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From Our President Dacre Watson (SH 56-62)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very aware that you have not heard from me for some time now and I fully understand that this must have been very frustrating for you. I apologise unreservedly for this but events have been changing so quickly on a daily basis that I thought it best to leave it until things had stabilised.

A great deal has happened since the AGM on 27th June and the Minutes from that meeting can be found elsewhere in the Bulletin. At the AGM Anthony Fox described the work of the Project Management Group (PMG) which he had been asked to head. The PMG would assume responsibility for control of the Charity's assets on 1st September when it was intended that the original Governing Board would stand down.

At the end of the summer term, the 31st August, the school closed its doors. On 4th September four new Governors were appointed and five of the old Governors resigned. The newly appointed Governors were Anthony Fox, Alastair Lord (both OSBs), Shaun Kelso and the Venerable Dr Richard Pratt. Of the old Board, Mark Roberts remained as did the Bishop of Carlisle and the Lord Lieutenant, these last two being ex-officio. The Ven. Dr Richard Pratt was appointed Chairman of the new Governing Board by the outgoing Governors. Anthony Fox has since announced his resignation from the new Board. The intention is that the Governing Body will increase its numbers further by the end of the year.

During these early days of the closure the primary concern of the Board has been to ensure that there is sufficient funding in place so that the school's assets are preserved while options for the future are explored.

The lease on Lonsdale Terrace in favour of the school will likely be surrendered. In this event, the Trustees intend to dispose of the majority of the properties on the Terrace. However, before any of the properties can be put on the market, planning procedures relating to the change of use from school premises to private residences must be completed and this will take some time.

The St Beghian Society Committee: The Committee has held a number of meetings this year, the last one being on 10th October; I couldn't help noticing that with one or two exceptions there was a lot of grey hair (white in my case) on show, and while our present Committee will always continue to provide wise counsel based on a deep knowledge of the St Bees' environment and experience built up over many years, I can see that there is also a need for more younger members to join the Committee in order to build up the experience and knowledge to take over and lead us in the years to come. In particular, I hope those of you in your 40s and 50s will give special consideration to joining us, and we also have a real need for more women in our ranks.

If anyone would like to make enquiries, please in the first instance Email the Society office, and Pam Rumney will put us in touch. I look forward to meeting you soon.

Presidency of the Society: As many of you are probably aware, I became President of the Society in September 2014 and my term of office is due to end in September 2016. In the past, selection of the President has been somewhat haphazard in the sense that the incumbent President approached those whom he knew, enquiring whether he (or she or they) might be interested in taking the job on for the two year term, which is how I came into office.

As you can imagine, the last ten months have been rather different from usual and my learning curve has been closer to the vertical than for most past Presidents. Probably more important now than at any recent time is that the next President should have a sound working knowledge of the Society, how it functions and how the various Trusts are operated. The coming years will not be easy for the Society and I would like to invite those of you who are interested in taking office to offer yourselves now. You would be invited to join the Committee and you would work closely with myself, David Lord, Tony Reeve and Pam Rumney. You would also have the opportunity to meet the Governing Board of the school. Most of all, though, you would quickly build up the experience necessary to hit the ground running as President.

If no one can be found, I am willing to serve another year as President, but we still need new members of the Committee with wide experience. Please do give

some thought to this, and once again I am appealing for women to give some serious thought to serving.

Future of the Society: Really, I should probably title this “Holding the Society together”. I had a rather sad experience recently; I met an OSB in a pub whom I didn’t know particularly well but we started chatting and I said to him that I hoped I might see him at one of the regional dinners. The answer was in the negative since he had lost all faith in the future of the Society. I suspect that he will not be on his own in his thinking and I can only say how profoundly saddened I would be if such a thought process were to gain currency. Of course we are all upset about the events of the past ten months; St Bees formed us in that it instilled in us that peculiar ethos which makes us think and believe we can overcome all adversity and tempest which befalls us. How many times in the past have we heard from each other: “St Bees instilled in me that resilience to overcome disappointment, whatever it might be”?

This year I have attended three Branch Dinners: Bristol, West Cumbria and this last weekend I was up in Edinburgh for the Scottish Dinner; in November I shall be in Newcastle. In the first instance I would like to thank those Branch Secretaries who have worked so hard to bring us together, and I hope that the dinners will continue to grow in popularity. These occasions are an opportunity for all of us to share a common interest, a shared experience and to re-establish old friendships and acquaintances, perhaps even remember the good times.

It’s tough, I know, on those who have to do all the work in organising events; we need to share this workload better and I would appeal to those of you who in the past have not taken a great deal of interest, except to just turn up, to get involved and help us to restore that esprit which in the past has carried us through.

Below I have written of my vision for St Bees. The obvious question is “Will it happen?” Well, it might not but if we do not try at all then we will fail. I am sure that collectively this is not what we want.

I fully intend to keep you all far more up to date in the future and I promise that these letters will not be as long as this one. However, with no new OSBs joining the Society after last July we will be faced with a funding problem and this raises the question of sending out hard copy news to those who are not on the internet, some 700 of you. If there are any of you who can bear to give up your hard copies and receive instead the electronic version, then Pam would like to hear from you and we will take you off the Royal Mail list.

The Future: In conclusion, it seems bizarre to me that only a year ago I was writing an optimistic newsletter and Bulletin. The closure of the school has been

devastating, not only for us Old St Beghians but also for all those involved as students, teachers and support staff as well as parents and everyone in the village of St Bees.

I can only offer my personal sympathy and understanding to all those who have been so deeply affected by the unhappy events which have unfolded since the beginning of the year. That this has happened during my Presidency will remain with me for the rest of my life. That said, it is vital that the Society now looks to the future and is as involved and supportive as possible of the new Board of Governors, which I know intends to have a broader base of skills and interests than in the past, in particular seeking a greater involvement of people living and working in Cumbria as they work to re-establish education here. They have started well and we wish them Godspeed.

My own vision is that education will once more take place at St Bees and that the Society will be involved in supporting it. I ask you all to help in making this vision a reality.

I cannot finish this letter without acknowledging and thanking David Lord, Tony Reeve and Pam Rumney for the very hard work they get through in both supporting me and, of course, all of you. We owe them a very great deal.

My very best wishes to you all,

Dacre Watson.

(Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/aut15bulletin>)

The School Archives

OSBs will be both pleased and relieved to learn that in July the archives of the school were sold by the Governors to The St Beghian Society. As well as books and papers this includes such things as photographs, paintings, trophies, historic clothing and memorabilia of all kinds. The possession of this collection by the Society will ensure that this important part of the heritage of both the school and the social history of Cumbria is safely preserved for the future.

Future contributions to the archives and general enquiries relating to the history of the school will continue to be warmly welcomed.

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OSB NOTES

Bill Affleck (SH 45-51) and Drew Herdman (SH 45-48) have produced the following article. I think Bill's suggestion which follows is worth developing and I would be glad to hear from any OSBs who would write up an account of their 'five years' from 1951 onwards. Such articles would be a valuable record of the social history of the school. (Ed)

"I have been pondering on the land marks in the school's history along the way to the current situation. It occurred to me that it might be possible to reconstruct this from the memories of Old St Beghians, each recalling their time at school. The attached is such a reconstruction from the immediate post war period. If this could be combined with similar memories from subsequent, say 5-year periods we might have a document which would be, at least, interesting and possibly useful."

"St Bees in 1945 was probably not a very different place from what it had been in the early 1900s when my father was a pupil. It was all boys and, essentially, all boarders. Dormitories and day rooms meant that there was little privacy. You arrived by train at the start of term and you left by train at the end of term. For some of the new boys this would be their first stay away from home; for others, boarding in a prep school would have prepared you. For the older, returning boys, it was of course familiar country which gave a sense of superiority. For the overwhelming majority, parents were people with whom you corresponded (by letter) and who might appear for Speech Day (sometimes in Rolls Royces or Bentleys with a chauffeur in attendance) but certainly didn't expect and weren't expected to visit during term time. One result of this was that we knew remarkably little about other boys' parents, whether they were of a comparable class to our own or richer or poorer. The school was a great social leveller in this respect. In fact in quite a lot of cases the boys were the offspring of parents who were already in business and were leaders in their fields, and in many cases the boy would later follow in the father's footsteps.

Pupils would probably have had no idea of the economics of the school at that time. They wouldn't know what it cost their parents to put them through St Bees but, obviously, it was dramatically less than it would cost now - and that would still be true if you took the inflationary corrections out of it. We knew, dimly, that the school had been in financial trouble before the war (falling enrolment following the Great Depression) and had been bailed out by the Old Boys, but that was history and in the austere post war climate, the financial health of the school wasn't a (visible) concern. We probably thought the school had significant

income from its holdings on St Bees Head, not least from the mining which was getting underway.

You started as a fag, fetching and carrying for a prefect and, if you deserved it (and sometimes when you didn't), being disciplined. There were intermediate levels of repression so that the lower orders didn't get ideas above their station; your place in the hierarchy was known to both those above and below you and it was a prerequisite of a tolerably quiet life that you knew it too. In School House there were four levels, first year students were housed in Baby Dayroom and their own dormitory - cold water only. Then year two you moved into the Big Dayroom which meant that you were no longer called on to do 'fagging' and had your own cubicle. Third year you moved into Junior Studies and a couple of years later, if you were still there, into Senior Studies. Of course within any year group not all the boys were equal and some no doubt don't have very happy memories of school; we didn't think of it as bullying but that would probably be the label now. Then there was the business of sex. In a single-sex school some homosexual activity was inevitably a part of school life. Did some boys emerge 'damaged' by the experience? Perhaps, but at the time it just seemed part of the normal pattern of school life and by no means was everyone involved. The senior boys would almost certainly have preferred girls - but the supply was limited almost to the point of non-existence.

Over the six or seven years of your schooling you might progress to being a prefect and having a fag and beating the odd malefactor. There were housemasters, but the running of the houses was, in practice, left very much to the house prefects. The prefects were gods. They lived, literally and mentally, far above us lesser mortals and ruled the roost with an iron fist, not the proverbial hand. The head prefect even ruled the lesser ones. The sanctions available to the prefects were varied. The level of punishment depended somewhat on your level in the hierarchy and the level of transgression.

For example, a minor offence such as burning a prefect's toast would earn you five runs (or a hefty smack). This meant that you had to run five times around the circumference of the house, watched by and the runs counted by the prefect who ordered the punishment. There was in the bowels of the house the boiler room where the coke-fed boiler resided which produced hot water. You could be sent there with a couple of rounds of bread and a toasting fork to produce your prefect's toast. As the door into the furnace was a bit on the small side there would be much shoving and pushing to get a good place but this led at times to toast being either underdone or overdone. This would lead to the five runs penalty. For somewhat graver offences you might get a hard smack on the legs or round the ear, and that was that for a minor matter. For graver offences you got a serious beating; this had overtones of a march to the scaffold. So how was it done?

The house knew you were for it, and just before turning in time you were taken down to the cellars where the boiler room and the changing rooms were. Beside the boiler room there was a drying room with a sliding door. And into this room you were put to wait. The door was shut. Silence for a few minutes then the sound of footsteps. It sounded like rigger boots on concrete, which it may well have been, they went past the door, up and down, up and down. Talk about psycho/terror. Eventually the door crashed back and you were led into the changing room. The first thing you saw was the chair - just an ordinary chair, but with its back to you. Standing in one corner was the Housemaster, who had to witness punishment, to see that it did not get really out of hand. The beater stood there with the cane in his hand. This was a split bamboo with some insulating tape at various intervals. You were then told to bend over the back of the chair and to hold the seat with both hands; you could not see the beater as he was behind you - and he took a run at you, several steps - Step, step, step and then pain. This was repeated until the designated number of strokes was administered. Not all prefects were equally proficient at beating - but you got what you got. But, and this was a point of honour, you never yelled, shouted or screamed no matter how it hurt - and you just blinked away any tears too. No sign of weakness was ever to be shown. When you got to your dormitory the others were all agog. You then had to show your stripes. In a way it earned you Brownie Points, as you were seen by the younger set and your peers to be tough. In a way you were, even to yourself. Strange as it may seem people often cannot remember the offences for which they were beaten. Punishment, then and even now was not for the offence committed - but being caught at it.

Just as individuals in the school knew their place so the school collectively 'knew its place'. St Bees was a minor public school, never in contention with the Etons and Harrows. We were, however, very definitely in the same league as Rossall or Sedbergh, Durham or King Williams, IOM and any suggestion that these were in any significant way superior to St Bees would have been seen as treasonable. The local, west Cumbrian, schools, grammar or 'normal' were in a league below and almost beneath contempt. The village boys were 'wacketts' and formal contact non-existent. The same loyalty issues were apparent within the school. We were of and for our house with an almost blind conviction that ours, be it School House, Foundation North, Foundation South, or Grindal was the best. Houses competed against each other in almost every field of activity.

By modern standards the level of creature comforts provided was meagre - but many of us would have come to school from homes devoid of central heating or unlimited hot water (weekly baths were scheduled rather than an everyday expectation and woe betide anyone who filled the bath to more than five inches depth). During all our time at school rationing was still in force so the meals served were adequate rather than inspiring. Cafeteria style feeding had not yet

arrived and we sat, were served, and were made 'truly thankful for what we received'. While from the pupils' standpoint it might have seemed rough, from the school's standpoint it kept the cost of supporting boarders down. A word about health care; houses had their matrons, who were the first line for sore throats, cuts and bruises and strains - rugby produced its proper quota of injuries - and other complaints. Although matrons were one of the more sympathetic elements of the school infrastructure, they weren't a completely soft touch; the basic prescription was to get on with life at school. Infectious diseases, mumps, measles and the like, were a different matter. We had the Sanatorium, in Lonsdale Terrace, to which you were dispatched until the risk of infecting others passed. The 'San' was a great leveller in that infection was no respecter of seniority; plebs and prefects were forced to co-habit. The radio (or was it still the wireless?) provided a link with the outside world and very well remembered was a sixth former telling us that no, we couldn't 'bloody well listen to Dick-****-Barton' - perhaps the levelling wasn't that complete!

Academic achievement was recognised but in the general perception of the boys - and most of the masters - holding a place on the rugby 1st XV was a more significant achievement than excellent High School Certificate results. These were long before the days when there was any expectation that going on to university would be seen as a normal goal; yes, some did, but very often it was a surprising discovery that someone whose reputation at school rested on his performance on the rugby field had academic potential as well. Although there was, and remains amongst Old St Beghians, a strong sporting bias the school was by no means a cultural desert; there was music (with, inevitably, inter-House competitions), drama (Gilbert and Sullivan was very much in vogue during my time), and debating. We went to the cinema in Whitehaven (I have memories of seeing Olivier's Henry V from the extreme end of the front row) and there were 16mm film shows in Big School, not always technically trouble free (memories of an interrupted screening of 'The Lady Vanishes' of which it was said (T. A. Brown) that it was the film not the lady who vanished!).

In an era before 'league tables' it's difficult to gauge the school's academic performance. With 'tri-weekly' test results we knew where we stood in relation to our peers and if there were any expressions of concern about our competitiveness with other schools in our league, we didn't know of them. We emerged (apparently) adequately qualified for the job market. What we did carry away from school was a certain toughness (to which the short trousers and Cumbrian weather no doubt contributed as well as the school regime) and a sense of responsibility. Basic training during National Service presented few terrors for the old St Beghian, nor, we're told, did prison. The other thing, looking back from 2015, was the sense of rightness for the school and the way it ran. There were no

advocates for change; this was the way things were; it was good enough for our predecessors and it would be good enough for those who would follow us. That was the way it looked in 1951.”

Bill Affleck (SH 45-51) writes:

“I enjoyed Robert Bodenham’s reminders of the 1940s. I came to St Bees in 1945 and there was, of course, a lot of continuity from the war years. His mention of the staff members particularly stirred memories. What an influence these men (and women) had on the future direction of our lives. Of the masters Robert remembers many still appear on the 1948 school photo. P.G. Gow was acting Headmaster in 1945; the replacement for Mr Boulter as Head having failed to show up. I was never taught by him but as Headmaster he wasn’t very impressive. In no particular order I remember ‘Monk’ Matthews, who assessed my musical capabilities in short order with the equivalent of ‘don’t call us we’ll call you’. Years later in a House music competition I was invited to open my mouth in time with the music but not to let any sound come out. (Yes, he was ‘Monk’ to us, not ‘Monkey’ as in Robert’s account). He ran an Austin 7 which, on one occasion, was lifted and placed across School House lane; it must have taken a seventeen point turn to extricate it! He shared Barony House with ‘Doc’ Learoy, from whom I (briefly) learned some colourful history, and Miss Widdas, who taught art; a lovely person. T.A. Brown was firmly established as Housemaster of Foundation North. Foundation South was under Dr Ehrenberg, who would leave St Bees, change his name to Elton and, as a Professor in, I think, Birkbeck College, forge a distinguished academic career. TAB was responsible for an ‘entertainment’ at the end of the Christmas terms with some wicked lyrics; one I remember went ‘Mr Lever has the biggest teeth you ever saw. He uses them to strip the Bren machine guns in the Corps. The Major won’t demob him so he keeps on saying Lor’. Peter Lever taught French and yes, he had impressive teeth and yes he did say ‘Lor’. Mary (Snippets) Brown taught us history for School Certificate, made it live and left me with a lifelong interest in history. Mention Bismark to me to this day and she and her cyclostyled notes and snippets come back to mind. ‘The Nardle’ Thompson taught us English. He had the upstairs room adjacent to Staff Room and his hall-mark trick was to throw a confiscated comb from his desk through a fairly narrow top light in the window at the other end of the room; I can’t remember him ever missing. Why ‘The Nardle’? I’ve no idea. Below was Mr Aston’s room and mathematics. Robert remembers him as a ‘quiet sort of man’ but my memory is of a sleeping volcano in whose class you dared not be stupid. The warning sign of an eruption was ‘we’ll do it in buns’. He was a first class teacher and, thanks to him, I’ve never had problems with integrals, differential equations and the like. Martin P.L. Wall, not long out of the Royal Air Force, taught physics; enthusiastic but, frankly, not very effective. Cyril W. Wood, who

taught chemistry and was a very different proposition and it's certainly thanks to him that my career at university and afterwards went in the direction it did. In hindsight his teaching methods weren't all that inspiring. He'd teach for about half the lesson then retire to his desk where he would mark scripts for the exam boards while dictating notes - but, hey, it worked. Others? There was, of course, Henry (The Drizzle) Reekie, who was Headmaster during most of my time at St Bees. I like him a lot and treasure a memory of him hailing me with the words 'you're looking strangely respectable'; no comment on the context or accuracy of this accusation! 'Dickey' Dearle steered me to my only School Certificate Distinction - in Latin - and lifelong interest in the theatre. Mr Gee, Housemaster of Grindal, memorable for chiding someone swearing at one of the fire-stop doors in Grindal with 'it shuts asbestos it can'. He taught in the back part of Big School and had a spy hole in the partition behind his desk so he could keep an eye on whatever was going on in the other half. Then there was The Rev Sampson, vicar of St Bees, who Robert (like me) recalls as reputedly conducting a service in his rugby boots; you've heard it twice now - it must be true. And Paul Williams, an inspiration in literature and drama..... We owe so much to these people; our memories of them are not always respectful but, truly, we're grateful."

Richard Bourne (G 60-65) writes:

"Just a note to let you know I am still in the land of the living. I have been following the sad tale of the school's troubles, so poignant in this year of the centenary of the Great War, which I have been studying recently. I am a retired 'country gent' in Oban, where one or two other sea-connected Old Boys have washed up: the late Dave Tighe and Robin Turner, both of Grindal and both divers like myself (me in a non-professional capacity, unlike the other two). During my working life I was twice a union representative, first with Foden Motors and then with Macclesfield Borough Council. In Scotland, to where we moved in 1990, I worked maintaining a fleet of yachts before employment on fish and shellfish farms, ending up as Britain's only full-time duck-scarer on a mussel farm! I have to say though that work has never been my main interest and I have always had a string of hobbies: sailing, diving, gliding, Scouting, and now riding as a volunteer with the local Riding for the Disabled group. I have enjoyed good health throughout my life, thanks probably to restricted diet and constant exercise while at school! I was married for twenty-seven years before divorcing and have two grown up children and now two young grandchildren. I live now with my Dutch partner. I never thought I had much of interest to report but it is funny how one's views change as one gets older."

Mike Charnley (FN 70-75) sends an update:

“Each time I read the Bulletin I wonder what has happened in the lives of the people I knew from my time in 1970-75 because I rarely see any news from that period.

Yet again I am on a drilling rig as I write this in the Persian Gulf close to the border with Iran.

This year I am working in peaceful Doha compared to the quick bus trip out of Tripoli over to Tunis last year!

With yet another oil crisis in our industry I hope I will still be working by the second half of this year!

At least I have my house back in Malaysia; no heating bills to worry about!

See what happens when you study geology as I did back in my last few years at St Bees!”

(Well, what about it you OSBs from the 1970s? Give us some updates and we will gladly print them - Ed.)

Stephen J. Edwards (FN 52-57) recalls the ‘50s:

“Many congratulations to Robert Bodenham on his fascinating three-part description of wartime life at St Bees from 1940 to 1943. Arriving at St Bees myself in 1952, I can assure him that, even by then, little had changed! Many of the traditions and customs he mentions were still going strong, both good and bad!

I have never felt so lonely in all my life as I did when my father, having driven me from home in Newcastle, shook my hand, said goodbye and disappeared down the hill from Meadow House on a fine early autumn afternoon in 1952. Despite having been a boarder for a year at preparatory school, I was about to enter an entirely new world of austerity and challenging experiences, some enjoyable and some utterly miserable. Nothing that life has thrown at me since has been worse than my bleakest moments at St Bees!

I will never forget those years from 1952 to 1957, which provided a robust preparation for the world to follow and for which, surprisingly, I will always be grateful.

I was not much good at sport but, after prayers one evening on Foundation, that famous Housemaster, T.A. Brown, awarded me with an athletics ‘Standards’ tie for trying hard. I still possess that tie.

My main interest, however, was in art and I owe a huge debt to Margaret Widdas, who taught music and art and greatly encouraged my appreciation and understanding of architecture. She often invited me for afternoon tea on Sundays at her beautiful pink Georgian house in Whitehaven after I had done sketches of other Georgian houses in that fine eighteenth century town. It was a luxurious escape, if only temporary! We later exchanged Christmas cards for many years

until she died.

Also, I was greatly encouraged in Art, Literature and Drama by Paul Williams, who taught English with real flair and was Assistant Housemaster on Foundation. When touring the dayrooms during prep he often stopped at my 'cubicle' to chat about my drawings and paintings displayed above the little desk. I am still in contact with him when I visit London and he still has my stage backcloth design for Sheridan's 'The School for Scandal', in which I played the part of Sir Peter Teazle with J.D.S. (Tim) Brown as Lady Teazle!

I had to fight for the right to attend art lessons, which took place in games times and for which grudging permission had to be obtained from prefects suspecting that I was 'skiving'! I won the art prize each year because so few did the subject! I ended up teaching art at Loretto in Scotland, where my Headmaster at St Bees, James Wykes, had previously taught classics and where he was a Governor when I started teaching there.

Another teacher I remember well was S.T. Aston, who taught maths, at which I was hopeless. He, too, greatly encouraged my interest in art by giving me up for lost and allowing me to sit and draw at the back of the class when, to his and my amazement one lesson, I was able to give the correct answer to a problem on the blackboard and saved the class from being kept in for not seeing it!

I remember delightful French lessons, full of red herrings, with Sam Parkinson, who organised a splendid Lower Sixth Form trip to Paris and amused us with his wartime experiences as an army officer in Madagascar! He gave me my nickname 'Ted'. Another excellent teacher was Harold Last, who taught music and trained the choir, including me, to a high standard of singing. Also, I have to thank that great enthusiast for railway timetables, Anthony Dearle, for rescuing me from the CCF by asking me to help him run the scouts. My 'Cert. A. Part 2' tests had ended in ignominious failure when I marched an entire squad from the Terrace into the Chapel, much to the anger of Sergeant Major Shaw of the Border Regiment, who bawled me out and was infuriated when I suggested that he was being rather unreasonable!

Five fellow pupils I will never forget. Peter Greggains, who taught me so much about jazz when playing records in Fifth dayroom and was nicknamed 'Dean' because he was an ardent fan of the film star James Dean. Nigel Lister, who was interested in architecture and developed the art of winding up teachers to hitherto unknown heights of sophistication! Michael Cullen, who played the chapel organ with such aplomb. Roger Hayes, who taught me to appreciate classical music. Lastly, Peter Stewart, who went on to train for the Royal Navy at Dartmouth and was Best Man at my Wedding in 1964.

Finally, during those glorious last few summer days after 'A' Levels, I was recommended by Mary Brown, T.A. Brown's wife, who taught history, to paint a picture of Brigadier and Mrs Sowton's charming Georgian house on the opposite

side of the valley, where I was generously supplied with strawberries and cream as I worked away in their lovely garden.

Happy memories tinged with sadness that St Bees School may soon be no more. Let us hope that it will quickly rise again in another equally successful form, making good use of its splendid range of red sandstone buildings and beautiful setting.

Footnote: My sincere thanks to Ian "Dent" Nimmo, with whom I was on Foundation, for the most interesting information from our schooldays at St Bees, which he lent to me when we last met at the 2013 Old St Beghian North East Branch Dinner. This included a copy of a pen and ink drawing I made of Foundation for a school publication entitled 'Ingredere ut Proficias 1941-1956'; photographs he took as lighting expert of that great production 'Ruddigore', featuring Anthony Dearle singing the part of Richard and me painting scenery in the, fortunately empty, school baths; and a 'Michaelmas Term, 1954' school list. Also, I have happy memories of Fred Merrill, who took 'O' Level Art with me and who did superb drawings of racing cars. I think he went on to work for Jaguar and eventually lived in Hong Kong.

Finally, I still occasionally find myself imitating some of Cyril Wood's brilliantly sarcastic remarks, delivered with a strong Yorkshire accent, in his unforgettable chemistry lessons!"

Peter Lord (G 58-62) has written:

"The recent photos of the new chapel organ certainly brought back memories to me. If I remember correctly, during my time as a treble in the school choir and not being one of the lead singers, my role at chapel each morning was to sit next to the organ console. For two years or more, I was one of Donald Leggat's piano pupils and he seemed to think it beneficial for me to look up the hymn and chant numbers etc. each day. This was to ensure all was ready for the 'master's' arrival to play the organ. He would normally role up with about five minutes to spare and then quickly launch forth into a brief but dramatic improvisation. Minutes later the Head and the Chaplain took their places. Although in itself a straight forward job, on occasions, mistakes were made either by me or in the written instructions previously given to me. Needless to say confusion could erupt without warning and either way I frequently sat in fear and trembling of Donald's early morning mood, not knowing if all was well until the service was effectively over! I am sure he would have admitted to ruling with a rod of iron and not being known for his patience!

Also, as I may have mentioned in years gone by, in due course I had a brief spell studying the organ with Donald. I was by no means his star pupil, but do remember D. J. Frith (F 60-63), a fellow chorister and organ pupil. He made great progress with the instrument and at the end of the services would frequently take

over from Donald and play the closing voluntary. Perhaps a Bach prelude or fugue was not unusual. I have often wondered how his musical life developed after St Bees. However, as far as I was concerned, thankfully Donald Leggat helped me make a start and I have been playing the instrument ever since. Throughout my adult life, I have been fortunate to have held several posts as a parish church organist in the UK and for the last four years have played regularly for Heswall United Reform Church in the Wirral, which is where I now live. I was particularly interested to read that the chapel organ had been modernised and upgraded by Makin - a renowned UK digital organ manufacturer. My memory is of a two-manual pipe organ and now it appears to have three manuals - but how many pipes? Is the instrument now 100% digital and no longer a conventional pipe organ?

My musical education at St Bees was varied but moderate in its success, but I have always been grateful for it. It enabled me to have years of musical enjoyment in the time that has followed; probably more by watching and listening rather than straight forward tuition. Donald taught me more than he will ever know and I have long been thankful for this.”

SNIPPETS.....

Michael Ferns (SH 53-58) writes: ‘Should any OSBs be in Sydney (Australia) I would be pleased to meet them, be it for a coffee or to show them around parts of the northern areas not normally covered by the tour companies. I am also a member of the Lions Club of St Ives, so if any OSBs would like to attend a Lions Club meeting while in Sydney, they would be most welcome to come to my club as guests. We meet on the second Monday of each month for dinner.’ Michael’s email address is msferns@bigpond.net.au.

Dr Bill Frankland (FN 26-30), who celebrated his 103rd birthday in March, was awarded an MBE for services to Allergy research in the Queen’s Birthday Honours list in June 2015.

Francesca Osowska (L 81-86) was awarded an OBE for services to Government and the Commonwealth Games in the Queen’s New Year’s Honours in January 2015.

NEW - School Team Photographs

Several School Team photos from the **80s and 90s** have now been posted on the Society website at www.st-beghian-society.co.uk.

Please help us to name the Team, Year and People. (All photos are numbered).

We look forward to hearing from you with any details you can provide.

OBITUARIES

Anthony Brian Chadwick (SH 49-52).

Karen Chadwick has submitted the following regarding her late father:

During his time at St Bees he was a keen member of the school choir as well as playing the organ from time to time. He also enjoyed both rugby and boxing. After his school days my father joined the National Provincial Bank in Cocker mouth prior to being called up for the Suez conflict. Following this he returned to banking, in which he spent his whole working life, finally retiring as a senior manager with the Nat. West. He also enlisted with the Territorials eventually rising to the rank of major. The final twenty two years of his life were spent with his wife in Cornwall.

Thomas Charles Elliott (F 33-39).

The following notice has been submitted by Mrs Jennifer Elliott:

Thomas died on 28th March 2014. He was born in Stockport in 1921, the youngest of four children. Shortly afterwards the family moved to Cumbria where his father was employed in the Civil service. Tom's father loved the countryside and every summer they decamped to an isolated cottage near Egremont, where he and Tom spent many happy hours beachcombing. Summer breaks became longer and longer until the cottage became their permanent home. Facilities were basic with no electricity supply but Tom's mother managed to cater for everyone on a primus oven. When the cottage became full to bursting, Tom would pitch a tent in the garden for himself and the dog. He loved his schooldays at St Bees and excelled at cricket and rugby, retaining a lifelong interest in both sports.

On leaving school Tom began a maths degree at Liverpool University. However, after a year, and not being particularly academic, he was relieved to leave the course and join the Lancashire Fusileers. After training in Essex he was seconded to the 18th Royal Garhwal Rifles and sent to India. He loved the people and the culture there and learnt a little Urdu, practising it whenever he could on his return home. Towards the end of the war he served in Burma, Ceylon and Sumatra in conditions that were extremely volatile and dangerous.

Following demobilisation in 1947 Tom completed a short business course and joined west Cumberland Silk Mills as a quality controller. We met there when I was on work experience from my design course at the Royal college of Art. We married in 1955 and subsequently moved to Crosby, where Tom joined the personnel department at Littlewoods warehouses. After further training he was

appointed personnel manager of a new company in Bolton, building up a staff of 1400 employees. He remained with the company until his retirement in 1986. He was immensely proud of our two children, Lucie and Tim, and their families. His grandchildren, Holly, Jack and Eleanor were a constant joy to him. He followed their progress through school and university with great interest, always on hand to listen and advise. He was passionate about the Lake District and together we walked most of the fells and hills. We all miss his calm, philosophical approach to life, his interest in everything and everybody, his sense of humour and his total dependability and helpfulness. Since his death we have lost count of the number of times people have referred to him as a true gentleman.

Nigel John Gilpin (Master 62-66), 1933-2014.

Janet Gilpin has kindly supplied the following notice:

Nigel was born in 1933, the only child of Hubert, a merchant navy captain, and Vera, in North London. He attended Highgate School during the war years and sang in their excellent choir, recording with Sir Malcolm Sargent. He developed a deep love of music there which stayed with him throughout his life. He excelled in English, which he read at Selwyn College Cambridge; but he was also a serious sportsman, representing the school at soccer (in goal) and cricket, a sporting career which he continued in Cambridge, captaining both sides at Selwyn. His particular loves of Arsenal FC and Middlesex CCC were fostered by regular visits to Highbury and Lords with his father; cricket teas when keeping wicket and batting for Totteridge led to his meeting with his beloved Janet, whom he married in 1957.

His teaching career began at Taunton School (1955-1962), where he taught English and contributed hugely to the sporting success of the school, and from there he moved to be Head of English at St Bees School (1962-66), before moving from the independent to the state sector as Head of English at the Crypt School, Gloucester (1966-69). Sport continued to play an important role in his life as he laid down cricket and took up golf, which at his peak he played off a handicap of two. He then went as Deputy Head to Hele's School in Exeter (1969-72) before being appointed at the young age of 38 to lead Poole Grammar School: the Governors insisted on a second round of interviews before finalising this somewhat daring appointment.

As Head of PGS, Nigel led the school through a period of strong development and change, as the teaching profession itself changed. He continued to find recreation in golf (living opposite Broadstone Golf Course until 1982), music (the BSO) and theatre, and developed a strong commitment to the work of the magistracy. He became Chair of Poole Bench in 1991, and after retirement took a full part in training and developing magistrates both locally and nationally. He and Janet moved to Bere Regis in 1982 to a home in which he developed a new sporting

interest, in snooker, as he laid down the golf clubs. After retirement he was honoured to be appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Dorset, and he and Janet travelled widely, enjoying cultural cruises and tours of French vineyards, both on their own and with family and friends. Even though in later years travel became more restricted, he and Janet continued to explore Britain and Dorset, and his commitment to Janet and his family; to education; society; community and his sporting loves never wavered. He is survived by Janet, his two sons, Jeremy and Tim, and his grandsons Matthew and Charlie.

(Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/aut15bulletin>)

William F. (Bill) Gough (SH 51-56).

The following is an edited version of the tribute delivered by John Hewitson (SH 52-57) at the funeral service.

Growing up, as I did, in Calderbridge, the adjoining village to Beckermest, I knew Bill from a very early age as we went down the coast as boarders to Seascale Prep. School. I still have some grainy photos from those days, including one showing us both queuing up with our mess tins at the annual school camp at Wasdale Head. The year was 1951 - the year that Bill came up the coast here to St Bees. We were both on School House. Although, after school, we were often located very far apart, we always kept in touch.

By his own admission, Bill was not a leading light in the academic firmament. However, he always buckled down and applied himself - as indeed he did at games, where he was an enthusiastic and invaluable team player. I remember vividly our partnering each other on the fives court to great effect!

It's often said, isn't it, that every child has a latent talent and, in a sense, the job of education is to find out what it is. In Bill's case, that job was really quite easy. From his earliest school days, he revealed two particular talents that were to be a feature, not to say a hallmark of his life. First, Bill was someone with a tremendous flair for making and mending things. Although he spent his entire working life as a lawyer, I've often wondered what the world would have seen if, instead of law, Bill had chosen engineering as a career path. He was always at his happiest when tinkering with machinery - and what machines some of them were! There was a hovercraft, and also go-karts designed and made by himself, which he then proceeded to race with relish round the go-karting circuit at Rowrah. And who will forget all those other machines that were made at that wonderfully hospitable family home at Beckermest?

The other talent that quickly came to the fore at school (and made him so popular) was, as everyone here knows, Bill's supreme talent for telling a good yarn. He could always see the funny side of things. He was one of the best raconteurs you could ever meet, and he loved to share that infectious and, sometimes impish, sense of humour of his with anyone he met. In fact, he shared it nationally.

Listeners to Radio Cumbria will be familiar with 'Harry of Calderbridge', the listener whose wry and amusing comments about bureaucracy and officialdom were a regular and keenly awaited feature of that programme. Harry, of course, was the pseudonym for Bill of Beckermet! What I especially admired about Bill was the way he could appeal to young people. They adored his storytelling and his unique command of the English language.

It's well known that Bill was a pillar of the legal community in Whitehaven. There must be many of the staff and clients of HFT Gough & Son who will recall that Bill was not only an extremely able lawyer, but also was someone who took such great care to come up with sound, practical advice and to communicate it to his clients, simply and effectively. Most important of all though, he possessed in abundance that priceless quality - that quality not given to all lawyers - common sense. Whenever Bill was confronted with a particularly knotty legal problem, his immediate instinct was to ask himself the simple question, I wonder what the Common Sense Act would have to say about this? And if the provisions of that particular Act didn't accord with the laid down canons of English law, he would then strive to try and find a legal way to deal correctly with the problem in a practical and sensible way.

In later years Bill spent much of his time managing the practice in Whitehaven. He was well suited to this; he was extremely methodical and he was an exceptionally good organiser. However, he was also one of the most sensitive of men. He cared deeply about other people's welfare and well-being. You never saw Bill consciously offend anyone. He always gave his clients all the time they needed.

Away from work and the office, Bill's organisational skills really did come to the fore. You saw this time and time again whenever something needed to be done in the local community. Whether it was the Gosforth Show, the Calderbridge Plant Sale or any community project for that matter; if Bill were involved, and invariably he was, the whole event could be guaranteed to go like clockwork and with a sense of fun. He was indeed one of life's born organisers.

Looking back on Bill's life there can be no doubt that St Bees was a part of the world that meant so much to him. His life was deeply fashioned by his schooling here. His own children were all educated here. He followed in his father's footsteps here by becoming Clerk to the Governors - and holding that post with distinction for over 20 years. And, even after he stepped down as Clerk, it was always apparent how much St Bees meant to Bill and how much he yearned to see the school prosper. I know only too well how saddened he was by the recent turn of events. But, let us perhaps remind ourselves, and let us perhaps draw some strength from the fact that, if Bill were Clerk today, his fertile mind would be busy dreaming up some scheme or other to try and safeguard the educational heritage of this special part of the world.

Bill himself was a special person - witness the huge congregation here today - but he was also, above all else, a tremendous example to us all of how to be a family man. Tricia was the centre of his life for over 53 years, and you only had to speak to Bill for a few moments about Belinda, Sara and Nigel and their families and you quickly realised how proud he was of them all and how much the whole family meant to him.

We join them in giving thanks for Bill's life and for the sheer joy that he brought to all in that special and inimitable way of his, in a way that was truly all his own.

(Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/aut15bulletin>)

Ian Harcombe (SH 51-56). Fraser Harcombe kindly submitted the following notice about his father:

Ian Harcombe died in June aged 76.

Following a period of National Service in the navy he trained as an accountant and having qualified he practised in industry until his early 60s.

He worked in the textile industry in Macclesfield for a number of years, notably at Adamley Textiles, a silk manufacturer in Macclesfield. In future years he and his wife Tina would help to run the Silk Education Service.

He was a keen walker and walked the coast to coast walk twice, the length of the Leeds Liverpool Canal, and climbed the three peaks of Snodownia, Ben Nevis and Scafell Pike in 24 hours. He also trekked along the Grand Canyon and climbed Kilimanjaro.

Ian was also an accomplished dry-stone waller, notably building a wall at the family home, Parkett Heyes House, for what seemed like months on end!

Following his retirement he cruised around the world three times on the same freighter, Boularibank, and on the last trip the ship was attacked by Somali pirates! When he wasn't aboard ship he could be found most days at the Anson Engine Museum in Poynton, Cheshire in his overalls – generally finishing the day with a small fire!

His main love, however, aside from his family was cricket. He played from his childhood through to his forties; playing as wicket keeper for Prestbury Cricket Club for many years until his knees told him to stop. He was treasurer of the club and was a Life Member and Vice President. Once he stopped playing he continued to watch the game whenever possible and travelled all over the world to watch England play in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the West Indies. He was there when Viv Richards scored 189 in a one-day international at Old Trafford in 1984, also when Devon Malcolm took 9 wickets for 57 runs at the Oval against South Africa in 1994, and he was there when Brian Lara scored his 400 not out against England in Antigua in 2004 - special times! He will be sadly missed.

Jim Harcombe (SH 50-55), Ian's brother, writes:

Ian and I were very great friends throughout his life. He was only fifteen months younger than I and we grew up together through our education. We both went to a boarding preparatory school in Cheshire followed by public school at St Bees. After Ian retired and after his wife had died, he spent two or three months each year with us in Hout Bay during the British winters. This continued until he contracted Parkinson's disease. It was this awful disease that caused his early death.

W. Nelson Hewitson (SH 53-58).

John Hewitson (SH 52-57) kindly provided the following:

Over 200 folk (including several OSBs) attended the funeral of Nelson Hewitson in Cottingham, Yorkshire on 28 April. He was 74 and had been suffering from cancer since late last year.

Nelson followed his elder brother to St Bees from Seascale Prep School in 1953. In June 1957 he scored over 100 not out against Rossall - one of the few centuries scored by a school First XI batsmen on the Crease. In later life, he excelled on the golf course.

After working with Commercial Union Insurance and for a short while at the Workington Steelworks, Nelson became a civil servant with the Department of Social Security in Whitehaven. He moved to the Department's much larger office in Hull in 1974 where he spent the rest of his working life. He ended his career as senior manager within the Child Support Agency where he held responsibility for much of the north of England.

He leaves a widow Carol, sons Nigel and Simon and five grandchildren.

Peter J. Turner (FN 53-58) adds the following about W. Nelson Hewitson:

Nelson and I were not too close while at school, but when I returned to work and live in Cumbria in 1965 for Distington Engineering Company, Nelson was already with the company and we became firm friends.

Shortly afterwards he suffered a serious head injury in a car accident and was instructed by the surgeon who saved his life in Newcastle not to play any contact sports again. This was devastating news as he was an accomplished cricketer, tennis and squash player and also played rugby for Egremont. That is when we took up golf together, playing most weekends in all weathers against my father, J. H. Turner (F23-28) and his friend, as "The Oldies v Youngies" as we were then!

We both left Distington Engineering and Nelson joined the DSS in Workington. After passing the Civil Service examinations to SEO level, he was offered a

senior position with the newly created, and sometimes controversial CSA in Hull - as he put it - 'They've made me an offer I can't refuse' and he somewhat reluctantly left Cumbria for Yorkshire where he and Carol raised their family and to where he chose to retire.

On speaking to his former colleagues, they told me that he was widely respected for the common sense, dry sense of humour and diplomacy which he brought to this position.

Most poignantly for me was his 2014 Christmas card in which he said: 'It will surprise you to know that I will be visiting Cumbria next summer to take some money off you at golf again!' Alas, he was unable to carry out that threat!

Nelson was a kind, thoughtful and generous man who will be greatly missed and remembered with affection by all who were close to him.

John H. Jackson (SH 40-44).

The following was supplied by Michael Jackson (F 39-43):

My brother John died on 9th December 2014. After leaving St Bees School he served with the Border Regiment from 1945 and saw action in various trouble spots in the Middle East. The army was his life for some twenty years. After leaving the forces he became a member of the Rotary organisation, eventually rising to become Secretary for Great Britain and Ireland. John married in 1953 and is survived by his widow.

Ian Michael (SH 29-33).

Dr Ian Michael, the first Vice-Chancellor of the University of Malawi died on the 24th October, 2014 at the age of ninety eight. He was a world authority on the history and teaching of English grammar. Born in Kelso, he was educated at St Bees School. Following university he went on to teach in a number of schools and universities in England before continuing his distinguished career in education overseas. He was the first Professor of Education at the University of Khartoum in the Sudan before taking up his post in Malawi in 1964. Following nine successful years in which he oversaw the great expansion of the university, he resigned in 1973 to become deputy director of the Institute of Education in London. He retired in 1978. His large library was donated to the Institute at that time.

Michael Taylor (F 50-53).

The well-known Lancashire businessman, Michael Taylor, died in January 2014 in Christies Hospital following a heart attack. He was 78. Following national service, which he spent working as a photographer, he was first employed in that capacity on the staff of the Lancashire Evening Post before developing a career in

business. He developed the Pleasure Island complex in St Annes and was the owner of several caravan parks in Fylde. His wife Sandy said: “Michael was a strong, self-made man, direct but kind and helpful with a wicked sense of humour. He campaigned to upgrade the image of the caravan industry and always cared about quality. He said that he never wanted to retire.

Andrew William John Thomson (FN 50-54).

Edward Thomson (F 51-55) has sent the following notice:

Andrew died suddenly after suffering an aneurism at his home in The Bay of Islands, New Zealand, where he lived with his third wife Angela. He left two sons (Christen and Jack) by his first wife Joan, and four grandsons (Luka, Matija, Toby and Euan).

At school, he was head of house, and captain of squash and golf.

He went on to study Politics, Philosophy, and Economics at St Edmund’s Hall, before taking a PhD at Cornell.

After a short stint working for Unilever he went on to lecture at Cornell and then at Glasgow University, eventually becoming Professor of Economics. He then progressed to become the Dean of the School of Management at The Open University and was appointed an OBE for his work in Management.

He was also a keen Labour Party supporter and a firm believer in social justice.

After his retirement he moved to The Bay of Islands, in New Zealand where he took an active part in community affairs in Paihia.

Ralph Patrick Thomson (FN 52-57).

Edward Thomson (F 51-55) has submitted the following:

Ralph, (also known as Rudolf or Rupert) (the younger brother of Andrew Thomson), died peacefully at home on 22nd June, after a fortnight in hospital, suffering from a bacterial infection in his leg which led ultimately to heart failure. He left a much loving wife, Kathy, two sons (Andrew and Patrick) and two grandchildren. (Ralph Peter and Henry).

Ralph’s time at St Bees was marked by his sporting successes. He was a keen cricketer, golfer and squash player and represented the school at rugby, cricket, athletics, and cross country running.

After school, he was for a period of time at Edinburgh University where he continued his sporting successes, representing the University at both squash and golf. He also loved spending time walking in the Scottish Highlands.

He then worked in banking for a short period, before entering the Civil Service. Again he made his mark in the sporting field, playing squash for a Civil Service team. He won the Civil Service trophy so often it became known as the “Ralph Thomson Trophy”.

Regrettably, his career was cut short due to heart problems, which forced his early retirement.

In his latter years he became a very good bridge player, playing at the Carlton Club in Low Fell.

He will be sadly missed.

Dr F. A. (Tony) Winzor (Master 1984-2009).

Tony Winzor died on 6th March 2015 in hospital at Cockermouth. He was born in Workington, though most of his pre-university life was spent in Wolverhampton, to where his family had moved when he was a young boy.

He graduated from Sheffield University with a degree in metallurgy and then continued as a post graduate to read for a PhD. His first job was physics-based and meant a return to Cumbria, where he was employed at the Sellafield plant and for some years studied the effects of radiation in the environment. He is on record as saying that although he thoroughly enjoyed his time in this work, he became aware that he needed something that would bring him more instant rewards, and this led him to embark on a career as a schoolmaster, teaching physics at St Bees School. He eventually became Head of Physics, Director of Studies, and then one of the Deputy Heads in a career that lasted from 1984 until 2009, at which point he became Headmaster of Hunter Hall Preparatory School in Penrith, a post he held until his retirement in 2013.

A former colleague at St Bees, Chris Robson (Master 68-99), wrote the following in appreciation of Tony in 2009:

It always surprised me that Tony did not start his career in education earlier, as, within a few weeks of his arrival, he showed himself to be an exceptionally gifted teacher, a fact that was later recognised by the Institute of Physics when he was selected as one of the Physics Teachers of the Year. In his lessons, his pupils would experience physics' principles being applied with clarity, enthusiasm and, at times, great excitement. But Tony's contribution to the school was far more than as a physics teacher. He has guided large numbers of pupils into university courses, often spending long periods on the telephone when their results did not quite match requirements. As a fine sportsman, he has coached rugby, cricket and fives. He has organised 'readings and music evenings' and made many addresses in the school chapel. Many of us who worked with him over the years will have our own memories of cricket matches at Eskdale, of birthday celebrations in the Science block, of evenings of laughter and good conversation and much more, and he will have the good wishes of the many people he has helped in his time at the school.

Notification of Deaths

(Since the January 2015 Bulletin)

BROOMFIELD, D.H. (David)	Died 21.06.15	SH 48-52
CHADWICK, A.B. (Anthony)	Died 06.01.15	SH 49-52
ELLIOT, T.C. (Tom)	Died 28.03.14	FS 34-40
ELLIS, D.J. (David)	Died 11.10.15	FS 44-49
FROGGATT, T.E. (Thomas)	Died 12.10.15	SH 03-10
GILPIN, N. (Nigel)	Died 06.05.15	M 64-67
GOUGH, W.F. (Bill)	Died 25.04.15	SH 51-56
HARCOMBE, K.I. (Kenneth)	Died 01.06.15	SH 51-56
HEWITSON, W.N. (Nelson)	Died 17.04.15	SH 53-58
JACKSON, J.H. (John)	Died 09.12.14	SH 40-44
KOLFLAATH, K. R. (Kjell)	Died 27.02.10	F 47-50
PARK, W.D. (William)	Died 23.11.14	FN 46-50
STOTHERT, G.S. (Giles)	Died 26.01.15	SH 67-70
TAYLOR, I.M. (Michael)	Died 16.01.15	F 50-53
THOMSON, Dr A.W.J. (Andrew)	Died 26.12.14	F 50-54
THOMSON, R.P. (Ralph)	Died 22.06.15	F 52-57
THORNBORROW, J.D. (John)	Died 08.11.15	G 43-49
TOWILL, J.M. (John)	Died 03.06.15	G 43-46
TURNER, Rev. M.R.H. (Mark)	Died 29.04.15	F 54-59
VOSPER, C. B. (Brian)	Died 21.01.15	G 45-48
WINZOR, Dr F.A. (Tony)	Died 06.03.15	M 84-09

Have you recently changed your address? Have you got married recently?

Have any other personal details changed? Have you any interesting news?

Have you told us about it?

If not, please do so now on: (01946) 828093 or osb@stbeesschool.co.uk
or write to St Beghian Society, St Bees School, St Bees, Cumbria. CA27 0DS.

200 Club

Congratulations to the following who won prizes in the September 2015 draw.

£140	Edward Thompson	£20	Tim Brown
£40	Stan Holmes	£20	David Lord
£40	Stuart Withnall	£20	Christopher Taylor
£40	Dacre Watson	£20	Tony Wilton-Steer
£40	Andy Haile	£10	David Johnston
£40	Alastair Hayward	£10	Gordon Mathison

The 200 Club was started by Nigel Halfpenny to provide extra funds for the school so that it could purchase those 'little extras'. I have run it for many years. I remember doing the draw in the old library!

Membership in September 2013 was 66 and this has now risen to 72 which is most encouraging. A number of members are now taking the opportunity of having two or more numbers. One member has five!!!

Sadly Mr K.I Harcombe, who supported the Club for many years, has passed away and our condolences go to his family.

Current Finances:-

Money in the bank in September 2014	£3,614.87
Money donated to the School	£3,000.00
Income in Jan/Feb/March 2015 + int	£1,036.05
Money in the bank on September 25 th 2015	£1,650.92

Prize money for September 2015 will be £450.00

This will leave us with approximately £1,200.92 (I say approximately as there are always unforeseen circumstances)

Projects that the 200 Club have been involved with over the years:-

Curtains for the Memorial Hall, Tools for the 'Kit-Car Club', Canoe Trailer and Canoes, Telescope for the Astronomy Club, Interactive Whiteboard, Help with the Ecological Pond, Contributions to both Rugby and Hockey tours, Contributions to Junior School trips, Contribution to the Climbing wall in the Sports Hall, Purchase of two iPad minis for the PE department and two TVs (one with Apple TV) - one for the Pavilion and the other for the Sports Hall (the maintenance team have put them both in extremely good cabinets to protect them), Purchase of new jerseys for St Bees School Golf and Contribution to Golf Lessons.

Over the period that I have been running the Club, over £20,000 has been given to the school and I know that many pupils and staff have benefited. So a big thank you to all our loyal members.

As for the future, this could be the last draw of the 200 Club, but that is up to you the members. For example, your subscription can be used to keep the St Beghian Society going. At the moment it relies on life subscriptions from those leaving the school in the current year, but of course, with the school's closure, this source of income for the Society will cease.

Please continue to support us and still have the chance of winning a cash prize. I have offered to continue running the club.

Thanks to you all for your support over the years.

With every good wish,

Darryl W Davies, 200 Club Secretary and Treasurer.

Contact: darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com or (01946) 67984.

FIVES

OSBs may remember the regular visits to the school of a Fives' team from **Wolverhampton Grammar School during the 1970s and 80s.**

The first of three books has just been published tracing the history of the sport at Wolverhampton. The second volume, which is due shortly, will deal with their visits to St Bees among other things.

The books have the general title of Permanent Moments and can be purchased from the author, who will gladly supply further details:

**David Pedley, 4 Highlands Road, Finchfield, Wolverhampton, WV3 8AG.
Tel. 01902 342697.**

Whole School Photographs

There are now 30 Whole School Photographs from a variety of decades displayed on the website. In addition, many of these have been numbered and part-named in order to help with the identification of all the pupils.

Please do take a look and let us know of any names that you can put to faces.

<http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/miles/wholeschool/index.html>

If you have any old whole school photos lurking in your attic that do not appear on the website and would be willing to lend them to us for scanning purposes, please do get in touch - **(01946) 828093 or osb@stbeesschool.co.uk**

St Beghians' Day

Saturday, 27th September 2015

In view of the school's impending closure, OSB Day was brought forward to the summer term and a large number of OSBs and guests along with former members of staff gathered in splendid weather for what was, inevitably, a bitter-sweet occasion. The day began with a crowded AGM, a report of which can be read elsewhere in this issue. Lunch in the Foundation was preceded by a service in the school chapel, which was led by the Rev Richard Lee.

The afternoon was spent most enjoyably in reminiscing and renewing old acquaintances before tea was taken in the Memorial Hall where an exhibition of memorabilia could be viewed. Two cricket matches took place during the day. The first was between the school and the OSB Forty Club, coordinated by Jason Spires (F 86-93), and the second, in the afternoon, was an informal 'scratch' game, mainly organised by Lee Henderson (SH 87-94). Those who signified their attendance in advance are listed below along with others whom we know were present on the day.

Photos of St Beghians' Day, including the organised 'Group Shots', may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/aut15bulletin> or on the website. Please take a look at them and let us have names and dates for the groups where possible. Also, if you took any photos yourself on the day that you would be willing to let us have for the website, we would love to hear from you.

SOCIETY WEBSITE

Please remember the St Beghian Society website at

www.st-beghian-society.co.uk

Please take time to have a look at it for up to date information and news of events and other matters that may arise in between Bulletin issues.

We would certainly welcome any comments that you may have.

Those OSBs who signified their **attendance** in advance are listed below along with others whom we know were present on the day.

Name	Years	Name	Years
ADAMS, Nicholas	FN 68-71	BROWN, Tim	G 53-59
AFFLECK, Bill	SH 45-51	BULLOCK, James	FN 44-48
AINSWORTH (nee KUTAR), Maria	L 82-87	BROWNRIGG, Donald	F 55-59
ALLISON, Eddie	FS 80-83	BUCHANAN, Ian	SH 95-02
ALSOP, John	SH 72-76	BUSHBY, David	SH 95-02
ARMSTRONG, Chris		CALVIN, Roy	G/SH 78-83
ASPINALL (nee TOWILL), Lucy	G/L 90-97	CALVIN (nee GOUGH), Sara	G 77-84
BADDOCK (nee NEIL), Julie	G 87-94	CARROLL, Jonathan	SH 87-94
BALDWIN (nee LAMB), Justine	L 88-95	CARTER, Georgina	B 00-02
BARWELL (nee WILSON), Christine	L 96-00	CARTER, Vivienne	M 93-02
BATEY, Howard	FN 73-78	CARTMELL, Gordon	G 55-59
BENTLEY, Joanna	L 04-11	CHADWICK, John	FS 53-55
BENTLEY-STUART (nee BUTCHER), Lynn	G 81-83	CLAY, Lindsey	L/G 77-84
BERESFORD-JONES, Warwick	AC 86-93	COLE, Tom	SH 91-98
BERTRAM, Ashley	G 91-93	COUSINS (nee ENYON), Sarah	G 80-87
BIRKETT (nee BROWN), Abigail	L 01-08	CRAWFORD, Ian	FS 51-56
BIRKETT, Daley	G 01-08	CRAYSTON, John	G
BLACKBURN, Mark	SH 04-11	CROSSLEY-SMITH, James	SH 75-80
BORLASE, John	FN 47-49	CROSSLEY-SMITH, Steve	SH 47-52
BRAITHWAITE, Chris	SH 86-93	CROWE, Michelle	L 89-94
BRAITHWAITE, John	G 65-69	CROWTHER, Alan	FN 55-60
BRANDWOOD, Michael	FS 61-66	CROWTHER, Peter	SH 53-58
BRANDWOOD, Roger	SH 91-96	CURRY, Nicholas	SH 60-66
BRINDLE, James	G 49-53	CURRY, Simon	AC/SH 95-01

DARLING (nee PAGE), Caroline	G 87-92	GEORGE (nee LYALL), Sarah	G/L 77-85
DAVEY, Miles	M 89-04	GIBSON, James	F/AC 87-94
DAVEY, Tim	SH 79-85	GILMOUR, Lucy	L 00-07
DAVIES, Darryl	FS 62-68	GLENDAY, Anthony	SH 53-59
DAVIES (nee MCNEIL), Emma	G 84-91	GLOVER, Kevin	SH 87-94
DAVIES, Jonathan	AC 89-94	GRAHAM, Julian	SH 84-91
DAY (nee RILEY), Vicky	G 86-88	GREEN (nee CARTMELL), Anne- Marie	L 88-92
DEAN, Adrian	FN/AC 82-90	GREEN, Michael	FS 52-55
De GARA, Katherine	L 01-08	HAIG, Jonathan	FS 54-58
DICKINSON, Roger	SH 78-85	HAILE, Andrew	SH 76-83
DIXON (nee BUSHBY), Victoria	L 92-99	HALL, Richard	F 64-68
DOVE, Bill	FN 57-60	HALL, Rosie	L 90-97
DOWNHAM, Stephen	G 61-65	HANSON, Ian	FN 46-50
DRYSDALE, Paul	SH 95-02	HARPER, Stephanie	L 05-07
DUFFUS, Richard	SH 76-83	HARRIS, Graeme	FN 61-66
DUNN, John	FS 64-69	HAUGHEY, Kathleen	L 96-03
DUNNE (nee RILEY), Genevieve	G 86-91	HAYWARD, Mike	FS 74-78
EDGAR, Gareth	AC 87-94	HENDERSON, Lee	SH 87-94
EDGAR, Ruth	L 81-88	HERD, Richard	FS 78-85
EDNEY, Clive	FN 74-81	HIND, William	G 59-64
EDNEY, Colin	FN 50-54	HODGSON (nee LORD), Tina	L 92-97
EDWARDS, Stephen	F 52-57	HOLLIDAY, Denis	SH 46-52
EGAN, Eleanor	G 88-93	HOLLIDAY, Kevin	SH 74-79
ETCHELLS, Philip	M 75-06	HOLLIDAY, Neil	SH 76-79
FARNHAM, Ben	G 01-08	HOLMES, Stan	SH 45-50
FOX, Anthony	G 62-67	HOMERSHAM, Ian	FN 51-55
GALE, Michelle	L 85-92	HOOPER, Tom	G 07-14
GARROD, Jonathan	G 03-10	HOPE, Adrian	G 69-76
GARSIDE, Jon	SH 89-91	HUNT (nee MACLACHLAN), Claire	L 81-88

HUNTER, Nick	AC 85-94	MACLEOD, Derek	G 59-62
HURST (nee BUSHBY), Rachel	L 90-97	MACPHERSON, Ian	F 44-47
INGLEADOW, Anthony	F 45-47	MANN (nee LAMB), Jane	L 87-94
JACKSON, Donald	SH 75-80	MANSFIELD, Stephen	FS 73-78
JACKSON, Ron	FN 55-59	MATHISON, Gordon	F 48-52
JACKSON, Simon	SH 87-94	MAWSON, Andrew	F 86-93
JACQUES, Ben	G 00-05	MAWSON, Paul	F 83-90
JAGO, Peter	SH 74-81	MCCORMICK, Andrew	SH 87-92
JOHNSTON, Andrew	G 68-73	MCLAREN, David	SH 58-61
JOHNSTONE, David	G 47-51	MCLAREN, Henry	SH 53-57
JORDAN, Ian	SH 44-48	MCKENZIE, A.	SH 75-81
JOY (nee GALE), Michelle	L 85-92	MCKENZIE, Stuart	SH 74-81
KAYE, Derek	G 99-06	MCVITTIE, Nathen	G 99-05
KEIR, Pete	SH 70-77	MERRIN, Duncan	F 53-57
KENNEDY, Clive	FN 55-59	MELLOR, Rowan	B 06-13
KERR, Tony	FS 60-65	MIDDLETON, Eric	M 58-69
LAMBERT, Ben	AC 87-93	MILBURN, Phil	F 88-95
LAMBERT, Robert	F 85-91	MILLER, Andrew	SH 83-90
LAMONT, Chris	SH 92-99	MOORE, Isaac	G 04-11
LAXTON, John	G 51-56	MORRIS, Richard	FN 61-65
LE BROCCQ (nee COLE), Sarah	G 83-85	MORTON, Alison	L 91-98
LESLIE, David	SH 55-59	MUDD, Danielle	B/L 01-08
LEVY (nee DAVEY), Sarah	G 83-90	MULLINDER, James	SH 01-08
LEWIS, Katie	L 01-08	MUNTON (nee SIM), Caroline	L 85-92
LISTER, Jim	SH 68-74	NAPIER, Rosie	L 08-10
LORD, Alastair	SH 90-95	NAYLOR, Howard	FS 69-75
LORD, Chris	G 53-57	NICHOLAS, Ivor	SH 44-49
LORD, David	SH 60-65	NIMMO, Ian	F 52-57
LOWREY, Tom	SH 57-62	NORRIS, David	F/AC 81-86
MACCAIG, Alec	FS 42-46	OGDEN, John	FS 51-56
MACLACHLAN, Richard	SH/AC 87-94	OGILVIE, Andrew	F 91-98

OLDHAM, Georgiana	B 06-13	SHAW, Richard	FS 61-64
OLDHAM, Joshua	SH 06-11	SIBSON, Ian	SH 74-81
OSBORNE, Patrick	FS 53-57	SMART, Chloe	06-13
PAGE, Rob	F 85-91	SMITH, Clare	L 89-96
PALMER (nee BACON), Victoria	G 86-93	SMITH, Mike	F 87-93
PARKER, David	G 63-68	SMITH, Rob	SH 93-00
PARNESS, Kathryn	L 87-92	SOUTHWARD, Dougal	SH 76-84
PAVEY-SMITH, Thomas	G 01-08	SOWERBY, Charles	AC 88-92
PEEL, Duncan	SH 59-63	SPIRES, David	F 85-92
PIPER, Delyth	G 87-94	SPIRES, Jason	F 86-93
POSTLETHWAITE, Richard	AC 88-92	SPIRES (nee CARROLL), Sarah	G 93-98
QUAYLE, Alan	AC 84-89	STAMPER, Ken	G 54-56
RAYNER, Becky	G 91-98	STEWART, Alan	SH 82-89
REBERT, James	SH 91-98	STEWART, Robert	SH 79-83
REDWAY, Hugh	G 62-67	STOUT, Alan	SH 84-91
REECE, Jon	SH 84-88	STOUT (nee DIXON), Helen	G 85-92
REED, Dougal	FN 75-80	STOUT, Richard	FN 55-59
REEVE, Tony	M 89-08	STRAFFORD (nee LAMPING), Ali	L/G 77-84
RICE, Brian	FN 82-89	THOMPSON, Edward	FS 54-59
RICE, Alan	FS 49-54	THOMPSON, Hilary	L 88-95
RICE, Tom	M 65-95	THOMPSON, Thomas	FN 44-49
RILEY, Alex	G 61-65	TROTTER, Jamie	AC 87-94
ROBERTS, Annabelle	L 05-12	TUOHY, Thomas	SH 64-67
ROBERTS (nee LANCASTER), Sarah	B/L 96-01	TURNBULL, John	FS 62-65
ROBERTS, William	M 58-62	TURNER, Peter	FN 53-58
ROBSON, George	FN 57-64	WAKEFIELD, Norman	G 53-57
ROCCA, Mark	FS 75-80	WARES, Douglas	FN 55-59
ROWLANDS, David	G 63-66	WARNE (nee McWILLIAM), Amelia	G/L 88-95
RUCHWALDY, A.	FN 59-64	WATSON, Dacre	SH 56-62
SCOUGAL (nee ENYON), Claire	G 82-89	WATSON, Robert	SH 03-10

WATTS, Caroline	L 93-98	WILKINSON, John	FS 68-73
WHATLEY, David	FN 73-80	WILLS, Anthony	FN 60-64
WHATLEY, Ronald	FN 42-46	WITHNALL, Stuart	G 58-63
WHITBY, Chris	SH 66-70	WOODHEAD, Richard	FS 60-64
WHITING (nee HODGSON), Emma	L 87-94	WOODS, Kevin	G 08-13
WILLIAMS, Clive	FN 69-72	WRIGHT, Derek	F 48-53
WILLIAMS, Don	F 61-64	YUNG, Kolone	SH 88-95
WILKIE, Edwin	SH 77-84		

Additional Photographs to enjoy!

Once again we have created an electronic version of the Bulletin with the same text as the postal version but with the addition of many photographs from various events, dinners, socials and news items.

If you have access to a computer and would like to see the additional photos to augment your enjoyment of your postal version, please go to:

<http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan15bulletin>

We hope that you enjoy the photographs!

REMINDER:

Change of Society Email Address

The St Beghian Society has had to change its email address

It has been changed from osb@st-bees-school.co.uk to

osb@stbeesschool.co.uk

Please do start to use the new address.

Many thanks for your cooperation with this change over.

Apologies were received from the following St Beghians:

Name	Years	Name	Years
ARNOTT, Ian	FS 60-65	JOHNSON, John	FS 46-50
BEIGHTON, Gerry	FS 48-52	LEWTHWAITE-TAYLOR, Owen	SH 99-06
BROWNRIGG, D.A. Donald	F 55-59	MANSFIELD, Graham	FS 61-66
BULLIVANT, John	FS 44-48	MATTHEWS, Peter	G 50-55
CADE, John	FS 58-64	MESSENGER, Frank	SH 50-55
CARR, Andrew	G 74-78	MURRAY, Harry	F 54-59
CLARKSON, Richard	G 51-57	MURRAY, Stephen	SH 63-68
CLEGG, Peter	SH 54-58	PAISLEY, Jo	SH 46-49
CLOTHIER, Nigel	FN 53-57	PICKERING, Janet	H 98-00
DALZELL, Tom	FN 49-53	PLUMMER, Lynne	G 44-48
DARBISHIRE, Callum	FS 56-58	POWELL, Brian	F 50-54
DIX, Malcolm	FN 55-58	RADDON, Paul	SH 90-97
DUNN, Anthony	FN 51-55	REW, Paul (& Susan)	FS 61-66
EDWARDS (Nee FALCONER), Helen	L 89-96	REW, Robert	FS 50-55
FENWICK, Calder	FN 71-73	SCHINDLER, David	SH 97-99
FERNS, Michael	SH 53-58	SHERWIN, Andy	SH 93-00
FERRY, Richard	FN 59-64	SLOWTHER, Michael	FN 72-76
GOSS, John	FS 60-65	SMITH, Richard	F 49-54
GOSS, Richard	FS 62-67	SPENCER-ELLIS, Paul	SH 68-73
GREEN, Richard	SH 63-66	SWINGLEHURST, John	SH 45-49
HARCOMBE, Jim	SH 50-55	TEMPLE, Simon	SH 64-69
HARRISON, James	SH 86-91	THOMSON, John	FS 42-47
HAYTON, Geoffrey	FS 49-54	THOMPSON, Neal	SH 66-71
HAYWARD, Alastair	FS 45-49	WALKER, Simon	G 74-77
HOLLAND, Jessica	L 87-94	WHARTON, David	G 55-60
HUDDART, Matthew	F 87-94	WIGGANS, Michael	SH 45-51
JACKSON, David	FS 56-60	WOOD, Julian	SH 63-66
JACKSON, Michael	F 39-43		

If any new or existing OSB Members would prefer to receive the Bulletin via email in future (with additional photographs)

Please contact:

Pam Rumney on (01946) 828093 or osb@stbeesschool.co.uk

Minutes of the 22nd (107th) Annual General Meeting of the St Beghian Society held in the Memorial Hall on Saturday 27th June, 2015 at 10.30am.

1. Welcome and continuation of the Society by the President, Dacre Watson.

Dacre welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for attending, especially as many OSBs had travelled considerable distances from across the world to be there.

He introduced David Lord (Secretary and Treasurer), Anthony Fox (Project Management Group), Darryl Davies (Fundraising Co-ordinator) and Tony Reeve and Pam Rumney (Minutes).

Dacre acknowledged the members' feelings about the Governing Body and explained that the Society was a separate entity. He then requested that members present, despite frustrations, observe basic principles of courtesy and to treat other OSBs with respect and dignity throughout the meeting.

Anthony Fox was introduced and commenced by clarifying the terms to be used - 'Charity' meaning the body holding all the assets and 'School' being the place as it exists today. He then continued by giving a brief history of events to date.

He stated that, personally, he was devastated and saddened by what had happened and was concerned for all the pupils and staff who were affected. He and his family's association both with the village and the school had spanned many years.

Anthony stated that there had been a lot of inaccurate information in the media which was highly emotionally charged and unfortunately fuelled by third parties without the correct knowledge. However, he recognised that some of this was due to the lack of communication from the Governors which meant that people were being kept in the dark.

He went on to say that the school had been operating at a loss for five years, with the fee income not covering the expenses but with the deficits being covered by reserves and legacies. The loss for 2014/15 was identified as in excess of half a million and the school, having now drawn down on all free reserves, was left only with restricted reserves. The school had basically run out of money. In March the Governors made the decision to close based on, among other things, the low pupil places forecast for 2015/16. Only 28 applications had been received for the first form and there would be a large leave of 60 pupils in the current academic year. Moreover the 28 pupils required average bursaries amounting to 55% of the fees.

The March announcement had triggered an enormous response from pupils, parents, staff, OSBs, the local community and many others.

Anthony applauded the Rescue Team for their tremendous efforts and for the significant sum of money (approx £3m) that was pledged in a relatively short time. The Governors had apparently given careful consideration to the Rescue Team's proposals in April, but came to the conclusion that, regrettably, they had to stick to their March decision to close the school, taking the view that the funding gathered together would not cover the operating costs for 2015/16. £1.65m of the pledged money had been in loans and the Governors could not see how this could be repaid. They had also been mindful of the educational aspects and the advice of the highly-respected educationalists that had been consulted, who were advising that a one year proposal was not recommended but that at least two years needed to be offered. The financial and educational risks were perceived as too great and the decision to close in an orderly manner remained, giving parents time to make alternative schooling arrangements and staff time to find new posts as well as allowing redundancy obligations to be covered. A closure in the mid-academic year would have been a disaster resulting in a hurried closure and liquidators being brought in. The Governors hoped that when the school closed on the 31st August 2015, the assets of the Charity would be intact and available for the future.

Anthony clarified that Lonsdale Terrace was owned by the Old St Beghian Guarantee Trust Fund (GTF) and leased by the school. It was understood that when the school closed, the lease would cease, resulting in a loss of rental income to the fund. There was currently an outstanding mortgage of £160k+ on No.8 Lonsdale Terrace in favour of the Cumberland Building Society, which would obviously need to be funded in the future. The GTF was also owed £196k by the school by way of unsecured loan, and the Friends of St Bees School, a separate charity, were owed £955k by the school. Both these latter amounts would need to be repaid if the school did go into liquidation. However, if this situation could be avoided, both groups had indicated that they would not seek repayment at the present time.

Anthony concluded by indicating that the Society had absolutely no legal controls over the management of the school, its assets or the Governing Body. He confirmed that the Society did nominate Governors but that it had no control over them or their decisions. He also confirmed that he was not a Governor himself but had merely been asked to look at the future of the Charity.

A question and answer session followed.

Richard Stout (FN 56-59) referred to Anthony's statement that he was no longer a Governor and questioned if anyone had asked the Governing Board why so many Governors had left in recent years. Anthony was not aware that this had been addressed.

Stephen Edwards (FN 52-57) asked what would happen to the assets in the situation of the school's closure and if no alternative option existed. Anthony responded by confirming that the school would close on the 3rd of July but that the academic year ended on 31st August. He went on to say that currently the assets of the charity were unencumbered and therefore would be available for some use in the future. If no future could be found and the Charity could not carry on financially, it would go into liquidation and its assets sold.

Anthony stressed the importance of this not happening and the need to retain the assets for the local community and hopefully a future educational use.

Alex Riley (G 61-65) thanked Anthony for his presentation and mentioned rumours that had been circulating with regard to coal deposits. He went on to say that he felt it difficult to look forward when he couldn't understand how the school had got to the position it was in now. Anthony Fox emphasised that the current business model was untenable and that, in his opinion, the model which had been adopted in recent years was incorrect; that operationally, the school could not operate primarily as a day school.

Joshua Oldham (SH 06-11) requested clarification with regard to the OSB Nominee Company, which had been mentioned at a previous meeting.

Anthony clarified that OSB Nominee Limited was a company limited by guarantee which owned Lonsdale Terrace for the Guarantee Trust Fund. He stressed that it was not part of the school but that it leased assets to the school.

He explained further the various bodies involved:

i. The St Beghian Society – Has cash and investments totalling approximately £200k. These monies help to run the Society, fund bursaries, and also assist the school from time to time with Speech Day prizes and other items.

ii. OSB Guarantee Trust Fund – Established in 1938 when the school ran in to trouble. This body is discrete from the school, owns Lonsdale Terrace and leases it to the school. Nearly £200k is currently owed by the school to this Fund.

iii. The Friends of St Bees School Charitable Trust – Appeals in the past had been run through this body and funnelled into the school by way of loans. The school currently owed approx. £1m to this fund.

Anthony reported that Lonsdale Terrace, as a boarding house for the school, would no longer be needed when the school closed and this was a very serious situation, because the Trustees of the GTF would need to reinstate the buildings back to their individual units. However, he confirmed that the Trust

did not have the money available to do this without borrowing. The main objective of the Trust was to support the school but if, in the future, the school was not there, the Trust would need to look at alternative options. Mike Hayward (FS 74-78) questioned the large amounts of money that had been recently spent on showers and carpets for Lonsdale Terrace and asked why this expenditure had been sanctioned so close to closure. Anthony stated that as he wasn't a Governor he was unable to give an answer but suggested that an associate of Mr Hayward's, Mr W. M. Roberts, as Chairman of the Executive Committee of Governors and in charge of the finances at the time, might be able to advise on this. Anthony believed that Lonsdale Terrace had been in a poor state and as it was the school's obligation to keep the properties in a good state of repair, he suggested that this was probably why the monies had been spent.

Annabelle Roberts (05-12) made a statement that Anthony Fox and Dacre Watson had both been Governors in the past. Anthony confirmed that he had been a Governor from 2001 until 2010, when he had resigned for various reasons. Dacre also acknowledged that he had been temporarily a Governor for a very short time, but had resigned in May 2015.

Jon Garside (SH 89-91) asked about the accounts of the school and pointed out that there appeared to be £1.5m available in 2014. He wondered why the school had gone from a reasonably steady income stream to closing down in a relatively short space of time and asked whether any investigations of the accounts had taken place. Anthony stated that he was not aware of any such investigation but suspected that it hadn't been done. Jon Garside stressed his concerns that the questions hadn't been asked and pointed out that the brutal lack of transparency made it harder to understand. He went on to say that money didn't just disappear but that normally it was either spent or invested, therefore there was a big question of how this financial situation had arisen so suddenly.

Chris Lamont (SH 92-99) mentioned that he had been part of the initial Rescue Team's efforts and wished to share his shock in the appalling way the Rescue Team had been treated by the Governors, especially with regard to the management of information. Despite a non-disclosure agreement being signed, they had limited their disclosure of information and refused to co-operate fully with the Group. Dacre Watson responded that these questions needed to be directed to the Chairman of the Governors.

Helen Stout (G 85-92) inquired as to who the Governors were accountable to. Dacre confirmed that it was the Charity Commission. He acknowledged the many emails that had been received by the Society asking for the Governors to stand down but emphasised that the Society was totally separate from the Governing Body and that the Governors were appointed by the Charity

Commission and could only be removed by them. He went on to mention that the Society could nominate up to five Governors and those positions were open to any OSBs who were interested, but stressed that the Society could not control the way those persons spoke, acted or voted. Helen Stout expressed her concern that there were serious flaws with the set-up of the whole situation.

Gordon Cartmell (G 55-59) requested clarification on the £½ million liability for reinstating the Lonsdale properties that had been mentioned and also asked whether the Governors were personally liable. Anthony said that it was his view that this might be the amount required and that it was the school that was liable, being a company limited by guarantee. The Governors, as Guarantors of the Limited Company, were liable to contribute a nominal amount to the company's funds in the event of its insolvency.

John Ogden (FS 51-56) asked whether the school's accounts were up to date with the Charity Commission and whether they had been professionally audited. Anthony confirmed that the last accounts filed were for the 2012/13 academic years and that, although the 2013/14 ones were not yet with the Company's Registry or Charity Commission, he believed they would be very shortly. He understood that the accounts were audited by a firm of Chartered Accountants.

Mike Hayward (FS 74-78) enquired about the delay in filing of the accounts. Anthony indicated that he believed it was due to a technical/accountant's issue as opposed to any intention to hide anything. He went on to confirm that he had seen the accounts and that they certainly didn't indicate that the school was about to close. He concluded by saying that the 2014/15 accounts would probably contain some indications of problems.

Adrian Hope (G 69-76) asked why the Society had not realised that the school's finances were in such a state. Anthony emphasised that it was not the Society's remit to look at the school's accounts but that the Society had been actively trying to raise some funds for the school, but with relatively low success to date. Darryl Davies pointed out that, as Fundraising Co-ordinator, he had made contact with several potential donors but that they had wanted to see a concrete Business Plan before they would fulfil their offers. Following a question from Joshua Oldham (SH 06-11), Anthony confirmed that Darryl Davies had been paid by the Society for one year to raise funds to assist the school.

A question was asked about the original figure of £10-15m which had been cited as the amount required to keep the school going. Dacre confirmed that this was his figure which had been based on a long term 5-7 year plan:- he went on to state that whilst up to £7million would be needed to actually run the school during those years, the larger sum would be required to fund

bursaries and carry the school through downturns otherwise there would be a constant cycle of fundraising needed in the future.

Richard Morris (FN 61-65) enquired as to the deficit for the following year as he felt strongly that a 2015 solution was required and that things needed moving forward from a fresh start immediately.

Chloe Smart (L 06-13) expressed concerns as to how there had been no indication that the school was closing just a year before the announcement. Anthony suggested that the Governing Body possibly felt that they could get through the situation. It was believed that in 2012, despite a projected deficit over five years, they thought it could, as long as it was supported sufficiently, come out successfully.

Ian MacPherson (FN 44-47) said that the previous Governors had been at fault for the last ten years. He considered it to be the Accountants' job to assess the situation at the end of the financial year and hoped that the approach to the Charity Commission would lead to a proper investigation. He expressed his gratitude to the Rescue Team for the amazing work that they had produced, but also mentioned that his communication with the Governors had been appalling and called for their resignation. He felt very strongly that OSBs should have been warned earlier of the problems.

Mark Rocca (FS 75-80) summarised the situation with a few personal observations. In his opinion, he believed that the Governors had been caught on the hop and knew that the school would be unable to trade if it became insolvent. They therefore went down the road of closure, which led to problems regarding the loss of pupils and staff. He believed that on 16th April the Rescue Team had received a fair hearing from the Governors until lunchtime, after which the Educational Report was introduced and the reservations with regard to the realisation of pledges was discussed. Mark mentioned the survey of parents' views with regard to a further one year of operation and the payment of bursaries and pupil numbers. He believed that the Governors didn't trust the results from the parents nor the OSBs in respect of pledges. Dacre thanked Mark for his excellent summary of observations.

2. Minutes of the 106th A.G.M. held on Saturday September 13th 2014 - published in January 2015 Bulletin. The Minutes were agreed and proposed by Tim Brown and seconded by Don Williams.

3. Accounts - David Lord, the Treasurer, gave a summary of the various funds including the cash balances and investments. He drew attention to the total sum of £217k, including investments in various accounts, which was available to be used as considered appropriate by the Society and GTF Trustees.

The Guarantee Trust Fund balance sheet indicated that the Lonsdale Terrace properties were valued at £470k and he emphasised that this was the value at cost with the actual market value being considerably more, possibly 1.5 to 2.5 million. The outstanding mortgage of £160k on No.8 was mentioned, as was the cost required to reinstate the properties to individual units.

David expressed his concern at various comments on social media which seemed to be suggesting that the Society held vast sums of money, which he confirmed categorically was not the case.

Following a question concerning liabilities, Anthony Fox mentioned that if the school went into liquidation, possibly only 30p in the pound would be received by creditors.

Adrian Hope (G 69-76) raised a question about the amount of Society funds available. In response it was stated that the Scholarship Fund had balances totalling £167k (for Bursaries and Scholarships), the Trust Fund £24k (prizes for Speech Day), the Guarantee Trust Fund £9k and the St Beghian Society General Account £17k.

Adrian Hope suggested the payment of an annual subscription fee. Jon Garside (SH 89-91) proposed a minimum of 1% of a person's income a year. Jon requested that the Society recommended this proposal. This was seconded by Bill Dove.

4. Grant to the Golfing Society - David Lord reported that last year the small grant given to the Golfing Society each year was raised to £660 and he recommended that this should continue. This was proposed by David Parker and seconded by Don Williams.

5. The Reasons for the Closure of the School - This item had been covered previously.

6. The Way Ahead -

a) **Mike Hayward** had advised the Secretary just prior to the meeting that he no longer wished to bring his proposal forward as the other people involved, who had done much of the groundwork, were unable to attend owing to their not being OSB Members. This was reported to the meeting. Gordon Cartmell (G 55-59) requested that his disappointment in the decision was recorded.

b) **Anthony Fox** - Anthony began by thanking OSBs for their generous pledges to date. He emphasised that a vision for the future was in place and that it was hoped that something would be on the site in the next 24 months. He announced that a new Project Management Group (PMG) was in existence, which did not include any current Governing Body Members. He

went on to confirm that on the 1st September this year the PMG would assume responsibility for the control of the Charity's assets.

Anthony stressed that the following elements would require attention in order to ensure a future for the Charity.

i. Financial Security – Money would be needed and therefore Anthony fully supported the proposals with regard to fundraising. He also emphasised the importance of maintaining the site as a place of education in the future and as a continuance of Grindal's vision.

ii. Security of the Charity's Assets – A process of securing the assets at the end of the academic year would be required, such as insurance, alarms, CCTV and a possible Securicor type presence in the short term. In addition, the full maintenance and up-keep of the assets would be addressed. In accordance with statutory obligations, those assets within the Charity's portfolio that could earn a living would do so, especially as an estimated £400k gross figure would probably be required for the next year and between £800-£1m over two years to maintain the site. Anthony was not optimistic regarding any substantial amount being handed over by the existing Board of Governors. He hoped that if the Charity could survive the next six months, liquidation would be avoided. The intention was to use assets for income generation where appropriate.

iii. Possible Future Educational Options – Anthony indicated that various ideas were being considered:- Independent Education, Maintained Sector/State school, International school or any combination of these. A Sports Academy, Field Centre or University Campus had also been suggested. He went on to say that the PMG was open-minded and being helped, free of charge, by business analysts. He would certainly look at Mr Hayward's proposal but a Business/Educational Plan was essential. He stressed that he was unable to give any guarantees as to what the place would be like in three years' time but emphasised that he was adamantly against a sell-off of assets and therefore, in his opinion, all other possible avenues should be explored. Anthony Fox made a plea to members regarding the use of Facebook as it was having an adverse effect on potential progress. Prospective Board Members were reluctant to commit because of the media storm and one major investor had also been lost as a direct result. He observed that the aim to secure something on the St Bees site was shared by both the Save St Bees Group and the PMG. Undoubtedly fund-raising would be required and he asked members to support the GTF and the Friends in this. Jon Garside suggested that if there was transparency the use of Facebook would probably reduce. Anthony confirmed that the PMG realised the need to communicate.

George Robson (FN 57-64) enquired as to the future of the Society and in particular, the office and the Bulletin. It was confirmed that Pam would be kept on and the Bulletin would continue.

Richard Stout (FN 56-59) raised the question of communication and pointed out that, at an AGM back in 2010, Sara Calvin had appealed for greater communication from the Governing Body. He went on to ask about the future of the village in terms of Abbots Court and the land behind it. Was a sale being considered? Anthony confirmed that Copeland had not given permission for 'change of use' for the land behind Abbots Court. A value had been placed on the land as the school needed to look at funding opportunities. He said he had no knowledge of the Governors' intentions regarding Abbots Court, but he again emphasised that he was in favour of preserving assets wherever possible rather than selling them off.

Peter Jago (SH 74-81) applauded the efforts to move forward but requested that OSBs were kept informed and given the chance to comment on options available. Anthony stated that it was vital that the new PMG communicated with interested parties and confirmed that the PMG would include members of the Society and also members of the local community.

Richard Morris (FN 61-65) enquired about the situation in 2010 concerning Abbey Farm and its land. Richard Stout gave his summary of the situation and explained how the Governors had lifted the restricted covenant to allow development to take place.

Following a question from Gordon Cartmell (G 55-59), Anthony confirmed that Abbots Court was one of the Charity's assets. Gordon asked whether all the assets were there to pay off debt, if realised. Richard Morris (FN 61-65) questioned why the school could not continue in September by selling off assets. Mike Hayward (FS 74-78) felt an open mind should be kept and supported the idea as worth considering. Anthony Fox reported that he was happy to look at the proposal as long as it was properly made.

7. Election of Officers: Richard Stout (FN 56-59) proposed that all Officers be re-elected en block. A vote was taken and all but one member were in favour of this. The vote was passed and all officers below were re-elected.

- a) President 2015-2016 – Dacre Watson – 2nd year as President.
- b) Committee – Retiring this year are R.P. Calvin, D.W. Davies, A.J. Haile and A.T. Johnston
- c) Secretary & Treasurer – Mr David Lord
- d) Golfing Secretary – Mr James Doggett
- e) Accounts Checker – Mr Jason Spires

8. Any Other Business.

a) **The 200 Club** - Due to the time, this item was left until a further meeting.

b) **Proposed Vote of No Confidence in the Governing Body** - Dacre Watson informed the meeting that, in his opinion, the Governing Body had acted with integrity and for the financial reasons outlined above had no choice but to act as they did. He requested that members did not pass the vote of no confidence not least because the Society had no means of enforcing it and in any case the Governors would be resigning by 31st August.

Jon Garside (SH 89-91) suggested that in addition to the 'Vote of No Confidence in the Governing Body' a 'Vote of Confidence in the PMG' should be taken, offering OSBs' support and confidence for the future.

Helen Stout (G 85-92) agreed with Jon's suggestion but also asked that the Society, following the meeting, issue a Press release covering the AGM's decisions and proposals. Anthony reported that this had been their intention and he confirmed that it would be done.

William Hind (G 59-64) suggested that the Vote of No Confidence in the Governing Body could be damaging and questioned the necessity of it, considering that the new PMG would be replacing the Governing Body in due course.

Mike Hayward (FS 74-78) requested that a Vote of No Confidence did take place and went on to read out a prepared statement of his thoughts and opinions as to where he felt the Governors had fallen short.

A discussion then took place as to whether there should be a combined Vote of No Confidence in the Governing Body along with a Vote of Confidence in the new Project Management Group or whether it should be two separate votes. It was decided that two separate votes should be taken.

The results were as follows:

- i. Vote of No Confidence in the incumbent Board of Governors.
This was proposed by Mike Hayward and seconded by Richard Morris.
51 For, 12 Against and 21 Abstentions. The vote was carried.
- ii. Vote of Confidence in the Project Management Group.
This was proposed by Jon Garside and seconded by Sara Calvin.
72 For, 0 Against and 12 Abstentions. The vote was carried.

9. Date of Next Meeting - This was uncertain at the moment but it was proposed that OSBs would be informed of the date once it had been agreed.

The Meeting closed at 12.55pm.

BRANCH NOTES

Branch Activities:

Bristol and West of England

The Bristol and West of England Branch of the Society held its 66th annual dinner at The Ship Inn, Alveston, on June 5th 2015. There were 27 Members and partners present. The dinner was obviously held at a difficult time with the closure of the school announced and a number of initiatives to secure the, or, more plausibly, a future for the school under discrete discussion. We were glad to welcome the Headmaster, the President of the OSB Society and the Secretary/Treasurer and these took part in a question and answer session after the meal. In a developing situation only a snap-shot of the then current state of play could be provided, but this was greatly welcomed by all present. The school may be having its problems, but those of us who enjoy the privilege of having been at St Bees remain faithful and the Branch certainly plans to meet for a 67th annual dinner next year and, I hope, many more thereafter.

Those present were: Bill Affleck (SH 45-51) & Joyce, Gerry Beighton (FS 48-52) & Maggie, Sue Chambers (Friend - Father G 24-27), Michelle Crowe (L 89-94), James Davies (Headmaster), Richard Glenday (SH 59-64) & Dorothy, John Holden (F 59-63), Steve Lees (G 56-62) & Lesley, David Lord (SH 60-65) & Fiona, Alec MacCaig (FS 42-46) & Mary, Ian MacPherson (F 45-47) & Sally, Michael Poole (SH 60-63), Chris Tetley (FS 63-67), Dacre Watson (SH 46-62) & Ann, Anthony Wills (F 60-64) & Joanna and Stuart Withnall (G 58-63).

Cumbria (North and West)

This year's dinner was held at the Castle Bar in Cockermouth on Friday 20th March 2015 and despite the sadness of the school's closing, which was announced the previous week, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The meal was excellent (three courses and coffee for £22.50) and the atmosphere was electrifying. The starters were so large they could have been the main course! In the absence of the Headmaster, speeches were made by Darryl Davies (Branch Secretary) and Dacre Watson (Society President). 27 people attended.

Tim Brown, Darryl Davies (Branch Secretary), Edward Thompson, Richard de la Riviere, Mike & Judy Farrer, Brian Golightly, Fred Lord (Society Secretary & Treasurer) & Fiona, Amelia McWilliam, David Spires, Alan & Helen Stout (nee Dixon), Dacre Watson (Society President), Don & Linda Williams, Anthony & Joanna Wills, Alan & Evelyn Crowther, Mike & Kate Brandwood, Stephen Downham, Alistair Lord, Clive & Bridget Milburn and Emma Pallett (nee Thurnham). **Darryl Davies (West Cumbria Branch Secretary).**

(Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/aut15bulletin>)

Scotland

The Scottish Branch Reunion Dinner was held on Saturday 31st October at the Royal Scots Club Edinburgh.

Those present were: David Parker, Dacre Watson, David Lord, Anthony & Joanna Wills, David Elston, Chris Atkinson, Rae Montgomery, Michael Stewart, Mike & Gill Craig, Harry & Kay Murray, Don & Linda Williams, Warwick Beresford-Jones plus guests, Douglas Wares & Tony Graham. Apologies were received from Nick & Bette Hunter, Charlie Crummey, Gordon Mathison, Tim MacKay & Peter Clegg.

A three course dinner was served in the Douglas Room along with Brise de France, Sauvignon Blanc and Merlot. After dinner David Parker gave a slide show of St Bees School punctuated with his descriptive personal memories. Dacre Watson told the attendees of the sadness of the closure but assured them of the good going on in finding a new educational use for the charitable assets. The work of the St Beghian Society continues but will only do so with the support of OSBs to regional events like this reunion dinner and it is hoped attendees will find an OSB to bring along next year. Douglas Wares gave a memorable talk on the double VC awarded to a very good Doctor in World War One.

Annual Dinner and Other Dates:

Bristol and West of England - The Bristol and West of England Branch are hoping to have their annual dinner in **May 2016**. For details, please contact Bill Affleck, the Branch Secretary: William.affleck@btinternet.com or 01453 832619 or Barley Hill, Watledge, Nailsworth, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL6 0AS.

Hong Kong – NEW! - James Rebert (SH 91-98) has very kindly offered to organise a Dinner for OSBs in Hong Kong. He is suggesting a date of **January 16th, 2016** and would be pleased to hear from any OSBs who would be interested in attending. The location and venue will be decided upon once he has an idea of names and numbers. Please contact James if you would like to go along to the OSB get-together in Hong Kong: jamesrebert7@gmail.com or +852 69731821.

Manchester - It is hoped that a dinner in Manchester can be arranged for the **14th May, 2016**. For further details please contact: Mark Rocca - 0114 279 4259 or 0771 348 6514 or m.rocca@nabarro.com or John Boag - 07860 819203 or johngboag@aol.com.

Yorkshire

For details of forthcoming functions relating to the Yorkshire Branch of the Society, please contact the Branch secretary, Steve Crossley-Smith on: 01943 830640 or crossleysmith@btinternet.com or Garth Cottage, Moor Park Way, Addingham, West Yorkshire, LS29 0PZ.

North East Branch News

North East Dinner – As this Bulletin goes to press, the North East Branch Dinner is to be held on **Wed 11th November, 2015** at The Northumberland Golf Club, High Gosforth Park, Newcastle – report to be included in the next Bulletin.

A day at Kingston Park, home of the Newcastle Falcons.

I have to say that it was bitterly cold and the brisk walk from the Metro station to the Newcastle Falcons' grounds at Kingston Park had done nothing to warm me up. At times I even wondered if I had entirely lost that natural resilience to cold which was so well developed at St Bees, more years ago than I prefer to remember.

I found my way to the Hospitality Suite inside the Falcons' West Stand to find Don Williams, Chairman of the North East Branch of the Old St Beghians, welcoming a number of us to the event he had organised that day: lunch upstairs followed by reserved seats to watch the match between the home team and Sale Sharks.

There were 26 of us, including four guests, who had been pupils at St Bees; refreshingly, we represented a good cross-section of ages and times at the school; most had come from fairly nearby and there was a fair sprinkling of stalwarts, who had driven over from Cumberland for the day. One of the group had even come all the way from Southampton.

Lunch, with everyone accommodated at three large tables, was excellent; the conversation interesting and, what I noticed most, it never flagged; it always included everyone at the table and ranged widely. Apart from Nick Curry and Michael Brandwood (old friends from my own time) I knew no one else at the table and it said a great deal, in my view, for the educational and inter-personal skills learned at St Bees, however long ago that might have been, for each of us.

Conversations carried on outside while watching the match and, later, it was difficult to leave such a delightful bunch of people. All of us said "We must do this again". Well, that is what it was all about.

I would like to thank Don for taking the trouble to organise the day; it was a huge success, Don, and I know that I speak for everyone there that day when I say many thanks indeed.

As for the match? It was excellent and Newcastle Falcons won 39-19. Good result all round.

Dacre Watson, President of St Beghian Society.

(Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/aut15bulletin>)

N.E. Branch Golf Event: OSBs Tee Off at Hexham

Organiser of OSB gatherings at various sporting events, Don Williams, Chairman of the North East Branch, was delighted to add golf to the list of great OSB outings. Arranging this was a challenge for OSB Geoff Steven, who offered to act as host for a golf day at Hexham Golf Club in July. As an enthusiastic supporter, Don is confident that this will be just the beginning of an annual event. In the North East there are only a small number of OSB golfers but it's still 'game on' even with only one or two takers. This historic golf club saw two OSB players and two very interested OSB spectators embark on an equally historic 'first' for the Branch.

George Robson describes his first visit to Hexham golf course as follows: 'It has a lovely, picturesque Georgian mansion as a clubhouse and a spectacularly beautiful course with rolling landscapes dotted with mature and varied trees. The spectators hired a buggy from the well-appointed golf shop and Don volunteered to steer us around the course. We drove between the greens alongside players Geoff and Paul. Paul McAteer was at school in the early 1980s, later than the rest of us. You can imagine that as play progressed it was interspersed with many interesting and humorous anecdotes about St Bees.

Even though I had never played golf, I knew enough about the game to appreciate what was going on. Neither Paul nor Geoff can profess to be budding Speiths or McIlroys but both are clearly proficient performers, without a single ball going out of bounds. Towards the last holes on this sunny day it suddenly got cooler. Clearly rain was in the air. As drops fell Don and I pointed the buggy towards the clubhouse, whilst in waterproofs the players continued towards the eighteenth. It was not long before we were all gathered in the commodious lounge. Drinks and bar meals were ordered and the day concluded with more chat about old times and the years since. Everyone agreed to come back next year when we hope that more golfers and spectators will join us.'

Our host of the day, Geoff, summarised, 'It was a lovely round of golf with enjoyable company. Next year, with more golfers, the merrier it will be.' It was the first OSB outing in years for Paul McAteer. He added, 'Hexham has an excellent golf course. It was a great day to remember and as a result I will be attending the N.E. Branch Dinner and other future OSB events.'

(Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/aut15bulletin>)

Please Note: Bill Dove, the North East Branch Secretary, has moved to:
3 the Rowans, Baildon, West Yorkshire. BD17 5DB.Tel: (01274) 585147.

South Will (and Did) Rise Again!

A Foundation South Reunion Dinner, 'South will Rise Again', organised by Trevor Whitwell (FS 66-72) and Peter Martland (FS 67-72), was held in Foundation, on Sat 13th June 2015, for those at school in the late 60s/early 70s.

A wonderful evening was had by all those who attended. The landing of a Loach (OH-6A Cayuse) Vietnam War veteran helicopter at Wallside, piloted by the son of Simon Johnson (FS 70-73) and colleague Mike Hewitt (SH 69-74), plus tours of the school and an excellent slide show of old photos put together by Chris Jenkinson (FS 67-72), were among the highlights of the evening.

Those present were: Nick Bacon (FS 68-73) & Katharine, Joe Croasdale (FS 70-75), Brian Fisher (FS 65-70) & Rosemarie, Charles Gray (FN 70-74), Mike Hewitt (SH 69-74) & Karen, Richard Hird (FS 68-73), Clive Hodges (FS 67-72), Simon Johnson (FS 70-73) & Nina, Tim MacKay (FS 68-73), Peter Martland (FS 67-72) & Helen and Trev Whitwell (FS 66-72) & Brenda.

Former Masters present: Philip & Maureen Barratt, Richard Elgood and Tom & Ann Rice. Plus David Lord & Pam Rumney from the St Beghian Society.

(Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/aut15bulletin>)

The School Chamber Choir

Choral Evensong at Liverpool - Wed 25th March, 2015

Following previously successful visits to Durham, St Pauls and Southwark cathedrals, the choir was invited to sing Choral Evensong at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral by their Organist Titulaire, Ian Tracey, who had earlier visited the school to voice the new chapel organ.

The music for the service included: Responses: Rose,

Canticles: Stanford in G (soloists Francesca Merlo and Liam Jones)

Anthem: Annunciation by John Tavener (in memory of John Tavener)

Darryl Davies (FS 62-68) arranged a meet-up following the service and reports: "After the evensong a group of Old St Beghians met at the "Ego" restaurant on Hope Street and had an excellent meal. I have never seen a restaurant so busy on a Wednesday night and I was glad that we had reserved some tables. Those present were: Tim Crossley-Smith (SH 73-78) & Trish, Darryl Davies (FS 62-68), Charlie Lambert (G 64-68) & Fiona Cowperthwaite (L 99-05).

Matthew Rigby (FS 73-78) & Judi were due to join us, but unfortunately their car broke down."

****STOP PRESS****

A proposed get-together in Cape Town, South Africa!

Jim Harcombe (SH 50-55) is kindly proposing to organise a dinner/lunch for OSBs in South Africa. He is suggesting a date sometime in **December 2015 or January 2016** (or another date, if preferred) and would be pleased to hear from any OSBs who would be interested in attending. The location and venue will be decided upon once he has an idea of names and numbers.

Please contact Jim if you would like to go along to the OSB get-together:
harco@worldonline.co.za or +27 (021) 790-5293 or +27 (0)832521339.

Additional events, like the ones mentioned above,

are sometimes arranged between Bulletin issues.

Please do let us have an **email address** if you have one, so that we can inform people of such dates as they arise or alternatively do keep checking the Society's website for further information.

www.st-beghian-society.co.uk

Wanted! - OSB Dinners and Events Photographs

Any photographs from St Beghian dinners and events or even informal impromptu get-togethers would be very much appreciated.

We are always looking for pictures from those attending OSB get-togethers and events to include in both the electronic Bulletin and also on the website.

Please remember to take your camera and capture the memories!

Please send to: osb@stbeesschool.co.uk or (01946) 828093 or by post.

Branch Secretaries:

Please find below a list of Branch Secretaries. If you are interested in attending a Branch dinner/gathering or require any other information, please contact the appropriate person. In addition, if you are living in another Branch's area temporarily, due to work or University for example, it would be helpful if such members were to contact the relevant Branch Secretary.

Bristol & West:

Dr. W.S. Affleck (Bill),

Barley Hill, Watledge, Nailsworth, Stroud, Gloucestershire. GL6 0AS.

Tel: (01453) 832619. Email: william.affleck@btinternet.com

Cumbria (South):

N.J.V. Curry (Nick),
95 Appleby Road, Kendal, Cumbria. LA9 6HE.
Tel: (01539) 728808.

Cumbria (West):

D.W. Davies (Darryl),
67 Coronation Drive, Whitehaven, Cumbria. CA28 6JP.
Tel: (01946) 67984. Email: darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com

Liverpool:

I.J. Braithwaite (Ian),
Bramble Grange, Belle Vue Lane, Guilden Sutton, Chester. CH3 7EJ.
Tel: (01244) 300565. Email: ijb.1@virgin.net

Manchester:

R.P. Calvin (Roy),
The Lymes, Priory Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire. WA14 3BS.
Tel: (0161) 928 9812. Email: roycalvin@gcorner.co.uk

London:

A.K.L. Crookdake (Adam),
5 The Deerings, West Common, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 2PF.
Tel: (01582) 461406.

North-East:

W.E. Dove (Bill),
3 the Rowans, Baildon, West Yorkshire. BD17 5DB.
Tel: (01274) 585147. Email: williamdove15@yahoo.co.uk

Yorkshire:

S. Crossley-Smith (Steve),
Garth Cottage, Moor Park Way, Addingham, West Yorks. LS29 0PZ.
Tel: (01943) 830640. Email: crossleysmith@btinternet.com

Scotland:

D.M. Parker (David),
Broomview, Ardcharnich, By Garve, Ross-shire. IV23 2RQ.
Tel: (01854) 655300. Email: parkyatdeanst@yahoo.co.uk

East Europe:

J. Anderson (John),
ul Dziecielinny 3 M81, Miedzylesie, 04-745 Warszawa, Poland
Tel: 0048 (0)22 8127779. Email: andersonwarsaw@vp.pl

OSB SHOP

Badge - Cloth	£7.50
Badge - Silver Wire	£13.00
Bar Brooch	£15.00
Bow Ties – OSB colours	£10.00
Buttons - Chrome (Large & Small)	£1.50
Car Badge	£7.50
Cuff Links (Sorry, Sold Out)	£15.00 (Sold Out)
Ladies Silver Emblem Pendant	£10.50
Picture Prints – Quadrangle, Terrace, General View	£1.50
Scarf - College Wrap (Wool)	£16.50
Scarf Ring - Ladies	£4.00
Square	£3.50
Sweater (Navy blue courtelle with embroidered OSB badge) Sizes 36/38/40/42/44/46/48 (small fitting)	Reduced to £5.00 (Orig. price £16.40)
Tie - Acrylic	£5.00
Tie Tac	£3.50

Please now make cheques payable to ‘St Beghian Society’ & send to:
 St Beghian Society, St Bees School, St Bees, Cumbria. CA27 0DS.
 Tel: (01946) 828093 or Email: osb@stbeesschool.co.uk

The OSB Golfing Society Silk Tie & Sweater are obtainable from:
 James Doggett, 18 Yew Tree Close, Launton, Oxfordshire. OX26 5AE.
 Tel: 07930 510086. Email: james.doggett@hotmail.co.uk

For Prices & details contact James Doggett at the above address
 or view at www.st-beghian-society.co.uk (OSB Shop section).

SOCIETY OFFICERS:

President:

D.R. Watson (Dacre)
(SH 56-62)

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:

D. F. Lord (David)
(SH 60-65)

Committee:

R.P. Calvin (Roy) (SH 79-83)	R. Hall (Richard) (F 64-68)
Mrs S.J. Calvin (Sara) (G 77-84)	A.T. Johnston (Andrew) (G 68-73)
D.W. Davies (Darryl) (FS 62-68)	A.D. Lord (Alastair) (SH 90-95)
T.J.E. Doggett (James) (SH 97-99)	A.J.H. Reeve (Tony) (M 89-08)
J.M.W. Dunn (John) (FS 64-69)	M.N. Roberts (Mark) (SH 93-95)
A.P. Fox (Anthony) (G 62-67)	A.J. Wills (Anthony) (F 60-64)
A.J. Haile (Andy) (F/SH 76-83)	

Trustees:

R.P. Calvin (Roy) (SH 79-83)	N.A. Halfpenny (Nigel) (FN 62-67)
J.G. Craig (James) (FN 75-82)	D.F. Lord (David) (SH 60-65)

If you are interested in being involved,
please contact the Secretary or any of the above members.

**It is hoped to arrange a further St Beghian Society Committee Meeting
on Saturday 12th December, 2015. Details to follow.**

Copy Deadline: As the target month for the next issue of 'The Old St Beghian' is **July 2016**, the Editor would be most grateful if Branch Secretaries and other contributors would let him have their notices and reports by **31st May, 2016**.

**The St Beghian Society, St Bees School, St Bees, Cumbria. CA27 0DS.
(01946) 828093 or osb@stbeesschool.co.uk
Website: www.st-beghian-society.co.uk**