was on the outskirts of the town. On hockey days there was a teaching rush to get the girls - and the coaching staff - out of school before any rain fell as Miss Ross declared - "Lessons as usual". Miss Wiggott left school in 1917 and returned in 1946 to teach English until retiring in 1957. She was pleased to come across a Dorothy Wiggott (no relation) who later, she understands, became a member of staff.

Miss Hooley is to speak at Southern Ladies Probus Club in November and many members there are Old Bedans.

Laura Milbanks - an ex. High School girl found Miss Peters article in last year's magazine amusing and recalls that Jon Flew's prowess at sport was well known at the High School too. She remembered Miss Peters taking her for her Athletics Badge at Gushen when she - Laura - had great difficulty throwing a rounder ball the required 25 yards, - a second attempt was successful however, and someone was satisfied when Laura was first in the 20-yard sprint.

Edith Freeman (Towers) sent in the following articles which I'm sure you will all enjoy:-

BELLAHUSTON PARK, GLASGOW 1936

In the summer of 1936 the Empire Exhibition was held in Bellahouston Park, Glasgow. A party of girls from Bude School went on a day's outing. Very early in the morning we left by train from Sandholland, changed at Newcastle and straight through to Glasgow. The train fare, lunch in Glasgow, bus to Bellahouston Park, entrance to the Exhibition, tea and return home was 15/- (75p), that was a lot of money in those days.

The whole exhibition was most interesting : we visited Australia House, Canada House, saw the animals, the crafts and quite a lot about the life of these people in the Commonwealth countries. There were many exhibitions and even a fun fair.

I remember I had 5 whole shillings (25p) to spend and on this day I remember what I bought : a tin for Dad, a women's plain tin Mother, pens for my sister, pen knife for my brother and a handkerchief for myself. All went to commemorate the exhibition. Most of these souvenirs were half-price for pupils on school trips. During the day I was also able to buy ice-cream, packets of nuts and raisins, a bag of chips and still had a threepenny bit left when we reached Sandholland again just before midnight.

Of course we had to wear school uniform, and for the girls, that also meant a hat. We all had a thrilling day and had behaved well and upheld the good name of the school, that is until on the last lap home and we were leaving Newcastle station. Our spirits bubbled over and we threw our hats at one another. Unfortunately, mine was thrown out of the window by a friend, who shall be nameless. We are still friends today and served together on the staff for some years until we retired. Now the penalty for going to school without WEARING your hat was a conduct mark. Next day I was thrilled at having a good 80% ASO% for breaking the rule, but Mother wasn't pleased to have to buy me a new hat.

A PUNISHMENT ME, A BLESSING!

First let me say my English was below par, so, even though Mathematics was by far my strongest subject, yet I seemed destined to the History (Housework). This in the 4th year only arithmetic could be taken. This was the year of reason too.

At Richmond, lessons in the morning were held in a number of places : Town Hall, Methodist Church Hall, a large house in Malton Drive and so on, but, afternoon lessons for the 4th year's were in Richmond Girls High School.

One snowy afternoon in early 1940 Miss Gales (Mathematics teacher) came in to do a "sit with" as the French teacher was ill. "Anyone who talks will get an

arithmetic exercise to do" threatened Miss Gales. Great! I'd much rather do arithmetically than French. Not usually used in class, I proceeded to amuse myself as I could. An exercise and paper was doled out. I tackled it with glee and soon asked for a second. "It must be done properly. Don't just write down anything, girl" said Miss Gales. (We had Miss Wilson for arithmetic, so my ability was unknown to Miss Gales.) At the end of a pleasant lesson, I asked if she would mark the exercise and return them. They were not returned, but Miss Wilson said, with a twinkle in her eye, that Miss Gales didn't like handing back flawless exercises done as punishment.

In the spring of that year the whole school returned to Sunderland. Education resumed, but only 7 forms in 4th year. AA for those who had been evacuated, and AB for those who had stayed in Sunderland and so had no schooling since the outbreak of war. I was in 4A. When the former C and B stream girls had Mathematics, we in the former B stream had to read quietly at our homework. However when Miss Gales came in to teach Maths, no way was I prepared to read, but kept shouting out the answers. Did Miss Gales remember the exercises done in that French lesson? She did allow me to take marks for the rest of that last term in the 4th year. And on in the 5th LVIb and LVIIb with Miss Wilson.

From 1959 to 1960 I reached my childhood ambition to teach Mathematics at Fife School. That postscript in French lesson was the first step to reaching my ambition. Thank you Miss Gales.

MR RAID-SHEN UNDEFEATED

One afternoon in 1963 Audrey Kinch and Ethel Freeman were having an Applied Mathematics lesson with Miss Ivy Harris, in the physics lab.

We had an elaborate experiment set up to do with oscillation. We were recording the experiments on graph paper. I remember it was quite an hilarious lesson, with much much laughter, but also much work. We were engaged and oblivious of anything else.

In the midst of this wonderful lesson, a teacher burst in. "There's a noise! I could hear you from the end of the corridor. At least you've talk. You've had an all worried. Did you not hear the noise?" In the air and chaffers there had been cause for concern when two pupils were missing at the roll call. When a teacher was missing too, and the time table consulted, it was realised with some relief that we would all be together.

LVIII pupils reading so much noise in class that we failed to hear the sirens? This took some time to clear.

Ethel Freeman (Towner)

NEWS — OF ALL — AND GENEALOGY

— Celia Pipe (Shopper) whose daughter have now left the nest is living in "retired bliss" in Little Bookham, Surrey.

— Joyce Spence (Strat) was delighted to find quite a few of her "year" at the dinner and to learn that Eileen Wilson, Kathleen Tait and Isabel Price all live near her in Buckinghamshire. I hope you continue to meet.

— Eileen Bagley (White) 1903-09 has recently moved to Gloucester from Birkenshaw (Mr. Harrogate).

— Evelyn Johnson (Juber) and her sister and Pat Wilkinson, Marjorie Culbert and friends had an exciting holiday in China - visiting Peking, the Great Wall - flying on to see the Terracotta Warriors, on to Shanghai. They had a trip down the Huang He until it met the Yangtze and out to sea. Then back to Peking visiting Chairman Mao's Tomb, the Forbidden City and other exciting places. This was followed by an eventful journey home with about 400 Pakistanis in the plane from Islamabad.

— Kathleen Peers (Hilbert) enjoyed her evening at the dinner. So did Irene Nicholson (Dickinson). She wrote from Bradford of her pleasure at seeing Beth and Vera Melliss (after 80 years) and Roma and Maureen Gibson - also after a 50 year gap. Irene recalls their return from evacuation at Richmond to the Boys' School and having an air-raid during one 'School Cart.' exam. On returning to the hospital (which was then the air-raid shelter), they were surrounded by prefects and teachers so that no talking was to take place! Irene's husband told us that Kathleen Price who she met some years ago in Bradford was, at that time, an adviser to the Education Dept. in Bradford.

— I was delighted to hear from Mervyn Stockdale (Rennie) early in the year from Whitley Bay - where she now lives. She'd heard about Bebi's Centenary and wanted to know details. Unfortunately Mervyn was unable to attend either function due to illness, but she's now a Life member and may be able to join us on a future occasion.

— Dorothy Middleton (Sagley) was 121 worth of Windsor Blinds in a Sunderland Echo competition.

— Can anyone solve this mystery? Dorothy Gibson (Kennedy) stopped to chat to a lady who was wrongly following her husband to their car in Newton Stewart car park on a September Sunday. The following note was found attached to Dorothy's windscreen wiper later - "Amazing! - "The tired female you spoke to and her husband both come from Sunderland - both Old Bedlam. Living in Farnham now". Who are you? Please contact us and solve the mystery.

Zoe Crowcroft (Waddington) made a flying visit to Northland to stay with Joyce Towles (Morrisons) and in the visit coincided with her Ruby wedding party of her "year" - were contacted and all enjoyed tea and cakes and the inevitable chatter. Those present were Lucinda Mills, Marjorie Richardson, Marjorie Harris, Joyce Robson, Betty Scott, Elsie White, Joan Russell and Lilian Young.

Bill Martens' Reunion was held at the Grange Hotel this year. After the success of last year's reunion it was a more relaxed occasion - having met each other last year, Kathleen Tait was most unwell because she fell and badly sprained her ankle on arrival at the Roker Hotel from her home in Buckinghamshire and was unable to join the others after all. The others enjoyed an excellent buffet at the Grange Hotel and the chat was incessant. A letter was read out with apologies from Pat Morgan who was busy taking supplies to Rumanian refugees. Derek Dobson has been traced to Marseilles and hopes to join in the celebrations next year.

Maryna Stockdale (Rennie) has kept in touch with Janet White (Hanna) and Dorothy Archer (Bendley) both of whom live in the South.

The following from Edith Gibson who wonders if anyone else remembers being at school during the 1914-1918 War? She remembers when soldiers took over the school - in Cooran Terrace - for a few weeks and how delighted they were to have an unexpected holiday! "On the day Armistice was signed all were marched into the playing-ground, her class, not our class - we were in Room 11 and had been moved out. Miss Ferguson came up later with beautiful apologies.

Eileen Young (Oliver) - one of the "1918 Stagers" is now living in Keswick.

Marjory Turner (Spood) has now moved to Macclesfield to be near her daughter and now enjoys "spending their driving time exploring Cheshire and Derbyshire instead of repeatedly travelling on the A1(M) and M62.

Nan Jeffrey (Stirling) from North Sunderland, sometimes may enjoy the "sippets" from the other Old Bedlams who have contacted this year. I hope so!

It was nice to hear news of Kathleen Stromberg (Mullaney) from Kirk Yetholm - my year, I think, Kathleen.

Eileen Fandy (Wood) was one of the many of you who expressed pleasure and thanks for the Centenary weekend - from York. Also from York came Pauline Humphreys (Hunter) and she renewed many friendships - together with Joan Rosewater (Turpin) and Joan's sister Judith. She and Pat Kirk (Lard) meet for coffee on Saturdays.

Ruth McBain (Harrison) writes from Salcombe in Devon.

From Glasgow, St. Cuthbert, Croyd, came a letter from Mary K. Thompson (now Thomas) who left school in the 30's.

Edna Talbot (Ackwood) lives in Sale, Cheshire and Margaret Lock (Benson) in Peterlee and Audrey Milward (Thomas) in Slough, Berkshire. Dorothy Wright (Burge) writes from Brackley in Northants and keeps in touch with Mirie Colling (Morton), Lynn Lacock (Dymond) lives in Norwich and Jean Leitch (Rogiers) writes from Esher, Surrey and has become a Librarian after meeting Mary Newman (Gibby) in the Village Hall.

Kathleen Ralph (McCart) now living in Abingdon, Oxon, recalls being taught the 'Gay Gardens' by Mrs. Bryan in the corridors of Beke (Is that a tale "in school" instead of "out of school"?)

Sylvia Thatcher (Bassett) lives in Thicket, Reading and J. Cecile Stacy (Lynn) lives in Worcester and her mother Gladys Bowman (Stacy) too. Judith Birbeck (Thatcher) at Beke 1954-61 and now living in Buntingford would like to get in touch with her friends from school.

Marjorie Wason (Leman) is now in Leech.

A long letter from Roma Gibson (Kipling) in St. Neots, Cambridgeshire, who recalls her school days, when she was 'left behind from the yearbook' and so spent her days in Guide Uniform winding bandages and unloading laundry at the Royal Infirmary. Later Miss Clark taught a group of girls (in Roma's dining room) French and Latin - so well that when they eventually returned to the 'mixed' school they got top marks for vocabulary. She comments on the 'kindness and charm of "Wally" Taylor and Mr. Johnson to the girls and the arrival of Miss Moul and "mildering-on - happy warrior" and most of all Miss Frankenburg who said "The world is my country. All men are my brothers, in its good to my religion". These words were a great help when Roma had years of teaching West Indians, Asians and Chinese and Italians in Bedford! She remembers - with gratitude - being told "Look it up, don't take anything for granted, question everything, keep an open mind, don't be a stick in the mud." I think Roma has put into words what many of us feel about our years at Beke. She wonders about Margaret Mitchell, Lilian Alexander and Betty Chamfield, Joyce Fenwick, Margaret Hoop, Jean Polson, Fay Morley, Jean Kent and many others.

Maire Hodgson (Spence) was at the Cathedral and would love to hear from any of her contemporaries on 023-573962.

Margaret Robinson (Dixon) tells of another reunion - 12 girls who started school in September 1977. They met in St. Nicholas' Church, Haver Hill in June and hope to have another in 1991 - Irene Mital (Earl) will organize it. Those who met were: Anne Archer - now a Psychiatric Nurse, Jane Thompson (Greenley) is training to be an Anesthetist, Jennifer Crawford (Dixon) who works in Post Graduate Library at Sunderland District General Hospital; Olive Spensby (Coadby) who is married with 2 daughters, Denise Hart (Hardy) who has 3 sons and works at a Special School at Gossett; Sheila Elliot (Bainbridge) works in the Employment Office in Sunderland; Irene Mital (Earl) has 2 sons and a daughter and is a peripatetic teacher; Francis Wason; Debbie Phillips (Dwight) has

2 daughters and lives locally. Sandra Swanson who teaches in Sweden, Jean Burr (Jones) lives locally, Margaret Robinson (Olson) lives locally and is a member of Episcopateamouth Church Society who appreciate the support of Clifford Hartley. At a later date five of them went to Inese Eak's to meet Jacqueline France (Woodley) who was on holiday from Finns.

Elis Davidson (Kirkwood) sends good wishes to you all from Denver. Her health leaves a lot to be desired - but her spirit is as indomitable as ever - like the roses which will bloom in her garden. She wonders how many "outsider" members of the Guild are still alive? Drove coffee with Grace Caldwell (Allinson) and Marjorie Allinson (Minnert) Chair was shown photographs of the dinner and also at the Cathedral and verbal first hand details of the events which compensated a little for being unable to attend. Elis also hears from Mollie Acharhwaite (Taylor) from Kenda, where she helps at the hospital cafeteria and works for the Craft and Produce Staff at Kenda Store. Audrey Burr (Allinson) is also a regular visitor.

NEWS FROM ABOARD

Margaret Guckray (Norway) is coming home to live in the Catskills.

Inese Noholm (Dickinson) on a visit to her daughter in Australia, enjoyed a visit to Inese Gullen (Hodgson) and found Jean Rowell (Kough) and her husband also there and now-stop-chatter ceased. This was continued when all three - and husbands - met again at Inese's daughter's home.

We were all delighted to see Joyce at the dinner and at the Centenary Service in Durban Cathedral - and of course the Canadian crowd were glad to welcome her back in their midst when she attended some Canada parties. We were all very sorry too, to hear of Olive's (Joyce's husband) death so soon after their return to Australia. Our deepest sympathy to you, Joyce.

Jean Brooks (Richard) writes of her pleasure in now having her own copy of the magazine and of her recent visit to Jean Mitchell (Penitely) in Havre. During their "Do you remember sessions" they recalled Branch Kobbler and Sheila Snowball singing in "Solo & Accomp". Maxellie Goodall and Pat Walls who recited beautifully and someone - whether someone unknown was called "Felt Were Were" (who were you really? I wonder?) - teach some ballroom dancing in the hall. Jean Marshall sitting on the radiator singing "It had to be you" Freda Smith (Phillips) writes from Nova Scotia of her years at Bide 1922-26 - of Sports Days - trips to Holland and Norway - of wearing a Department girls' with girls' biology lessons with Miss Stirk, Miss Herbert as Form Mistress; Miss Hagger's efforts to teach French were ignored and later much regretted when Freda moved to Montreal.

It was good to see Dorothy Morrison (Petersen) from Denmark at the Puffin' Billy and to hear of their mini reunion during her stay in Saskatchewan with Jean Marshall (St. John).

SPORTING NEWS

At Holden Golf Club, Joan Graham (Morrison) at the end of her year as Lady Captain, presented two of her lovely prizes to Olga Wright (Stewart) and Winnie Scott (Thomas) while Greta Beards (Pyburn) took photographs.

Jenny Hay (Smith) playing with her grand-daughter, won the foursome prize at Holden Ladies Open Day in August. Jan also won second prize at County Competition at Bishop Auckland Golf Club.

When Peggy Victory (Simons) attended the Annual Rally of the National Keep-Fit Association in the Albert Hall, she was surprised by the whole assembly singing "Happy Birthday" in her honour as Past Chairman. (It was the day of her 79th Birthday).

Whoever would have thought that "our school hall" could contain a "clubbing wall" my youngest son, who represents the North East on the British Mountaineering Council was invited to Peck to discuss the possible sighting of it. What next?

BIRTHS

Dorothy Craig (Chapman) - a daughter.

DEATHS

Margaret Diana Carey (Nolan)

Margaret Mott

Elynda Brown

Miss E. M. Currah

Miss Irene Bell

Pauline Orr (Cochran)

Lillian Wayman (Parker)

Kay Locke (Hawdon)

Dorothy Tranchie

Laura Mary Thatcher (Bakerston)

It was with regret that we heard of the death of Elizabeth Leslie (Chapman), mother of Margaret Chapman (Stewart) our past secretary. Elizabeth was 81 years of age at her 195th birthday and was possibly the oldest Old Peckan.

RETIREMENTS

Ruthie Foster (Lawson)

Enid Noble retired this summer as Headmistress at Crangtown Primary School. She has been awarded an M.B.E. for her 38 years as a teacher "doing a job she really loved and enjoyed". She is now on the Management of Horden Adult Centre - amongst other things.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

This has been a year of nostalgia for us all and a wonderful time, and yet not in some ways for us as Old Ladies. The imminent closure of the School as we know it seems to have made us many cling to and remember very vividly indeed what "Back" meant to them in "their" day. Friendships have been renewed and the Guild is important - more than ever - to so many of us. Many have expressed their thanks to Irene Wilkinson without whom the Guild would seem to exist. May I add my thanks to Irene for her hard work on our behalf and Jean Hayton for her assistance with "keeping the register" and forwarding your magazine - to Dorothy Dugdale for typing for me and to Mr. Scott for mailing our Newsletters.

Your letters to Irene, Jean and myself have been wonderful - keep them coming please.

Our sympathy goes to those who have been bereaved and our prayers for a speedy recovery to those who are ill.

God Bless you all and have a Happy New Year.

Ann Cross.

An interesting discussion at a recent Committee Meeting led to Lily Lawson compiling this list - of those whose names are on our wonderful badge of honour -

Catherine Mullen	1926-33
Mary Mackintosh (Anderson)	1924-33
Blanche McMillan	1920-33
Alice Mason	1926-37
Merle Mackintosh (Hinkley)	1927-39
Ethel Thompson	1947-47
Olwyn Littlehales (Beatty)	1945-47
Catherine Moore	1927-49
Irene Halliday (Dixon)	1928-41
Winifred Scott (Thomas)	1924-43
Lena Thompson	1926-43
Margaret Turner	1926-47
Irene Gidlin (Hodgson)	1927-49
Betty Fowler Scoble	1928-41
Kathleen Scott (Lair)	1944-43
Norm Johnson (Wilson)	1943-45
Ellen Stiel (Widdington)	1947-47
Mary Ashles (Robinson)	1927-49
Ellen Dapson (Kilwood)	1928-71
Wyneth Rough (Mellows)	1975-75
Jean Marshall (B. Allen)	1973-73
Jean Hayton	1926-77
Blanche Cuthbert (Dixon)	1927-79
Nancy Marshall (Cross)	1974-81
Ellen White (Bailey)	1981-83
Margaret Chapman (Hunter)	1981-83
Kathleen Scott (Belton)	1981-87
Jean Koch (Maitland)	1987-89
Lily Richardson (Lawson)	1989-

BALANCE SHEET — 31 September 1959 — 31st August 1960

RECEIPTS

Subscriptions: Annual	13.00	
Life	218.00	231.00
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Donations	140.50	
Meetings	191.00	
Interest	41.50	
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	496.00	496.00
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EXPENDITURE

Printing - magazine	296.00
Stationery	12.50
Postage & Telephones	78.47
School Prize	25.00
Cards	.80
London Branch Expenses	5.00
In Memoriam—	
Miss K. M. Curick	18.00
Credit on year's Working	178.00
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	496.00
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Total Funds on August 31st 1960

Balance on Aug. 31st 1959	5,175.54
Credit on Year's Working	178.00
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	5,353.54
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Made up as follows—

10% War Stock	496.50
T.S.B. Investment acct	828.00
T.S.B. Savings acct	212.75
Barclays Fund	205.50
Cash in Hand	6.79
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	5,353.54
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T. Scott 25-0-60

