



# *The Old St Beghian*

January 2017

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## **From Our President Dacre Watson (SH 56-62)**

I start by wishing all St Beghians well for the coming year; 12 months ago the future for both the school and the Society looked very bleak indeed and I, together with the Committee, would like to thank you all for the support we have received this past year. I would also like to extend a particular welcome to all those new members who have joined the Society during the year and we look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at future events; remember, it is YOUR Society and you each have an important voice in how you would like to see it run over the coming years. We are there for you and I invite any one of you to feel free to contact me either through the office or by Email.

When I wrote the President's Column last July, I expressed guarded optimism in the work being done by the Board of Trustees. By the time you read this you will all have received a further newsletter from the Board outlining the work they have done over the last few months and where we are today; an infinitely better place than where we were a year ago but, of course, still with some way to go.

In November I attended the Newcastle and Edinburgh Dinners; each one was attended by a member of the Board, Rob Miller at Newcastle and Mark George in Edinburgh, and both gave comprehensive updates of the ongoing work in finding an investor to take the school forward to a future re-opening. I am deeply grateful for their presence at these dinners and I hope that this will set the pattern for the future. Looking forwards, I plan to attend all the dinners for which dates have so far been confirmed, namely, the new Hong Kong Dinner in February, a London Dinner in March, Yorkshire in April plus Singapore and Bristol in May.

The Edinburgh Dinner saw the “Dining out” of David Parker, who has been the Scottish Secretary for the last 20 years; with only 100 or so St Beghians registered in Scotland, David has done an outstanding job in organising this annual event and on your behalf I offer our heartfelt thanks for the hard work he has put in over the years. In the proper tradition, David has replaced himself with Jerry Tsang (SH 96-03), who will be taking over the Scottish role at any time now. We wish Jerry well and please support him as much as you can.

The work of the Board of Trustees should give us all some cause to reflect upon our history. Back in 1938 when the school was in real danger of closing, The Old St Beghian Society came to the rescue and it was through their efforts that the school survived to produce the environment and education that the vast majority of us enjoyed and benefited from so much.

I am sure that many of you, particularly those of us who were pupils between the 40s and 80s, would have been aware that, aside from the village shops and those members of the village who were employed at the school, the contact between the school and the local community was minimal.

When the school closed in July 2015 it would be easy to think that it was only those closely connected with it who might be affected; yet a substantial part of the village of St Bees was distraught for so many reasons. These were not just to do with the local economy, but there was also a hidden pride in having the school nearby, a thing which was likely to be lost with the closure. It became quickly apparent that there was a fund of goodwill towards the school in the local community.

When the new Board of Trustees was set up, there was a conscious desire from the St Beghians already on the Board to recruit new members from whatever source, and while a good number of St Beghians are still in place (doing outstanding work, I might add) there is also a number of members both from the village and further afield now working hard on behalf of the school, each with his or her own expertise such as education, estate management, finance and marketing as well as managerial skills. They have all stepped forward in order to bring their talents and energy to bear in trying to find ways to re-open the school. They all do this in their own time, which they give completely freely, and I am deeply humbled by this sense of altruism in others for our school; I am sure that you will all join me in wishing them Godspeed in their endeavours.

This will be an interesting year for all sorts of reasons. Please do continue to give us your support and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the coming six months.

**Dacre Watson, President, St Beghian Society.**

## OSB NOTES

**Stephen Edwards (FN 52-57)** has pointed out that the reference to Robert Hayes in the last issue should have described him as a pupil and not a teacher. Apologies (Ed.).

### **Andrew Mitchell (FS 63-68) writes of visiting St Bees and walking the Coast to Coast in August 2016.**

“In late 2015 we decided to visit the UK from Perth, Western Australia and undertake the Coast to Coast walk. This starts in St Bees and terminates in Robin Hood’s Bay, North Yorkshire. Initially it was Katrina and myself, but then it expanded to our son Neil and Alice and they walked with us for the first four days from St Bees to Patterdale (Ullswater). When visiting the UK I invariably see my friends from St Bees. It might seem a bit corny, but the friends I made during my five years at the school have been some of the longest lasting and important friendships in my life. St Bees is an important place to me and I was sad to see the school temporarily not operating as a school and effectively in moth balls, but still looking good.

As it was a Saturday there was no one on site and we were able to have a look around. Fred Lord had offered to give us a conducted tour but I declined his kind offer, relayed through Pam Rumney.

We had ideal walking conditions with no hot weather and only two wet days. Outings as a cadet whilst at St Bees prepared me for the Lake District, even if it was fifty years ago. On one cross-country map-reading exercise we were caught in low cloud but luckily didn’t panic and continued and we came out at the appointed place and the bus was waiting for us. What a relief. On the walk from Patterdale to Bampton Grange we would have had to walk across Kidsty Pike but as the weather forecast for that day was lousy, with rain and low cloud, we gave the walking a swerve and caught the ferry up Ullswater, had lunch at the Sun Inn and then caught the bus to Bampton Grange.

Unfortunately I wasn’t able to convey the walking conditions to my wife and she found some of the terrain and hills a struggle. We met a naked, ginger male walker, going west along Ennerdale Water and witnessed the evacuation by a mountain rescue helicopter of a woman who had broken her ankle west of Grasmere.

We stayed at Ennerdale Bridge and I had hoped to see Pam Rumney on her home turf, but she was on holiday in Tuscany.

At Keld in North Yorkshire we had a barbeque with James (F 63-66) and Christine Bell. James was in Foundation with me and they came over to see how

we were getting on. James and I lost contact in the 1970s and I tracked him down in 2012 with Martin Field's help. James still likes fast cars!

In Richmond, we were joined by David (FS 63-68) and Doreen Smillie and they walked with us for a day to Danby Wiske and it was great to have their company. David was in my year in Foundation South and we have kept in contact over the years.

We also visited Brian (FS 65-70) and Rosemarie Fisher in Ilkley and spent a day with them in Scarborough. We didn't get to ride the donkeys.

I also caught up with Chris Lewis (G 63-68) as our respective visits to the UK managed to intersect by a week. Chris and I did A level botany and zoology (with Murdoch, Chimp Harries and J.M. Bell) with Mr Jones."

**(Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan17bulletin>).**

**Andrew may be contacted at [ami53538@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ami53538@bigpond.net.au)**

### **Dacre Watson (SH 56-62) writes:**

"It has become a rather pleasant custom on the evening before the St Beghian AGM for a number of St Beghians to gather for supper at the Pheasant Inn at Bassenthwaite. On this occasion six of us got together on the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> September to put the world to rights and I would like to thank Steve Downham for taking the initiative in making the arrangements. If in future any other St Beghians would like to join us, it can be arranged through Steve and you would be very welcome."

Those present were: Kate Brandwood, Nick Curry (SH 60-66), Steve Downham (G 61-65), John Ogden (FS 51-56), Dacre Watson (SH 56-62) and Mike Brandwood (FS 61-66)."

**(Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan17bulletin>).**

### **Roots and Route to St Bees by Don H. Williams (FN 61-64):**

"It all began when I was nine years of age. The family home was at Eaglescliffe, near Stockton-on-Tees. After university my father had been working in the chemical industry, but in 1956 with his research and knowledge of nuclear physics he was attracted to take an R & D position at the Atomic Energy Authority in Cumberland. Initially his weekday digs were at the Sella Park Hotel near his new employment at Sellafield. Meanwhile, back at home, with my small sisters and young brother to look after, my mother was busy enough in Teesside preparing our home for sale and a move to Cumberland.

My father already had in his mind that I would be educated at St Bees School, but before this I needed to attend a Preparatory School and pass my Common Entrance Examination. Before Christmas 1956, when I was told about taking a step into completely unknown educational territory, the Lake District sounded like a very distant place. All of this was planned to happen in the New Year for

me to start in the January term at Harecroft Hall Preparatory School for Boys in Gosforth, Cumberland. The New Year arrived and with it came some very snowy weather. My new school trunk was packed and loaded into our car and after very sad family 'goodbyes' we were on our way. Along slippery and treacherous twisting roads the snow made it seem like a different world from an iron and steel industry-based landscape. It was late when we arrived at the Sella Park Hotel for my first night in the Lakes. I was given a room at the top of a small winding back staircase and after a sandwich and glass of warm milk I was soon fast asleep. I awoke in the morning and peered through the window to see the start of a glorious day. Later that morning before I was taken to my new school, my father told me that he was taking me to see something marvellous. Through Gosforth our black Austin A90 twisted and turned along a narrow road for eight miles before we found a suitable place to park.

The wild, colourful scenic tapestry that set before my eyes remains a lasting memory. With its backdrop of steeply tumbling lakeside screes above Wastwater to the cathedral-like snow-capped line of Great Gable and Scafell peaks, crowning the surround was a spectrum of Yewbarrow's yellow and brown bracken tints. The tranquil enormity of this was my first impression of this amazing ice age mountain legacy. I was taking it all in for a few minutes in silence. However, almost before I could blink we were back in the car heading to Gosforth and my final destination of Harecroft Hall.

My new life and introduction to boarding school education was to be in this fine Victorian Hall built for Sir John Ainsworth in 1881. It became a private school in 1925. Thirty two years later I was with my father driving through the main entrance. Close to the gravel drive were well kept lawns, a beech wood and playing fields. Being just nine miles from Wasdale there were clear views of the mountains I had just seen. From the rear entrance, there were various outbuildings consisting of a courtyard, former stables with loft and an estate workers' family cottage. I soon discovered the latter had been converted for school masters' accommodation and additional classroom facilities. Into the Hall, an impressive staircase with dark wood balustrade led to dormitories having mountain names. I was to sleep in Yewbarrow. For pupils like me there was a back stairway that also led to the matron's flat, the pupils' bathroom and toilet facilities. The school matron was Miss Orr, a very kind and capable lady who commanded great respect with all 48 pupils, the headmaster and other staff members. On the ground floor of the Hall there was the headmaster's study, school rooms, kitchen, dining room, gym, changing room, showers and washroom. Although I was in a new place, my thoughts constantly drifted back to my family. I was always writing letters home and longing for return mail. The comment of the Headmaster, W. H. Dunlop, in my first school report summarises: 'He has fitted into the school routine and

community life very well. But, except in English his work has been disappointing. More concentration and determination in the face of difficulties is required.'

I did pass my Common Entrance Examination to St Bees public school in 1960. The family moved to (Cumberland) Cumbria in 1957. At first we rented a large flat owned by a retired colonel, the managing director of a local iron ore mine. However, in 1959, my mother took it on herself to attend a property auction. My father came home that same evening and to his surprise discovered that mother had just bought a new home for the family. This was a five bedroom detached stone house 'The Garth', not far from our flat 'Yourity' in Beckermeth.

I am pleased that I had been prepared for attending St Bees School. During my life I have valued my education in Cumbria for many reasons and have written about these whilst I was President of The St Beghian Society (2008-2011).

However, there are numerous 'people paths' that have traversed and coincided over the years. When they occur, these add dimension and interest to our lives of shared experiences. The St Beghian Society is an important nucleus for this. For example shortly before he passed away in 2014, and in relation to his early teaching career, I had been in contact with Canon (Bill) W.F. Greetham (G 53-58). Bill taught for a year (1959) at Harecroft Hall whilst I was there as a pupil. Over fifty years had passed but Bill sent me a couple of photographs taken whilst he was teaching there and was able to pass on some news about some of my contemporaries. One of these photographs showed a group of us including Hugh Redway (G 62-67) from Yorkshire. There were three of us cricketing hopefuls that went on to St Bees. The other was John Hamer of Stalybridge, who was also on Grindal (60-65) with Hugh. Another OSB, M. A. (Tony) Payne (F 59-64) was a prefect at Harecroft Hall in 1957. Today, I am proud to be Chairman of The N. E. Branch of the St Beghian Society.

Sixty years ago when I began this journey, in December last year, I was able to rekindle some of these memories. I was staying at the West Lakes Hotel, Gosforth and took the same trip as I did with my father to Wasdale and then to Harecroft Hall School. Naturally, I took photographs. The scene at Wasdale was unspoilt and still amazing, but Harecroft Hall's decay since it closed in 2008 was not such a wonderful picture. I understand eighteen staff including eleven teachers lost their jobs in a school that had sixty seven pupils. This ratio was a great deal different in 1957. Comparisons are difficult but it brought to mind the closure at St Bees, although we are now hopeful of a re-opening."

**(Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan17bulletin>).**

**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](mailto:osb@stbeesschool.co.uk)**

## SNIPPETS.....

Congratulations to **Kate Boothroyd (L 02-06)** on her marriage in Warwick last October. OSBs present were **Anne-Marie Sanderson (L 99-06)**, who played the cello at the event, **Camron Miller (G 99-06)**, **James Broad (G 99-06)** and **Lindy Rush**, the sister of **Alison Rush**, who was for a time an ESU student at the school. (Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan17bulletin>).

Congratulations to **Susan Lowrey (L 95-02)** and **Jamie Hood** on their engagement.

Congratulations to **Robin Payne (SH 85-92)** and **Jessica**, currently living in Maplewood NJ, USA, on the birth on 1st July of **James Thomas Horan Payne**, a brother for **Amelia** and **Evelyn** and a grandson for **Anthony Payne (M 67-01)** and **Jenni**, and for **Bernard** and **Barbara Horan** of Wellesley MA, USA.

### New Grindal Facebook Page

**Roger Andrews (G 61-66)** has recently started a Facebook page in the hope that members of Grindal from that era will establish contact with each other again.

He would like to hear from as many people as possible, so please give him your support.

**Link:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/709086995915973/>.

### Contributions – An Appeal

Regular readers of the Bulletin will know that in the past, several pages of the OSB Bulletin were devoted to matters relating to the life of the school. Now that educational activity is temporarily (we hope) in abeyance, it is more important than ever that OSBs fill the gap by supporting the Bulletin with news, updates, articles of reminiscence, or indeed anything they feel may be of interest to the readership. Appeals for such material have been made previously and the Editor has been grateful to those who have been interested enough to supply material; but now more than ever there is a need for contributions. The Bulletin is not simply a vehicle for conveying ‘official’ information to the membership, but is a medium of communication among OSBs themselves. Please consider how you as an individual might contribute to this and help the Society by availing yourself of this means.

**The Editor.**

# What's in a Name?

What is now the Foundation dining hall was part of the original school built in 1587. The oak panelling, however, evidently came as a later adornment. Hundreds of names, dates and other graffiti have been carved into the wood, the earliest dating from the 1720s. Amongst these is a strikingly well carved and large lettered A.H. Fetherstonehaugh. Google tells us that this is a Northumbrian name found most notably in the name of the family that built and owned Featherstone Castle in the Tyne valley. We are also told that over the centuries the spelling of the name has alternated between Featherstonehaugh and Fetherstonehaugh.

Research has revealed the following about this former pupil, Alfred Hardinge Fetherstonehaugh:

- In spite of the Northumbrian origins of his surname, Alfred was born in Ireland.
- He attended St Bees School from 1915-1917 then went on to study medicine at Trinity College, Dublin.
- He enrolled as a cadet pilot in October 1918 and was involved with the RAF until granted a pension in 1922.
- He worked in Malaya before joining the Pioneer Corps as a second lieutenant in January 1942.
- The following month Alfred was captured by the Japanese in Thailand, only being released at the end of the war in 1945.
- He returned to Malaya and became Chief Game Warden for Malaya.
- In March 1950 he left Penang with his (second) wife Phyllis and settled in county Sligo, Ireland.
- He died on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1978 aged 71.

Alfred does not appear to have maintained contact with the school, but of course he was only a pupil there for two years and most of his subsequent career was overseas. His admirable career, however, seems to be worth celebrating

A.H. Fetherstonehaugh is only one of a number of interesting surnames that feature on the panelling.

My favourite is J.P. GREENHOUSE.

I have checked all the telephone directories to which I have access in my local library and cannot find a single GREENHOUSE. But what a splendid name! I have managed to trace both J.P. Greenhouse's nephew and great nephew (oddly both also J.P. Greenhouse), who together send this information about Jack Percy Greenhouse (known throughout the family as 'Uncle Jack').

The youngest of ten children he spent two years at St Bees School just prior to



WW1, the only one of the siblings to have done so. Not being an academic, on leaving St Bees he was sent to the colonies to make good, in his case to Canada. Shortly after his arrival, war came and he unhesitatingly answered the call to the flag in early 1915, joining the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He listed among his qualifications, two years in the St Bees School Corps. After four months training, Jack spent twenty-eight months in France, primarily in charge of mules and horses.

At the end of the war he returned to Canada and joined the British Columbia Forestry Service as a ranger. He married a widow with three children and after her death moved to Victoria to live with his widowed brother Frank. I am told that they made an interesting couple – Jack large and gregarious and his brother lean and prim. Jack was always fun to be around and liked whiskey and telling ribald jokes. Frank often scolded his younger brother but they were unfailingly very fond of each other.

Maybe one day a closer study of the panelling will be made. I guess more wonderful gems are waiting to be found!

**George Robson (FN 57-64)**

**(Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan17bulletin>).**

**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](mailto:osb@stbeesschool.co.uk)  
or write to St Beghian Society, St Bees School, St Bees, Cumbria. CA27 0DS.

## **NEW PHOTOS – 2001/2002 & 2002/2003**

If you were at school in **2001/2002** or **2002/2003**,  
you may be interested in seeing the photographs from this period  
recently uploaded to the website by Miles Davy (link below).

We would also welcome your help in identifying people,  
so please contact us on (01946) 828093 or [osb@stbeesschool.co.uk](mailto:osb@stbeesschool.co.uk).

### **Links to photos:**

<http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/miles/2000-10/01-02/01-02.html>.

<http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/miles/2000-10/02-03/02-03.html>.

## OBITUARIES

**Peter Broadhurst (M 57-87), who died on 15th Sept. 2016**

**Peter's son Stuart (G 69-74) writes:**

"My Dad was, until the end, as difficult as possible, which was predictable if not a touch frustrating.

Only 'Butch' could trap his leg in the banister and hang upside down for twelve hours before I found him, only to be instructed to get an angle grinder to free him. This I did not do, but the Fire Service did. He was flown to Preston Hospital by air ambulance where he engaged in a boxing match until they got the ventilator in him. Sadly, even for him, this was too much, toxic shock took over as his leg was released from the pressure and he passed away.

His love for his pupils was his only passion. He gave them all so much, there won't be one that won't remember him fondly. Strict but fair, kind, critical, funny but above all he made all our lives the better. He only said the other day that all of his pupils were his life.

I miss him as a father though he was a strict bugger. My first bike was a 12 speed racer for Xmas, delivered in a box of bits. 'Put that together in the Metal Workshop at school and give me a shout when you get stuck! That's how we learn!' Same with my first car. I've never had to put a car in a garage since! He taught me to ski parallels with a belt round my ankles and no doubt he did the same to a few of his pupils!

In my first lesson in the Art rooms in the Old Mem Hall, he knocked me off my seat as he walked in, no favouritism here was the message, the best thing he could have done!

He was basically as hard as nails!

When he was doing his National Service he was posted to the Sinai desert, which he hated, but due to the fact that he could type he was put in the Adjutant's office, when not firing guns. A 'post' was sent that anyone that could ski and had a reasonable grasp of German could apply to join the Austrian army for mountain warfare training. Dad applied but neglected to post the notice, so being the only applicant he was accepted. He didn't speak German nor could he ski but 'how hard can it be?' He was a fit, soon to be PE student. The German bit was a problem but he had a German dictionary so off he went! They had two weeks to settle in before the course started so he came clean to the Austrian guys he was with. They spoke German for two weeks and taught him basic skiing. That's how to do it! Make it happen!

'Butch' taught us all to 'get off your arse, stop winging and make your dreams happen'. So remember, he's watching now and may just come back and kick your arse!"

**Peter Broadhurst. (M 57-87). David Marshall (M 66-88) writes:**

“The last time I saw Peter was at Helton, where he and Mary had bought a property for their retirement. He was on the back of one of those earth-moving vehicles and clearly he was having the time of his life, demolishing the old house in preparation for building the new. That heavily-lined face was covered in builder’s dust and there was rubble everywhere. How on earth could a dwelling come out of all this?

‘Order out of chaos, lad!’ was the reply. And that’s exactly what happened. Peter was a born builder, one who could see the possibilities in the oddest thing - and in any one; he had that practical vision about what could be; not much seemed beyond him. As family man, teacher of Art with the workshop at his disposal, one-time Head of PE and Master i/c Cricket, organizer of school ski trips to his beloved Davos and the first Housemaster to the 6<sup>th</sup> form boarding house, Abbott’s Court, the canvas over which his undoubted talents were deployed was large. The number of pupils who came under his influence, athletically, academically or artistically, was enormous. He was an enthusiast for whatever he undertook, a formidable raconteur, conversationalist, piano player – and mimic! Anecdotes abound about Peter and I know everybody who reads this obituary will have his own to share.

At the time I first met Peter, in January, 1966, he was returning (late!) from a ski trip to Davos; expressing my own enthusiasm for the sport, I was immediately hauled off to his home – which, of course, he built himself – to see so many photos and to meet the family; it wasn’t long before Stuart told me the story of his own introduction to the slopes and the lengths Peter would go to, to ‘keep those skis together, Stuart!’ – by tying his legs together with a belt! If how Stuart was skiing the last time I saw him is anything to go by, the system worked: by 1975, and on jet skis, Stuart had surpassed the master, the best accolade any teacher can have.

Peter’s adapting the inside of his VW Urvan to cater for storage, cooking, sleeping and washing, enabled us to enjoy for some years a second annual visit, this time in the Easter holiday, to undertake a set of rarer runs and to contemplate the Haute Route, Chamonix to Saas Fe, which we never completed. I refer to this to point to his readiness to make things and ideas that he had, work. He was as much at home in the High Alps, away from the crowds as he was under the bonnet of his Porsche. (And on a selfish note, I would never have undertaken so much without his initiatives.)

Who but Peter would buy a beautiful Porsche, only to take it to pieces, bit by bit? But that was his way with just about all things; he needed to know how they worked, how he could improve on an original, which he generally did. This spread into academic fields as well; once given responsibility for the Art

Department, he delved deeply into all aspects of the course in order to master as much as he could. Indicative of his commitment were the notes he made, stuck onto walls, desks, windows – even once, on his forehead! – everywhere. And you were always expected to listen to his latest pet theory about, ‘This chap Rembrandt’s brushwork; that chap Leonardo – he knew a thing or two...’ and so on. I believe that appointment did Peter an enormous good. His body was not lending itself by that time to what it used to undertake – to watch him bowling in staff cricket games made me feel it was a matter of time before all his tendons would just go ‘twang!’. But he skied – his real love – for so long; though this inevitably took its toll, including one serious break, I think in Switzerland. His description of the op was classic Peter, with the inner details of ‘this bolt going into that bone, with all connected by that piece of wire...’. Hearing Stuart’s description of how he found his Father on that ghastly day, with a foot stuck through the banisters and him a prisoner, but calling for an oxyacetylene lamp to free himself – well, it couldn’t have happened to anyone but Peter. I only hope he did not suffer as I fear he must have done.

In a way, his life was a preparation for such: my memories of him had him often falling in the oddest of places. With the school celebrating its 400 years, Peter offered to put on a 20-minute play. And where, may we ask, was he proposing to put this play on? – in that gap between the Chapel and the Library; where else?! Part of the action was on the roofing up there; Peter checked it out – and fell off, of course. But as always, such accidents were taken in his stride.

Memory is usually selective; there must be error in the above, for which I, naturally, apologise. But I have tried to convey the spirit of the man. He could be difficult, complicated, short-tempered. But the best of Peter was an experience you would never want to miss, or forget. An unapologetic enthusiast, he was endowed with many and varied talents. Through his life, he cast a long shadow. I like to think we were all beneficiaries of that shadow.

To Heather, Stuart and their families, go our sincere condolences for their loss.”

### **David Storey (SH 67-72) remembers Peter:**

“Craggy and scruffy with a voice like Richard Burton is how I remember Peter from school days. His teaching-face was stern but away from the classroom he had a great sense of humour and an infectious laugh. He was a maverick, with very progressive ideas about teaching that often set him apart from the traditionalists on the school staff. Fortunately he had a great ally in the Headmaster Geoff Lees, who generally gave him free rein. Peter drove around in a souped-up vintage Porsche for many years and in later life I remember he had an enormous motorbike.

I feel very fortunate to have been taught by Peter. It was as a direct result of his efforts and energy that I was accepted by the prestigious Hornsey College of Art

in London. We became firm friends after I left St. Bees and I continued to benefit from his wise counsel and mentoring. He had wanted to come to my solo show in London last year but sadly wasn't up to the journey.

He was a very good artist in his own right, specialising in landscapes rendered in pen and ink - but felt that his real vocation was teaching art.

So many of us Old St Beghians who were taught by Peter and went on to have a career in the arts owe a great debt to him and there must be many others who gained a life-long love and appreciation of the arts as a result of his inspired teaching.

I will miss him, his wise counsel and his infectious laugh.”

**Jonathan Davy (FS 68-71). Jonathan’s mother Helen writes:**

“Sadly I am writing to inform you that Jonathan died on the 20th August 2016 aged 60. After sixteen and a half years and many operations for a brain tumour his life finally came to an end at home in Bristol with his devoted wife Caroline and four sons with him. Jonathan was a keen rugby, cricket and squash player whilst at the school. He was a FRICS and latterly specialised in boundary disputes. He was working to within two months of his passing thanks to help from numerous friends who would drive him to sites. He was a keen member and leader of a communal choir in Bristol. He had so many friends and will be sorely missed.”

**Major Linda Johnston (St Bees School CCF 1995-2015).**

**Sandy Rogers (Ex-RSM St Bees Combined Cadet Force) writes:**

“Linda, who served as RSM of the Cadet Force, died suddenly in her sleep on Monday, 12th of September. She will always be remembered by many St Beghians for her stalwart service to the school’s CCF where she served for two years as Contingent Commander until the closure of the school in 2015. Linda’s main passion was to help cadets achieve awards and certificates in BTEC, First Aid, and most especially close to her heart, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, to which she devoted many hours ensuring cadets had the best opportunity to achieve the Bronze, Silver or Gold Award Levels.

Linda will be greatly missed by all who knew her and most especially by her two daughters, Linda and Stacey and their families, and her ever faithful Golden Labrador, Duke.”

**Alec MacCaig (FS 42-46).**

**Alec’s daughter Helen has sent the eulogy delivered at his funeral:**

“Thank you all for coming. It’s lovely to see so many faces. We know that my father Alec would have been touched to see you all here from the different stages of his life.

My father's story starts here in Hale, just around the corner, in Park Road. He was born in 1928 to Gladys and Alexander, elder brother to John. He started his education across the road at Wadham House, but at the age of 13 he caught the train to St Bees School, where he spent five formative and happy years on the north west coast of Cumbria. It was wartime and he was in a remote spot in relative safety. He always told us that it was a tough, disciplined environment where cold showers were the norm and he was beaten for, amongst other things, throwing water bombs in the corridor. But he thrived in this demanding environment, becoming Headboy and captain of golf.

The strong bond that he built with the school continued to the present day. He joined the old St Beghian Society and played for the school in the Halford Hewitt Golf Tournament for seven decades from the 1940s onwards. In later years when he was no longer playing in the tournament itself, he crossed the country to support the younger generation, demonstrating his passion, loyalty and commitment to the things he cared deeply about. He became President of the Old St Beghian Society and felt honoured to have been asked in 2008 to open the new golf academy at the school.

In 1946 he went to Manchester University to study Mechanical Engineering, but continued to pursue his passion for golf at Hale Golf Club, where he triumphed with his brother in winning the Galloway Cup on a number of occasions, as well as winning the Captain's Prize.

Between 1949-51 he was in national service in the Royal, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) and following this he began his engineering career as an apprentice with Parkins and Cowan in London where he worked from 1951-54.

He then moved to Bristol in 1957 to set up in partnership with Derek Wilson, together creating JD Wilson Consulting Engineers. He joined Bristol Hockey Club where he first met his beloved Mary playing mixed hockey on a Sunday morning. He admired her in the distance and engineered an introduction from her brothers Peter and Hugh. Within six months they were married and were together for 59 happy years, enjoying together the joys of a wonderfully successful union. Over the next six years my mother and father had three daughters, myself, Sue and Anne. We have so many happy family memories. Our hardworking father would often take us to the office at the weekend to give Mary a break. Here we would pretend to be secretaries ringing each other on the internal phones and typing notes. He took us on many wonderful holidays to Crackington Haven in North Cornwall where we stayed in a cottage overlooking the sea and spent endless hours playing highly competitive French cricket on the sands.

Then there were the caravan holidays to Scotland where he was keen to trace our Scottish family roots. His patience was tested to the limit with four women and a

dog as we got stuck on hills, reversed into petrol pumps (having relied on his daughters to guide his parking efforts), and forgot to remove the lid of the chemical toilet. As we became teenagers, his patience was further tested. He would sit uncomplainingly outside nightclubs desperately hoping that the girls would not come out and ask for yet another hour's extension to the going home time that had been agreed. He rarely got home either comfortably or on time! Alec revelled in his family and in bringing up his three daughters with our mum, - something they both shared and took great pleasure in. He encouraged us to spread our wings, guiding us into various careers. The family grew and flourished as we became adults and new members arrived. The sudden loss of our sister, Sue in 1996 affected him, and all the family, very deeply. He shared a keen interest in all of the additions to the new generation as they arrived, grew and thrived. He encouraged family games of hockey on the beach at Weston-Super-Mare. He ran and judged the grand-childrens' art competition, ensuring everyone succeeded by creating a winner in every age category. He travelled the country supporting their activities including netball tournaments, rugby matches and Christmas shows. Together with our mother, the two of them enjoyed many walks at Clevedon, supporting Bristol Rugby Club. There are many people here who wanted to say goodbye. All of us have different memories but a common love for a great man, a great father, a great husband and a great grandfather; who was loyal, patient, and a true gentleman; who was kind and interested in everyone; and who was utterly committed to his loved ones and all he valued. He was quick to smile, encourage, appreciate and praise; and slow to criticise, or scold. We will all remember him forever with love and affection.” (Helen would especially like to thank all those OSBs who made the long journey to the funeral –Ed.)

### **J.W. Nicholson (FN 40-43).**

John Nicholson died in September 2016. He was very proud of being a St Beghian and his old school tie was a treasured possession throughout his life. Following national service in the RAF, he qualified as a chartered accountant in 1949 before marrying Elizabeth in 1950. They had three children and subsequently eight grandchildren. For seventeen years he was with C.A. Parsons & Co eventually becoming Head of Management Services and then a Director, first with Northern Engineering Industries and then the Anglo Great Lakes Company (part of Rolls Royce) from where he retired in 1984. All his life he was a keen golfer (with an enviable handicap of 6/8), latterly at the Northumberland Golf Club.

**(Frank) Keith Wilson (M 70-99). John Rowlands writes:**

“All those associated with the school in any way between 1970 and 1999 will have been saddened to learn of the death of Keith Wilson following a long and distressing illness.

In many ways Keith’s career at St Bees bridged the gap between the ‘good old days’ of the school he joined in 1970 and the modern era in which he left it in 1999. Although by nature conservative, he was nonetheless very open to the idea of change which would be of benefit to the pupils, the staff or the wider school community, and this quality served him well in a period of far-reaching change in both the structures and the fortunes of the school.

Before joining St Bees Keith had been both a pupil and a master at Heversham Grammar School, interspersed with studying for his degree at Leeds University, and he always valued his Westmorland roots. The move to Cumberland allowed him to develop further the many skills and qualities he possessed.

As Head of Geography he was keen to promote the use of fieldwork to take advantage of the school’s exceptionally favoured location between the sea and the fells, and his classroom was a fascinating, if occasionally less than orderly treasure trove of maps, charts, geological specimens and sundry items of sporting equipment. His sharpness of mind and intellect were nowhere more evident than in the speed with which he would regularly dispatch The Times crossword to the surprise and even slight envy of colleagues whose learning was worn less lightly. He was also, from the start, a member of the CCF, initially in the Army Section and later in the RAF Section, which he went on to lead as successor to Tony Cotes. This area of his career illustrates very clearly his willingness to promote, for the benefit and interest of pupils, even those activities on which he himself was not too keen. By his own admission he was a curious candidate to have conferred on him responsibility for Adventure Training, but he was a keen advocate of it, if not a wholly committed practitioner. He never fully lived down the navigational shortcoming which saw him lead a Field Day group from the summit of Scafell down into the wrong valley; perhaps he felt that, as Head of Geography, he might reasonably have been expected to know his Wasdale from his Eskdale.

Later on he took up windsurfing, but an evening of gentle offshore breeze at St Bees showed his technique to be somewhat uni-directional and an unscheduled break on the Isle of Man was averted only by the kind and timely, if somewhat embarrassing, intervention of a man with a motor boat.

Crease, and Keith, it seemed, was never more relieved than when it failed to take to the air. Later he took on responsibility for organising and running many very successful ski-trips, despite the protests of his now ageing knees.



Great as the contributions outlined so far may have been, they were dwarfed by his record on the sports field and as a Housemaster.

Himself a hugely accomplished rugby player and cricketer, Keith enjoyed a ten year spell as master in charge of rugby and, in particular, as coach to the 1<sup>st</sup> XV. He brought to it not only an impressive array of technical knowledge and a sharp competitive edge, but also an understanding that sport – and team sport in particular – had something to offer to all pupils, irrespective of their expertise or physicality. He was as keen to encourage the very modest performer as he was the naturally gifted and this was crucial in nursing generations of players through what could be, at times, a very tough initiation to inter-school sport.

Keith's contribution as a Housemaster was remarkable for both its duration and its diversity. In 1981 he stepped up to succeed David Lyall as Housemaster of Eaglesfield, a post he held for thirteen years. In this he was helped enormously by Yvonne and by his own instincts as a family man. The Junior boys found in him a firm but fair and straightforward presence, a man keen to fight their corner when necessary and tolerant of most of their more curious ways.

Most men or women would have felt that thirteen years was enough of such committing and demanding work, but, when re-organisation brought about the closure of Eaglesfield, Keith and Yvonne moved to Lonsdale to take on responsibility for Senior Girls. The contrast in approach and skills required would have proved too much for most, but Keith and Yvonne adapted with determination and sensitivity, establishing a regime in which the girls flourished while being regularly challenged to develop all aspects of their very diverse personalities to the full.

Those, then, were the bare facts of Keith's career as teacher, sports coach, CCF officer and Housemaster. What of the man himself? In all his roles, Keith brought to bear the same mix of strong personal qualities – he was sympathetic, but expected of himself and others a high degree of self-reliance and initiative. He was competitive, a characteristic that came out on the games field as a determination to win and elsewhere as encouragement to leave no talent undeveloped.

As a colleague he was courteous, honest, supportive, good-humoured and highly sociable. He was hugely loyal to his friends, the pupils and the school, generous with his time, his help and his hospitality. Time spent in his company, whether at home, in the bar of the Queen's, around a barbeque, away with sports teams or on CCF camps was always enjoyable and often spawned anecdotes which have no doubt grown in the telling over the years. The abiding impression was always of his deep-seated and civilised humanity.

His retirement saw him busy in and around Lindale, where his interests included Kendal Rugby Club, golf, governorship of the modern incarnation of his old

school, and, of course, his growing family. Sharing fun with his grandchildren clearly came very naturally to him and it is tragic that illness should have taken him from them and from all the family when he still had so much to offer.”

## **Notification of Deaths**

(Since the July 2016 Bulletin)

<b>AINSWORTH, A. N.</b> (Alan)	Died 14.11.16	FN 39-41
<b>BINNS, J.C.</b> (Christopher)	Died 12.07.15	FS 54-59
<b>BROADHURST, P.</b> (Peter)	Died 15.09.16	M 57-87
<b>DAVY, J.E.C.</b> (Jonathan)	Died 20.08.16	FS 69-71
<b>DIXON, D. I.</b> (David)	Died 16.09.16	FS 72-79
<b>HARGREAVES, Dr J. W.</b> (Jon)	Died 15.10.16	SH 64-68
<b>JOHNSTON, Major L.</b> (Linda)	Died 11.09.16	CCF 95-15
<b>MacCAIG, A.S.</b> (Alec)	Died 11.11.16	FS 42-46
<b>NICHOLSON, J.W.</b> (John)	Died 25.09.16	FN 40-43
<b>THOMPSON, M.J.</b> (Michael)	Died 14.05.16	FS 32-36
<b>WILSON, F.K.</b> (Keith)	Died 16.12.16	M 70-99

## **SOCIETY WEBSITE & FACEBOOK**

Please remember the St Beghian Society **website & facebook** pages at

**[www.st-beghian-society.co.uk](http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk)**

**<https://www.facebook.com/osbsociety>**

Please take time to have a look at them 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.

# St Beghians' Day – 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2016

Despite the school's not being in session at present, it was heartening to welcome last September a goodly number of OSBs for this annual event. The morning was taken up with the OSB Committee meeting then the AGM in the Whitelaw Building. The Minutes of the AGM may be found elsewhere in the Bulletin. Lunch followed in the Salad Room and it was good to see that the old pictures had been restored to the Foundation Dining Room, where there was also a display of school groups from previous decades. In the afternoon, apart from general reminiscing and tours of the buildings, addresses were given regarding the future of the school on behalf of the current Trustees, while in the Memorial Hall a number of village groups were displaying their wares. To see the school bustling with activity again was a delight.

**(Photographs from the day may be seen at:**

**<http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan17bulletin>).**

## **This extract from a letter of appreciation was received from Ian Jordan (SH 44-48):**

"I would like to thank all the people, Old St Beghians and others, responsible for making Saturday, 24th September, such an enjoyable day.

I learned, at the afternoon meeting in The Whitelaw Building of how so many St Beghians had put in a lot of work towards the reinstatement of the school as a going educational establishment and, speaking not only for myself but also, I'm convinced, for all my fellow Old St Beghians, I express my sincere thanks and appreciation for their dedication.

On the Sunday, before setting off for home, I went along the lane between School House and the school buildings and, possibly for the very first time in 72 years (Yes, I'm a really old Old St Beghian), I became aware of what a beautiful valley the village and the school occupy, enhanced by the dedicated work of David Lamb and all the others who are caring for the appearance of St Bees."

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

Save the date!

**St Beghians' Day 2017**

Will take place on

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2017**

BAGNALL, Miss N. (Nikki)	L 86-93	LIDDLE (nee Bertram), Mrs A.J. (Ashley)	G 91-93
BEIGHTON, G.M. (Gerry)	FS 48-52	LEVER, P.G. (Peter)	G 62-66
BOWEN, R.A. (Rob)	FS 72-79	LORD, A.D. (Alastair)	SH 90-95
BRAITHWAITE, Dr J. (John)	G 65-69	LORD, D.F. (David)	SH 60-65
BROWN, J.D.S. (Tim)	G 53-59	LOWREY, T.W. (Tom)	SH 57-62
BROWNRIGG, D.A. (Donald)	F 55-59	MACCAIG, A.S. (Alec)	FS 42-46
BULLOCK, J.F. (James)	FN 44-48	MESSENGER, F.O. (Frank)	SH 50-55
CALVIN (nee Gough), Mrs S.J. (Sara)	G 77-84	NICHOLAS, I. (Ivor)	SH 44-48
CARTMELL, G. (Gordon)	G 55-59	OGDEN, J.E. (John)	FS 51-56
CROSSLEY-SMITH, S. (Steve)	SH 47-52	PALMER, S.G. (Stephen)	SH 79-84
CURRY, N.J.V. (Nick)	SH 60-66	PALMER (nee Bacon), Mrs V.A. (Victoria)	G 86-93
DAVIES, D.W. (Darryl)	FS 62-68	PEMBERTON, M.H. (Michael)	SH 57-62
DEAN, A.S. (Adrian)	AC 82-90	REEVE, A.J.H. (Tony)	M 89-08
DOWNHAM, S.A. (Stephen)	G 61-65	REID, M. (Malcolm)	FS 72-79
EDGAR, Ms R. (Ruth)	L 81-88	RICE, A. (Alan)	FS 49-54
ETCHELLS, P.J. (Philip)	M 75-06	RICE, T.A.P. (Tom)	M 65-95
GRAHAM, J.A. (Tony)	FN 53-55	ROBERTS, M.N. (Mark)	SH 93-95
GRAHAM, J.D. (Julian)	SH 84-91	ROBSON, G.C. (George)	FN 57-64
HALL, R. (Richard)	F 64-68	ROWLANDS, D. (David)	G 63-66
HEWITSON, J.R. (John)	SH 52-57	SLOWTHER, M.C. (Michael)	FN 72-76
HOLMES, E.S. (Stan)	SH 45-50	STOUT, R.A. (Richard)	FN 56-59
HUDSON, Mrs G.F. (Jill)	M 90-15	THOMPSON, E.A.L. (Edward)	FS 54-59
JOHNSTON, A.T. (Andrew)	G 68-73	THOMPSON, T. (Tom)	FN 44-49
JORDAN, I.B. (Ian)	SH 44-48	TURVEY, M.J. (Michael)	M 63-67
JORDAN, M.B. (Matthew)	G 70-75	WATSON, D. R. (Dacre)	SH 56-62
LAMONT, C.I. (Chris)	SH 92-99	WILLIAMS, D.H. (Don)	FN 60-64
		WITHNALL, S.G. (Stuart)	G 58-63

**Apologies** were received from the following St Beghians:

AFFLECK, Dr W.S. (Bill)	SH 45-51	MAKINS, R. M. (Robert)	FS 56-61
BALDWIN, C.P.P. (Peter)	G 51-56	MATTHEWS, P.G. (Peter)	G 50-55
BELL, Mrs J. (Jane)	M 89-15	MAYNE, T.F. (Terence)	SH 47-52
BLAKE-DYKE, V. (Vivian)	SH 43-47	MORTON, Miss A. (Alison)	L 91-98
BRINDLE, J.S. (James)	G 49-53	PARKER, D.M. (David)	G 63-68
CALVIN, R.P. (Roy)	SH 79-83	PERCY, H.E. (Ted)	FS 51-56
CLARKSON, Rev. R.M. (Richard)	G 51-57	POWELL, B.H. (Brian)	F 50-54
DALZELL, Dr T. (Tom)	FN 49-53	PRINGLE, J.M. (John)	FN 46-49
DIX, W.M.H. (Malcolm)	FN 55-58	RIGBY, G.J. (Guy)	FS 73-78
DOVE, W.E. (Bill)	FN 57-60	RIGBY, J.A. (Tony)	FS 44-49
DUNN, J.M.W. (John)	FS 64-69	SLACK, B.M. (Bruce)	FN 58-63
EDWARDS, S.J. (Stephen)	FN 52-57	SPAULL, C.B.C. (Chris)	F 56-59
GOSS, J.R. (John)	FS 60-65	STOUT (nee Dixon), H. (Helen)	G 85-92
GREEN, M.L. (Michael)	FS 52-55	WHARTON, D.L. (David)	G 55-60
HAILE, A.J. (Andy)	F/SH 76-83	WILLS, A.J. (Anthony)	FN 60-64
JOHNSTON, D.A. (David)	G 47-51	WOODHEAD, E.R. (Richard)	FS 60-64
JOHNSTON, D.T. (David)	FN 41-44	WRIGHT, D.G.P. (Derek)	FS 48-53
MACPHERSON, I.A. (Ian)	F 44-47		

## **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.

# AGM Minutes

## **Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> (108<sup>th</sup>) Annual General Meeting of the St Beghian Society held in the Whitelaw Building on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 11.15am.**

There were 38 people present, including Dacre Watson (President), David Lord (Secretary/Treasurer) and Pam Rumney (Minutes).

**1. Welcome by The President, Dacre Watson.** Dacre welcomed Society Members to the meeting and thanked them for keeping faith and coming back to the school for St Beghians' Day. He continued by giving a brief update since the new Board of Trustees had taken over earlier in the year. He applauded the excellent work of the Trustees and their achievements to date. Dacre acknowledged the OSBs on the Board – Sara Calvin, Mark Roberts, Alastair Lord and Mark Rocca, who had been a superb Chairman, before being posted to Dubai through work. Dacre was pleased to report that some of the original Rescue Team Members had come back on board and one of them, Mark George, had kindly agreed to take over from Mark Rocca, as Chairman. It was mentioned that Mark George would be giving presentations on behalf of the Trustees during the afternoon to which all St Beghians were invited.

**2. The Minutes of the 107<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2015** as published in the January 2016 Bulletin were formally adopted, proposed by Richard Stout and seconded by Sara Calvin.

**3. Matters Arising** – There were no Matters Arising as Lonsdale Terrace and the school's finances were to be discussed later in the meeting.

### **4. The Election of Officers:**

**a) President Elect** – Dacre confirmed that he had agreed to stand for a further year until September 2017. George Robson proposed a vote of thanks to Dacre for all of his efforts during a very difficult time for the school and Society. Dacre went on to say that the Society needed to adopt a far more professional approach with regard to taking on new Society officers. He therefore suggested the creation of a 'President Elect' post, to allow the incoming President to spend a year being actively involved on the Committee before officially taking on the role of President. Dacre therefore proposed the immediate appointment of Peter Lever as President Elect, with a view to his becoming OSB President in September 2017. All members were in full agreement.

**b) Committee** – The three Committee members retiring this year, J. M. Dunn, R. Hall and M. N. Roberts confirmed that they were willing to continue. This was proposed by Alastair Lord and seconded by Ian Jordan.

**c) Secretary and Treasurer** – Dacre Watson announced that he would very much like to propose that David Lord continue as Secretary and Treasurer of the Society. David, however, confirmed that, as mentioned in previous meetings, he wished to stand down as soon as a replacement could be found. David stated that, after retiring ten years ago, he had agreed to take on the Secretary and Treasurer role for five years, but having completed ten years, he now felt the time was right to hand the job over to a younger person. Hopefully, within the next few months, a decision would be made with regard to the future of the school and therefore David felt it was an appropriate time to hand over to new blood with fresh ideas. He thanked everyone for all their support over the years and agreed to continue until the end of 2017, allowing time for a replacement to be found. Peter Lever proposed, seconded by Richard Hall, that David continue until the end of 2017 by which time it was hoped his successor could be found.

**d) Golfing Secretary** – David Lord reported that James Doggett had resigned about nine months previously and that Michael Coffey, who had been the Chairman and the driving force of the Golfing Society for many years, had agreed to fulfil the role of Secretary for the time being. Michael's main concern currently was the retention of their place in various competitions, particularly in the Halford Hewitt tournament, following the school's closure. It was understood that there was to be an important meeting in October where the St Beghian Golfing Society would have to put forward their case to remain part of that competition. Michael had indicated that the Golfing Society did not require the usual funding from the Society at the present time, but asked that he be allowed to come back to the Society at any stage, should the situation change.

**e) Accounts Checker** – Jason Spires had continued to provide excellent service to the Society as the accounts checker and David Lord requested that appreciation for him was voiced through the minutes for his tremendous contribution, which had always been free of charge. This was proposed by Alastair Lord and seconded by Darryl Davies.

**5. Lonsdale Terrace** – Andrew Johnston, the Society's Architect, was asked to give a summary of events since the last meeting. Andrew indicated that an application for planning permission to convert the houses on Lonsdale Terrace back to individual properties had been made. Copeland Borough Council had granted permission but with stipulations relating to the provision of adequate car parking. At the time of the application, an area of land between Grindal and Lonsdale Terrace was also mentioned but no planning permission was sought at this stage.

Andrew confirmed that, once planning permission had been granted, he had put the work out to tender with six local contractors. Four companies had submitted tenders with two indicating that they were too busy, mainly with work resulting from last year's flooding in the county. Since submitting a tender another company had withdrawn. From an initial examination of the information, Andrew reported that the work was expected to cost somewhere between £144k - £173k, plus VAT. It was re-emphasized that all works had to be completed before properties could be sold, including the provision of two car parking spaces per property, which would account for the greater part of the total cost.

Richard Stout enquired whether there would be any access via Grindal, but Andrew Johnston confirmed that this would not be the case, as it would be unacceptable to Copeland Borough Council.

Dacre Watson requested that thanks be recorded for all Andrew's hard work relating to Lonsdale Terrace.

David Lord went on to report that it had been made clear to the Society some time ago that, even if a school were re-established on the site, Lonsdale Terrace would not be required as boarding houses, hence Andrew Johnston's work in securing planning permissions for the properties. However, it was not known yet whether any of the houses would be needed for staff, but it was hoped that this would become clearer in the next few months. David outlined the significant costs necessary to convert the properties and indicated that the Society would not be able to fund the works from cash held in its own accounts. He also mentioned that a year previously, the finances of the school were such that a loan from the Society of £100k was envisaged in order to enable the school to continue trading after April/May 2016. However since this time, the Trustees had worked extremely hard at utilizing the assets and generating an income stream for the school and hence negating this requirement, certainly for the time being. Also, a year ago, the Society had been considering the monies needed to convert and market Lonsdale Terrace along with the envisaged loan to the school, and as a result had had discussions with the Cumberland Building Society. The Cumberland had indicated verbally that they should be in a position to help, but before proceeding further would need a valuation of the properties to be carried out. This had now been done and the report indicated Lonsdale Terrace to be worth £2.2m in its present state.

The bridging loan facility which was being discussed with the Cumberland was for the amount of £500k, but this figure was to include the amount of £150k, being the mortgage outstanding on No.8 Lonsdale. All other properties on the Terrace were free of mortgage. The term of the loan facility would be for repayment within five years.



It had been proposed at the earlier Committee meeting to set up a small sub-committee to determine what happens with, and to make decisions regarding, Lonsdale Terrace. The Trustees of the Guarantee Trust Fund and the Directors of OSB Nominees Limited would be involved, as the decision makers, along with designated St Beghian Society Committee Members.

David Lord reported that he hoped the work on the houses could be carried out by the end of this year or early in the new year, so as to be able to market the Terrace in the spring. A decision still needed to be made between a drip feed of properties, which was David's preferred option, or a blanket sale of all the houses at once.

Chris Lamont, an OSB and local accountant, had agreed to help with regard to advice on financial matters, such as VAT, if required.

Steve Crossley-Smith suggested a lease-hold sale and enquired as to the possible benefits. David confirmed that he had an open mind, but that the appropriate path would very much depend on whether a school was to reopen or not.

Stan Holmes asked for clarification as to whether the GTF would also go into liquidation if the school were to do so. David confirmed that, in his opinion, the two were separate legal entities and therefore this would not be the case.

**6. School Archives** – Dacre Watson asked for an update on the school archives.

Tony Reeve, the school's Archivist, summarised the Archive situation to date. He confirmed that a large amount of material had been delivered on loan to the local Whitehaven Records Office for storage and safe-keeping. In addition, most of the paintings, originally displayed in the staff Common Room, had fetched approximately £8k in sales at Mitchells, a local auctioneers. The remainder of the Archives was currently securely stored in two locations within school. The question of their long-term future was raised and it was agreed that this would require discussion, once the school's future was clearer.

Dacre Watson, commended Tony for his work over many years in preserving the Archives and mooted the possibility of someone working alongside Tony over the coming months/years, to ensure continuity for the future.

**7. Grant to Golfing Society** – This had been covered previously under 4 d).

**8. Accounts** – David Lord gave a review of the accounts, as follows:

**a) Guarantee Trust Fund (GTF)** – This account had been set up at the beginning of the war in 1939 when the school ran into difficulties following falling members and after a proposed merger with Rossall School had failed to materialise. As the school was unable to balance its books, a small group of wealthy OSBs had got together to form the Trust and to provide funds to keep the school afloat. Following the war the money was no longer needed but many OSBs continued to contribute, building up a fairly large cash fund. Over the years, the Lonsdale properties had been purchased from funds held in the GTF account, with

the final one, No.8, being bought in 2008. Around 1980, Lonsdale Terrace houses were converted to Girls' Boarding Houses. All the properties on Lonsdale Terrace are free of mortgage with the exception of No.8.

In 2008, a five year composite lease was drawn up between the school and the GTF and this was increased to a 25 year term in 2012 at the school's request. The last rental payment from the school was made in December 2015.

David drew attention to the significant costs (£17k to date) attributed to heating Lonsdale Terrace. He reminded Members that a decision had been taken the previous year to keep the buildings heated through the winter months in order to limit deterioration of the properties. David hoped that over the next 6-12 months the future of the school would become clearer.

David confirmed that a recent valuation of the properties by the Cumberland Building Society had indicated a figure of £2.2m in their present state.

**b) Scholarship Fund** – In the past this account had been used to provide funds to the school for Bursaries/Scholarships and was therefore no longer required. Due to the uncertainty at the school a year ago, the M&G Charifund units had been sold and the monies received held within the Fund.

**c) St Beghian Society General Account** – David pointed out that the account no longer received OSB subscriptions. He thanked Society Members who had standing orders set up in favour of the Society, several of which had been running for many years. He also expressed his gratitude to those OSBs who had responded positively to the recent plea made to postal Bulletin receivers, with regard to contributions towards the printing and postal costs. £3,000 had been received towards this expenditure and others agreed to receive an electronic version in future. David confirmed that Pam Rumney's salary was now being paid from the GTF account rather than the General Account.

**d) Society Trust Fund (Consolidated Trust Fund)** – When the school was open, this account had assisted with the purchase of prizes for Speech Day and therefore was no longer needed.

David reported that, in order to simplify the administration of the Society's finances, he had discussed with Jason Spires the possibility of closing the Society Trust Fund Account along with the Scholarship Fund and transferring the cash balances into the main St Beghian Society General Account. This had been discussed at the earlier Committee Meeting and members present were in favour of this transfer of funds taking place.

There were no comments or questions raised from Members present.

**9. Branch Activities** – Dacre Watson reiterated his view with regard to the importance of Branch activities in keeping Society Members together. He had felt that the North East Dinner had been an uplifting event, mainly due to the good number of 'younger' OSBs alongside older members of the Society. He went on

to mention the complexities of communication with younger OSBs as well as the need to identify suitable venues and events for all ages. Dacre expressed his ambition to find ways to target the younger generation in order to get them interested and involved in Society events.

Dacre thanked Steve Crossley-Smith for arranging a Yorkshire Dinner on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2017 and also to Tim Crossley-Smith for agreeing to help set up a London Dinner at the RAF Club, sometime during 2017. A date of March 17<sup>th</sup> has since been agreed.

George Robson mentioned the 1960s video which had been shown at a previous NE Dinner, in case anyone wished to borrow it for a future event.

**10. The 200 Club** – Darryl Davies expressed his thanks to those who were members of the 200 Club and reaffirmed that by taking part in the draw, OSBs were also helping the Society. As the money raised was obviously no longer required by the school, the funds were now being used appropriately by the St Beghian Society and the OSB Golfing Society on a 50:50 basis.

It was confirmed that approximately £2,000 was held in the 200 Club account. Darryl informed OSBs that the draw would take place at lunchtime. However, this did not happen but eventually took place on 13.10.16 and produced the following winners:

<b>Prize</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Prize</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Winner</b>
<b>£120</b>	64	S.E.W. (Simon) <b>Temple</b>	<b>£20</b>	46	D.W. & P.M. (Darryl) <b>Davies</b>
<b>£40</b>	71	M.P.T. & T.J. (Martyn) <b>Hart</b>	<b>£20</b>	45	J.J. (John) <b>Beal</b>
<b>£40</b>	55	M.S. (Michael) <b>Binns</b>	<b>£20</b>	11	E.A.L. (Edward) <b>Thompson</b>
<b>£40</b>	37	P.M. (Michael) <b>Brandwood</b>	<b>£10</b>	25	C.T. (Christine) <b>McKay</b>
<b>£40</b>	29	C.R.C. (Chris) <b>Tetley</b>	<b>£10</b>	53	D.H. (Don) <b>Williams</b>

## **11. Any other business**

- i. George Robson thanked Tony Reeve for all his work over the years in the production of the Bulletin. In response, Tony advised members that a lot of the material for the twice-yearly Bulletin had in the past been generated from within school. He therefore asked Members to consider contributing articles to ensure that enough pieces were received for future Bulletins.

- ii. David Lord wished to recognise the following contributions which had been made by:
- a) The five OSB Members of the Board of Trustees for the excellent job that they were doing, and also the amount of work being undertaken by the non OSBs living in the village, which should in no way be understated. Their contribution had been huge. David also mentioned Tom Kelly, the Clerk to the Governors and former parent, who was also doing a superb job and putting in a great number of hours for the school. He also mentioned Kate Wilson from the village, who had recently joined the team to assist with communications and publicity.
  - b) David Lamb, the school's groundsman, who was an extremely loyal member of staff and who, on his own, had kept the school grounds looking immaculate since the closure in July 2015. David Lamb had worked for the school since the early 1980s and David Lord requested that the Society's thanks be minuted.
  - c) Julie and Claire, two of the former catering staff, who had kindly agreed to come back to provide lunch on OSB Day.

David Lord concluded by saying that the last year had obviously been very difficult but that he now felt that the school had a much better feel to it and he thanked members for their support during this time.

Dacre Watson reiterated David's thanks to OSBs and in particular expressed his appreciation for their support and presence at the AGM. He also conveyed his gratitude to David Lord, Tony Reeve and Pam Rumney for their support throughout the year.

**12. Date of Next Meeting** – A provisional date of September 2017 was mentioned.

**The meeting closed at 12.45pm.**

**Additional events** 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 and Facebook pages for further information.

**[www.st-beghian-society.co.uk](http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk)**  
**<https://www.facebook.com/osbsociety>**

## 200 Club

News of the 200 Club and the winners of the September 2016 draw may be seen under item 10 of the AGM Minutes, posted earlier in the Bulletin (page 27).

If you would like to join the 200 Club, please contact:

**Darryl W Davies, 200 Club Secretary and Treasurer.**

**Email: [darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com](mailto:darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com) or Tel: (01946) 831650.**

### A MYSTERY NO MORE!

We might suppose that over the years a number of St Beghians have wondered what drove the Reverend John Dykes to name one of his hymn tunes *ST BEES*.

John Dykes was vicar of St Oswald's in Durham City during the middle of the nineteenth century. He died in post at the relatively early age of fifty-four in 1871.

The inscription on his gravestone reads  
*Composer of over three hundred hymn tunes.*

Many of our most loved hymn tunes are credited to Dykes and are found in the hymn books of virtually every Christian denomination.

Recently a dust-covered and mildewed biography of John Dykes was rescued from the vaults of Newcastle's Central Library.

Scrutiny reveals the story that led to the composition of *ST BEES*:

Dykes acted as choirmaster at St Oswald's and was in the habit of arriving early to rehearsals, spending the time 'doodling' on the piano.

One evening some of the choir members arrived to hear Dykes playing a tune that they were taken with and said to the Reverend that it should be written down.

Dykes did this and decided to call the tune *ST BEES* because a short while before, he had spent some days visiting the St Bees Theological College and was very taken with all he saw - liking in particular St Bees Head.

The tune is used to accompany a number of hymns but in particular:

**Hark, my soul! It is the Lord  
'Tis the Saviour, hear his word.  
Jesus speaks, and speaks to me  
Say, poor sinner, lov'st thou me?**

**(Image of hymn tune may be seen at  
<http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan17bulletin>).**

**Fingers (FN 57-64)**

## BRANCH NOTES

### **Branch Activities:**

#### **Asia - OSBs in Asia**

2016 has been the inaugural year of Old St Beghians in Asia and has delivered a promising start to the branch. The year kicked off with the first Hong Kong OSB dinner, organised by James Rebert (SH 91-98). We hope that there will be many more to come. Despite a modest turnout, it was an opportunity for a few OSBs based in Asia to reminisce about their time at school and to lay plans to turn the dinner into an official annual event supported by a newly founded branch of the society - the Old St Beghians in Asia.

Since the first dinner, James Rebert, Laurence Gribble (SH 02-09) and Chris Ma (G 02-09) have been working hard online to spread the word about the OSBs in Asia. To date our Facebook group has 139 members, many based in Hong Kong, but a large number scattered throughout the East Asia region. Please find us online and join the community of Old St Beghians in Asia.

It was a pleasant surprise to receive an email in late August from Paul Rew (F 61-66), who informed us that he would be passing through Hong Kong and was aware of the recently formed group based in the city. It was a pleasure to welcome Paul and his wife to Hong Kong over dinner. This kind of interaction, being able to help OSBs as they pass through or when they move to Hong Kong, was a perfect example of one of the reasons why we decided to set up a group here.

October saw us at the 'Dickens Bar' at The Excelsior for our second official event - OSB Drinks Social. Nine months on and we had almost doubled our numbers from the first dinner. We were also able to welcome a few recent arrivals to Hong Kong - Daley Birkett (G 01-08), Abigail Birkett, nee Brown (L 01-08) and Lucy Gilmour (L 00-07).

As we welcome the New Year we look forward to our second annual dinner in Hong Kong. This year's event will be on Saturday, 25th February 2017 and will be held at the Modern China Restaurant in Causeway Bay. We are very pleased to welcome Dacre Watson (SH 56-62), President of the St Beghian Society, for the dinner. The cost of the dinner will be HK\$400 (set menu to include wine). Contact us now to book your place!

#### **Please do get in touch:**

Facebook Group: "Old St Beghians in Asia"

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/480912405435555/>

E-mail: [OSBinAsia@gmail.com](mailto:OSBinAsia@gmail.com)

We look forward to hearing from you! **Laurence, James & Chris.**

**(Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan17bulletin>).**

## **North East Branch Dinner 2016**

Once again the impressive facilities of the Northumberland Golf Club provided an excellent venue for the Branch's 2016 Dinner which was held on Wednesday November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Thirty-six former pupils and members of staff attended.

Chairman Don Williams welcomed everyone, in particular three Old Boys who were attending a Branch Dinner for the first time.

We were also most pleased to have in attendance Rob Miller, who as well as being an Old Boy, is a member of the current Board of Trustees.

The Northumberland Golf Club can always be relied upon to serve up a meal in keeping with their exquisite dining hall and this year was no exception.

Following the meal Rob spoke about the current state of the school and its prospects. He said that the school's facilities were in constant use by outside bodies, providing a healthy cash-flow, and that the buildings and the surrounding grounds were being maintained to a high standard. There were a number of 'irons in the fire' which could result in the re-opening of the school, possibly in 2018.

Society President Dacre Watson then rose and spoke both eloquently and passionately on the current situation, emphasising how very important it is for all OSBs to support the school and the Society in all ways possible during what is a crucial period of its history.

He said that he was immensely impressed with the work that is being done to ensure a future for the school by a most talented and committed group of Trustees and friends of the school - the latter including the willing involvement of a number of villagers.

After the President had finished speaking, Chairman Don Williams made a presentation to him in appreciation of his dedication during a particularly difficult term as President. Don said "this aptly titled book 'A Portrait of Achievement' is presented to you on behalf of the North East Branch of the St Beghian Society". The book was gifted within a presentation box and was dedicated and signed by its author D.H. Williams.

To conclude the evening, George Robson presented six artefacts that he had borrowed from the school archives. These evoked humour and merriment - particularly the Foundation House cane, which some members confessed to having 'tasted' during their schooldays!

As happens year after year, at the end of proceedings and after a time spent in the bar, members set off for home, with the exception of the twelve *Pitchford Boys*, who sped off in taxis in the direction of Newcastle's quayside nightclubs.

### **Those present were:**

**Top Table** – D.H. Williams\* (FN 61-64) (Chairman), D.F. Lord (SH 60-65) (OSB Hon Secretary/Treasurer), Mrs F.E. Lord (Retired Staff),

W.E. Dove\* (FN 57-60) (Secretary NE Branch), Mrs H. Miller (Ex Staff), D.R. Watson (FN 61-64) (President of St Beghian Society) and J.R. Miller (SH 93-00) (Trustee of St Bees School).

**Table 1** – J.F. Bullock (FN 44-48), F.O. Messenger (SH 50-55), I.D. Nimmo (FN 52-57), N.C. Wakefield (G 53-57), H.B. McLaren (SH 53-57), N.D. Clothier (FN 53-57), A.H. Dobson (G 53-58), R.J. Jackson (FN 55-58), W.M.H. Dix\* (FN 55-58).

**Table 2** – C.R. Kennedy (FN 55-59), A.M. Carstairs (FN 57-62), George Robson\* (FN 57-64), J.M. McBryde (G 58-61), A.O. Burn (G 62-65), N.W. Adams (FN 68-71), M.P. Windle (FS 68-71), D.G.W. Reed (FN 75-78) and Mrs R.V. Lewis (L 77-79).

**Table 3** – D.J. Pitchford (G 95-02), D. Bushby (SH 95-02), P.J. Drysdale (SH 95-02), B. Wilson (SH 97-04), R.I. Littler (SH 98-05), M.T. Garstang (SH 98-05), K.A. Marshall (SH 98-05), D. Rhodes (SH 04-11), A. Littler (SH 04-11), R. Carlill (SH 04-11), I. Moore (G 04-11) and S. Wilson (SH 06-13).

\* OSB Past Presidents.

**(Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan17bulletin>).**

## **Scottish Branch Dinner 2016**

The Dinner was held on Friday 25th November 2016 at The Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh.

In attendance were Dacre Watson (President, St Beghian Society)(SH 56-62), Mark George (Chair of Board of Trustees, St Bees School), David Lord (Secretary & Treasurer, St Beghian Society)(SH 60-65), Peter Lever (President-Elect, St Beghian Society)(G 62-66), David Parker (Scottish Branch Secretary, St Beghian Society)(G 64-68), Anthony Wills (F 60-64) and Joanna, Fiona Lord (Former Staff), Nick Hunter (SH 63-67), Ian Hunter (SH 96-03), David Elston (FS 65-70), Charles Crummey (FS 67-72), Tim Mackay (FS 68-73), Ed Wilkie (SH 77-84) and partner, John Barwise (SH 93-00), Tony Graham (FN 53-55) and Michael Baker (SH 93-00).

A three-course meal was served in the Douglas Room followed by words from Mark George on behalf of the Trustees about the latest developments at the school. Dacre Watson then made an appeal to fellow St Beghians to become involved and engaged in the work of the Society and the School Trust. David Parker concluded the speeches by thanking all attendees for their support and all those who had attended over the last twenty years of his tenureship as Scottish Branch Secretary. He has announced his retirement as Secretary and passes over



the baton to Dr Jerry Tsang (SH 96-03), who will continue the work of providing dinners and such events that bring Old St Beghians together.

Another good and convivial evening was had by all and thanks go to the staff of the Royal Scots for again looking after the OSBs so well and providing excellent facilities.

### **Thomas Froggatt (SH 03-10) Memorial Charity Rugby Match in Aid of the Calvert Trust.**

The second of what is hoped is now an annual charity rugby match took place just after Christmas at the Egremont Rugby Club. The game is played in memory of Thomas Froggatt, who died tragically early of an incurable brain disease.

Thomas was a multi-talented sportsman, who played football for St Bees village, rugby for Egremont and the full range of sports at St Bees School. The match between an Egremont XV and an ex St Bees School XV resulted in a 24-12 win for the Egremont club, but the best result of the day was the £1100 raised for the Calvert Trust, £600 of which came from the touchline collection alone, due to the generosity of the large crowd.

The Calvert Trust Centre in Keswick was opened in 1978 and its vision is to enable people with disabilities to benefit from outdoor activities in the countryside. Thomas spent some time at the centre during the course of his illness.

It is hoped that the event is now firmly established as an annual, unofficial OSB reunion at a time of year when many parents and former students are home for the holidays.

**Many thanks to Billy Redden Photography for allowing the use of his splendid images of the day.**

**(Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan17bulletin>).**

## **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](mailto:osb@stbeesschool.co.uk) or (01946) 828093 or by post.**

## **Annual Dinner and Other Dates:**

### **Asia**

The second annual dinner in Hong Kong will be on Saturday 25th February 2017 and will be held at the Modern China Restaurant in Causeway Bay. We are very pleased to welcome Dacre Watson (SH 56-62), President of the St Beghian Society, for the dinner. The cost of the dinner will be HK\$400 (set menu to include wine). Contact us now to book your place! Facebook Group: "Old St Beghians in Asia" <https://www.facebook.com/groups/480912405435555/> or E-mail: OSBinAsia@gmail.com

### **Bristol and West of England**

The Bristol and West of England Branch will be meeting on Friday 26th May 2017. The exact form of the event is still under discussion, but please put the date in your diaries. If you want to be advised of what we will be doing, please email Bill Affleck ([william.affleck@btinternet.com](mailto:william.affleck@btinternet.com)) or telephone him on (01453) 832619 and he will make sure you are kept up-to-date with developments.

### **Cumbria**

This year's Cumbria Dinner will be held at The Castle Bar, Market Place, Cockermouth on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2017 (7.00 for 7.30 pm). A cost of £20 per person will include a 3 course meal, plus tea or coffee. The menu will be posted on the Society website shortly.

If you are interested in attending please contact Darryl Davies on 07970 180751 or [darryl.davies1@bopenworld.com](mailto:darryl.davies1@bopenworld.com).

### **London (Dinner)**

Tim Crossley-Smith writes: A London OSB dinner is planned for Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March in the sumptuous surroundings of the RAF Club, 128 Piccadilly, London W1. I'm really hoping that we can build on the very successful 2015 dinner at the Four Seasons, as well as being able to renew old friendships and receive an update on current developments at the school.

Further particulars of the dinner will be sent out by email over the next 2-3 weeks, together with booking details; but it would be very helpful for the planning of the event if OSBs could let me know if they are able to attend. Please feel free to mention the event to any fellow OSB members who may not have been included in my direct circulation list, and please mention the event on your social media. Partners are of course welcome to attend. For information, the cost of the dinner is likely to be around £38, plus drinks. The date also coincides with St Patrick's Day, so what better way to commemorate the arrival of St Bega on St Bees' beach from across the Irish Sea all those years ago!

For further details please contact Tim Crossley-Smith at [tim.crossley-smith@gva.co.uk](mailto:tim.crossley-smith@gva.co.uk) or (01753) 880546 or alternatively Dacre Watson at [dacrewatson@btinternet.com](mailto:dacrewatson@btinternet.com) or (01367) 252384.

### **London (Gathering)**

It is hoped to arrange an informal social event for OSBs in the City of London at the Samuel Pepys pub/restaurant in October. If there are any OSBs who would be prepared to help set this up by contacting friends, we would be grateful for your support and would welcome hearing from you. Please contact Pam Rumney if you can help in anyway or would be interested in attending: [osb@stbeesschool.co.uk](mailto:osb@stbeesschool.co.uk).

### **Manchester**

A dinner is being planned for the middle of June in Manchester. All OSBs welcome. Please contact Roy Calvin if you are interested in attending: [roycalvin@gcorner.co.uk](mailto:roycalvin@gcorner.co.uk) or (0161) 928 9812 or 0777 189 3900.

### **North East Branch**

Don Williams looks forward to welcoming honoured guests, old friends, and new members to the next Branch Dinner. This will be on Wednesday 8th November, 2017, 7.00pm for 7.30pm, at the Northumberland Golf Club, High Gosforth Park, Newcastle, NE3 5HT. For further information please contact Bill Dove on (01274) 585147 or [williamdove15@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:williamdove15@yahoo.co.uk).

### **Scotland**

A provisional date of Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017 has been booked at the Royal Scots Club in Edinburgh. If interested, please contact the new organiser, Jerry Tsang (SH 96-03): [drjerrytsang@gmail.com](mailto:drjerrytsang@gmail.com) or (0131) 5389703 or 0789 895 8123.

### **Singapore**

Duncan Merrin (G 53-57) is proposing a get-together for either lunch or dinner on May 6<sup>th</sup> in Singapore, to coincide with a visit by Dacre Watson (SH 56-62). Please contact Duncan if you would be interested in joining them on the 6<sup>th</sup> May. Contact: Duncan Merrin at [duncanmerrin@hotmail.com](mailto:duncanmerrin@hotmail.com).

### **Yorkshire**

The plan is to have Sunday Lunch (carvery - 3 courses plus coffee £22) on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017 at the Bridge Inn at Walshford Bridge. This is situated about 6 minutes from the A1 at Wetherby. The object is to have an informal setting to encourage a wider age group than we normally achieve. We will also be able to welcome wives/husbands, partners, friends and children (at a reduced rate), please see their website: [www.thebridgewetherby.co.uk](http://www.thebridgewetherby.co.uk). For further information please contact Steve Crossley-Smith on (01943) 830640 or [crossleysmith@btinternet.com](mailto:crossleysmith@btinternet.com).

## **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](mailto: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),  
5 Marlborough Avenue, High Harrington, Workington,  
Cumbria. CA14 4NW.  
Tel: (01946) 831650. Email: [darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:roycalvin@gcorner.co.uk)

**London:** Post Vacant.

### **North-East:**

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

**Scotland:**

Dr. S.T.J. Tsang (Jerry),

64/5 Lorne Street, Edinburgh. EH6 8QF.

Tel: (0131) 5389703 or 0789 895 8123. Email: drjerrytsang@gmail.com

**East Europe:**

J. Anderson (John),

ul Dziecieliny 3 M81, Miedzylesie, 04-745 Warszawa, Poland

Tel: 0048 (0)22 8127779. Email: andersonwarsaw@vp.pl

## **William Leefe Robinson Commemoration**

**On the evening of Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016  
a service of commemoration was held in the school Chapel  
to mark an important anniversary.**

William Leefe Robinson, who was educated at St Bees School, was the first pilot to shoot down a German airship over Britain during the First World War, on the night of 2/3 Sept 1916. For this he was awarded the Victoria Cross just two days later.

He was the first person to be awarded the VC for action in the UK, and it was the first VC of the Royal Flying Corps, the forerunner of the RAF.

His amazing feat of bravery: he was flying at night, in an open cockpit, without instruments, at about ten thousand feet in a craft not designed to go that high, running short of fuel and having to rearm manually while controlling the plane with his knees, was a turning point in repelling the airship menace in WW1, and was the birth of aerial night fighting.

A commemoration of the short life of this modest and undeniably heroic man in words and music was held in the school Chapel, where his VC is recorded, on the hundredth anniversary of the award of the medal by the King and included a detailed account of the action and its significance for aerial combat and the morale of the nation.

The service was extremely well attended despite appalling weather conditions, with many people from the local area and a good number of OSBs, several of whom had travelled a considerable distance, being present.

**(See also the artwork of the aviation artist Michael Farrier at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan17bulletin>. Mr Farrier can be contacted on [mfazzman@outlook.com](mailto:mfazzman@outlook.com) or mobile 07790 769709.)**

# Golfing Society (OSBGS)

**The following is a list of forthcoming competitions:**

**HALFORD HEWITT CUP** (10 aside scratch foursomes) -  
*Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club & Royal St. George's Golf Club* - Kent.  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April.  
CONTACT Adrian Peckitt: [rapeckitt8@hotmail.com](mailto:rapeckitt8@hotmail.com)

(Earlier this month the draw took place at the East India Club in London for the 2017 Halford Hewitt Cup. St Bees were drawn to play Stonyhurst at Royal St George's at 07.45 (!) on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> April).

**GRAFTON MORRISH** (6 aside scratch foursomes) Regional Qualifying -  
*Fixby Hall GC* – Huddersfield.  
Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017.  
CONTACT Andy Deall: [Andy.Deall@nsgltd.com](mailto:Andy.Deall@nsgltd.com)  
FINALS *Royal West Norfolk GC & Hunstanton GC* (28<sup>th</sup> Sep - 1<sup>st</sup> Oct).

**CYRIL GRAY TOURNAMENT** (over 55 years - 6 aside scratch foursomes, for the last 32 Schools to enter the Halford Hewitt) –  
*Worplesdon GC* – Surrey.  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June.  
CONTACT Michael Coffey: [Michael@golfclubsec.co.uk](mailto:Michael@golfclubsec.co.uk)

**THE QUEEN ELIZABETH CORONATION SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT**  
(6 aside scratch foursomes) –  
*Royal Burgess GC* – Edinburgh. September.  
CONTACT Andrew Goodwin: [andrew@trulyonline.co.uk](mailto:andrew@trulyonline.co.uk)

## **THE CRITCHLEY CUP – 2017.**

The intention is to hold this over the *Jubilee Course* at St Andrews probably on a Friday in June – date to be confirmed.

Can anyone who holds a Trophy from the last playing of the event PLEASE advise?

**Old St Beghians GS** –  
*Penrith GC* - Saturday 30th September 2017.  
Teams of four from 11.00, followed by 'lunch'.  
CONTACT Michael Coffey: [Michael@golfclubsec.co.uk](mailto:Michael@golfclubsec.co.uk)

## **THE HALFORD HEWITT CUP and the OSBGS**

Some years ago now, Alec MacCaig was asked to pen his reminisces regarding St Bees' involvement in the 'Hewitt' (see below). Alec was everything one could want as a foursomes partner: calm, keen to win and with a hickory-shafted brass-headed putter, very good on the links greens of Kent; added to which he was a true 'gentle man'.

Sadly Alec passed away at the end of 2016 and in his memory members of the Society donated nearly £4000 to help keep the St Bees School Golf Club in good order. There is still time to contribute. Please contact Michael Coffey: Michael@golfclubsec.co.uk.

The Halford Hewitt Cup, which was founded in 1924 in quite a modest way and played originally at Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club (Deal), has for many years now brought together 64 teams of the past pupils of UK schools to play against one another in teams of ten, playing foursomes matches in knock-out format over four days annually in March or April. In 1950 the competition had become so popular that it became necessary to use two courses and to limit the number of schools entering to 64, and fortunately Royal St Georges Golf Club (Sandwich) were kind enough to make their course available, so both courses have been used ever since.

Tom Sharp and Alec MacCaig were very fortunate, in 1948, when they were 18 and 19 respectively, to be invited to play for St Bees in this competition and subsequently enjoyed numerous return visits to Kent to play in it, but their first visit in 1948 had such an impact on their subsequent lives that they both felt they ought to try to record some of the details of that first visit. Alec left St Bees School in July 1946 and Tom left in 1947 and they both achieved low single figure handicaps early in 1948, so they were invited by Dick Harrison, joint founder and first Secretary of the OSB Golfing Society, to join the OSB Team of ten in April 1948. In the period immediately after the end of the Second World War, when everything was still either rationed or in short supply, this turned out to be a life-changing experience for both of them.

They joined up with Col W. Vivian Jones, another member of the team, in Manchester and travelled by train to London Euston and then took a taxi to the Dorchester Hotel where the team was meeting for lunch. The host of the lunch was Brigadier General A. C. Critchley CMG, CBE, DSO, (known to everyone as 'Critch') an Old St Beghian and the other Joint Founder of the OSB Golfing Society. The other team members who were gathered there for this lunch were

John Akam, Harry Baker, Tom Dent, Teddy Browne and Willie Halstead. Browne and Halstead both won Golf Blues at Cambridge in the late 1930s.

After lunch the whole team were transported from the Dorchester Hotel, with all of their golf clubs and luggage, down to Sandwich in Kent in Critch's very luxurious motor caravan with his batman Titch driving it, and of course drinks were available on the way if we wanted them. After a very comfortable journey, we reached the Guildford Hotel in Sandwich Bay, which was jointly owned by Critch and one of his friends by the name of Bridgeman. The Guildford Hotel was an imposing building, beautifully situated midway between Deal and Sandwich within 50 yards of the sea and our whole team were to be Critch's guests for the duration of their stay! During the competition the hotel also accommodated a number of other school teams including Eton, Harrow, Charterhouse, Winchester, Clifton and Wellington. It was a superb hotel and guests were required to dress for dinner in the evenings, so the atmosphere in the dining room in the evenings was certainly a 'new' experience for two teenagers fresh from St Bees! We found ourselves rubbing shoulders with Willie Whitelaw, Gerald Micklem, Laddie Lucas, Philip Scrutton, Leonard Crawley and many other well-known personalities of that time.

St Bees were drawn to play Eton in the first round at Deal that year and they beat us 4/1. Tom and Alec played together in the third pairing and put up a reasonable fight on their first appearance but did not manage a win. They did however return home with the most remarkable memories of the camaraderie of the Halford Hewitt Competition, of this incredible man Critch, of his lovely hotel and his hospitality, and of their newly acquired OSB golfing team mates and friends who would remain very good friends for many years to come.

After the team returned home from that 1953 Competition we all sadly learned that Critch, who had played in our team, had felt unwell whilst driving home and gone straight to bed on arrival. He then spent four or five days in a state of semi consciousness, at the end of which he found that he was blind.

This personal tragedy, which struck Critch at the age of 63, also meant that we had to find other accommodation whilst playing in the Halford Hewitt in subsequent years.

Initially the team stayed in a small pub in Sandwich for many years and then tried hotels in Ramsgate and Dover before taking two adjacent houses on the sea front at Deal, owned by cordon bleu chef Jane Forbes, where the team enjoyed many



very happy years. Alec played last in 2003, at Royal St George's against Watsons, a span of 56 years from start to finish.

For many years now Adrian Peckitt has organised excellent accommodation at Knowlton Court, inland from Sandwich and close to The Griffin Head (thank goodness), which gives us plentiful accommodation in a Lodge and nearby apartments and enables us to eat together enjoying ourselves and our company.

The Halford Hewitt Competition which started over 90 years ago is something which every keen OSB golfer should experience and there can be no better year than 2017. We have plentiful accommodation as well as the opportunity to play some of the UK's finest links (for a week!), so PLEASE get in touch with Adrian at [rapeckitt8@hotmail.com](mailto:rapeckitt8@hotmail.com) and join in.

## **HEWITT HISTORY**

There is a degree of debate surrounding how the event came to be started but, according to that great golf writer and TV commentator, Henry Longhurst, it was dreamt up during a lunch which John Beck had with G.L. "Susie" Mellin at The Addington Club in Surrey some time during the summer of 1923. Certainly, later that year, representatives from six schools, namely Eton, Charterhouse, Highgate, The Leys, Malvern and Winchester met up to finalise the first tournament and they were joined in the inaugural draw by four others, Mill Hill, Rugby, Beaumont and Radley although, ultimately, during that first year, Beaumont scratched and Radley failed to raise a team.

Mellin, an old Malvernian, and Beck, an old Carthusian who later went on to Captain the Great Britain & Ireland Walker Cup side in 1938, were both outstanding golfers, Mellin good enough to reach the semi finals of The Amateur Championship in 1920, and both were determined to instigate an inter Public Schools golf tournament along similar lines to an existing football tournament, the Arthur Dunn Cup. Both were also traditionalists, members of the old school in more ways than one, so it came as no surprise that they selected foursomes as the official format for the tournament.

Foursomes then, unlike now, was the obvious choice, the preferred form of golf for amateur golfers used to competing in the likes of Sunningdale and Addington Foursomes, the Worpleston Mixed Foursomes and the London Amateur Foursomes, and it was also the speediest format, an important consideration which allowed the first few Hewitts to be contested over a single weekend, thereby ensuring that none of the competitors had to take valuable time off work in order to compete.

Foursomes was confirmed as the official format right from the outset, at that lunch at The Addington, and it seems that the decision to call it The Halford Hewitt was finalised then, too.

According to Longhurst, who seldom got things wrong, Mellin and Beck had decided on the tournament details and were wondering which 'bloody fool' they could inveigle into putting up a trophy when, quite by chance, Halford Hewitt walked into the room and was promptly pounced on.

**Texas Scramble (August 2016)** - A very successful Texas Scramble competition took place at Seascale Golf Club on Saturday 6th August, 2016.

**(Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan17bulletin>).**

**Membership of the Society** is by annual subscription of £25 (to contribute to events and entry fees for example, Halford Hewitt entry is £855 in 2017) by standing order to:

Old St Beghians Golfing Society

Barclays Bank - A/c. No. 80197742

Sort Code 20-55-34.

**For any further information on the OSBGS please contact Michael Coffey (OSBGS President):**

Michael@golfclubsec.co.uk or 01255 676727.

## **The Trustees' Newsletter**

Enclosed with this Bulletin you will find the third issue of the Newsletter prepared by the Board of Trustees. Their aim is to keep OSBs and others as up to date as possible with the progress being made to rekindle education on the school premises.

### **Stop Press: Proposed NE Social Event**

Don Williams (FN 61-64) is thinking about an event for this year. In the past he has organised rugby and cricket socials, as well as a trip to the races.

If you are interested in attending an event, please contact Don:  
don@kingdomofnorthumbria.co.uk or (01670) 789489 or 07747 778 786

## OSB SHOP

<b>Badge - Cloth</b>	<b>£7.50</b>
<b>Badge - Silver Wire</b>	<b>£13.00</b>
<b>Bar Brooch</b>	<b>£15.00</b>
<b>Bow Tie (Pre-tied) – Satin Weave - New</b>	<b>£10.00</b>
<b>Buttons - Chrome (Large)</b>	<b>£1.50 each</b>
<b>Car Badge</b>	<b>£7.50</b>
<b>Ladies Silver Emblem Pendant (no chain)</b>	<b>£10.50</b>
<b>Picture Prints – Quadrangle, Terrace, General View</b>	<b>£1.50 each</b>
<b>Scarf - College Wrap (Wool)</b>	<b>£16.50</b>
<b>Scarf Ring - Ladies</b>	<b>£4.00</b>
<b>Square - Material</b>	<b>£3.50</b>
<b>Sweater</b> <b>(Navy blue courtelle with embroidered OSB badge)</b> <b>Sizes 36/38/40/42/44 (small fitting)</b>	<b>Reduced to £5.00</b> <b>(Originally £16.40)</b>
<b>Tie - Acrylic</b>	<b>£5.00</b>
<b>Tie – Satin Weave - New</b>	<b>£12.00</b>
<b>Tie Tac</b>	<b>£3.50</b>

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

## SOCIETY OFFICERS:

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(SH 56-62)

### Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:

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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.

**The next St Beghian Society Committee Meeting will probably be  
held in March, 2017 (tbc).**

**The AGM and St Beghians' Day will take place on Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2017.**

**Copy Deadline:** As the target month for the next issue of 'The Old St Beghian' is **July**, the Editor would be most grateful if Branch Secretaries and other contributors would let him have their notices and reports by **31<sup>st</sup> May, 2017**.

**The St Beghian Society, St Bees School, St Bees, Cumbria. CA27 0DS.  
(01946) 828093 or [osb@stbeesschool.co.uk](mailto:osb@stbeesschool.co.uk)**

**Website: [www.st-beghian-society.co.uk](http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk)**

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