



The Old St Beghian

January 2024

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From Our President Carter Croft (FN 60-65)

Time has flown and I am already three quarters of the way through my two-year Presidency. This has been an interesting year for the Society and we look forward to a new calendar of events in 2024. At the end of December there will be the Thomas Froggatt Memorial Rugby Match, which I hope to attend. And rugby, will always make us remember a former Cumberland and Westmorland rugby representative, our own Peter Dixon (FS 56-63), who passed away in August. He was a superb player not only did he win 22 England caps, he was selected for the British Lions, and was also to captain England. He was in the North of England team on two occasions that defeated the touring All Blacks, at Workington and Otley, as well as being in the Lions' team that defeated the all-dominating All Blacks in New Zealand in 1971. His funeral was attended by a big group of OSBs along with a large representation of former international players. Peter, a humble and private man, would never talk of his achievements.

In 2023 a number of OSBs went up to London to attend the memorial service to that eminent pioneer of immunology, Doctor Bill Frankland MBE DM FRCP, who was known as the Grandfather of Allergy. Bill was a great supporter of his old school and a most generous benefactor to it.

In October the London Social was booked at the Samuel Pepys pub, organised by Nic Shannon Metcalfe, but the travel gods were against us again as a tube strike was called at late notice, along with National Rail strike disruption, so a decision was made to postpone the event. I have spoken to Nic, who is happy to organise the event this coming October 2024. A date will follow.

On the 8th November Bill Dove organised a lunch at the Northumberland Golf Club, Gosforth. He has been the Secretary of this Branch for nearly fifty years and what a great job he does! Thank you, Bill. He managed to get just under thirty OSBs to attend to enjoy a few pints and a very welcome steak pie. An informative address and positive view of the future of St Bees School was delivered eloquently by Laurence Gribble, the Assistant Head, and of course himself an OSB. What a pleasure it was also to see Don Williams back on his feet again after his recent illness.

I proceeded from Gosforth to Edinburgh to attend an Edinburgh Accies RFC long luncheon. I was invited by OSB, David Parker, and attending was another OSB, Bruce Murdoch. We were on the same table, and I recollected how, when I was working in Brisbane in 2003, David looked me up as he was there for the rugby World Cup. We do get around.

I wish to thank John Braithwaite, who is organising various get-togethers at pubs in Cambridge. He has rallied a lively group of OSBs and I look forward to attending one of these popular events in the future.

Moving on to 2024, the first event of the year is the Cumbria Branch Dinner, again to be held at the Armathwaite Hall Hotel, Bassenthwaite, on Friday 9th February. Darryl has excelled in producing a superb menu, with a champagne reception; please try to support this event. At £36.00 a head it is great value for money.

Then in June we have Founders' Day and OSB Day. In conjunction with the school, we hope to offer some special events, for example a five a side football tournament, a fives competition and possibly some tennis or squash, also displays of art and music within the school. In the sporting activities we hope to involve teams made up of pupils, staff and OSBs. Please do think about getting your friends together to form a team for a fun afternoon of sport. Any other ideas would be welcome. I do understand that there is no longer a Saturday school but would hope we may be able to put on this entertainment, which would allow interaction between pupils, staff, OSBs and possibly parents.

As part of OSB Day, George Robson put on a well received tour of the Priory in 2023, and he intends to do something similar in 2024. We thank him and all who assisted him and will welcome his next event, as well as his playing of the organ in the Chapel service. Also, a big thank you to Mark Spencer Ellis for taking the service in the Chapel last year.

I am hoping that there will be an annual OSB Day Dinner in 2024, with a guest

speaker. Something I am working on at the moment. Unfortunately, last year due to a lack of the uptake, the dinner on OSB Day had to be cancelled but was replaced by an excellent, and well received, barbeque on the Terrace on a fortunately dry evening!

We hope to repeat in the coming year an event to encourage a South Cumbria and Furness Branch OSB social evening. Last year, after much phoning around we managed a group of 35 OSBs and their partners, at the Grange Hotel, Grange over Sands. Unfortunately, we were interrupted by a rail strike, which robbed us of eight further guests. A big thank you to Stephen Downham for his help - he now lives in Grange. A date to repeat this event will be posted, and we are looking for another venue in the Grange over Sands area. If you have any ideas, please do let me know.

I look forward to seeing many OSBs in 2024 and hope to boost numbers at these and other events, I thank you for your support.

Carter Croft (FN 60-65).
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If any new or existing OSB Members would prefer to receive the Bulletin via email in future (with lots of additional photographs to enjoy), Please contact: Pam Rumney on (01946) 828093 or osb@stbeesschool.co.uk

Did you receive your Bulletin by Post instead of the usual Email version?

If you received the Bulletin by post this time instead of the usual electronic version, please get in touch to ensure that we have your current email address.

Following previous mailings we have received a large number of 'Failed Deliveries' of emails and can only assume that email addresses have changed but that we haven't been told about it.

Please do get in touch with us on osb@stbeesschool.co.uk if you wish to update your contact details.

St Beghian Society (OSB) Office - Opening Hours
Mon – Thurs 9.30am – 2.30pm (Termtime Only)

Calendar of Events 2024

Calendar of Events 2024		
2024		
January	Wed 10th	Cambridge Social
February	Fri 9th	Cumbria Dinner
March		
April		
May	Thurs 9th	Scottish Lunch
June	Fri 14th	Founders' Day at St Bees
	Sat 15th	St Beghians' Day at St Bees
July		
August		
September		
October	TBC	London Social Evening
November	Wed 6th	North East Lunch
December	28th TBC	Thomas Froggatt Rugby Match, Egremont RUFC, Cumbria
TBC	TBC	Asia - Hong Kong and Shenzhen
	TBC	London Dinner
	TBC	Singapore Lunch
	TBC	South Lakes Informal Social

All 2024 Dinner/Event dates & info may be seen on the Society website

at www.st-beghian-society.co.uk.

OSB Day 2024

School Founders' Day and St Beghians' Day

Friday 14th and Saturday 15th June 2024

On St Beghians' Day this year, we are planning to hold a **Five-a-side Football tournament** as well as offering other sports and activities. We do hope you will consider putting together/joining a team to take part or, alternatively, coming along to cheer on the teams of students, staff and OSBs that are playing.

Also on **Saturday 15th**, as part of **St Beghians' Day**, there will be a **Walk and Talk** event similar to the successful tour last year by Chris Robson and based on the Priory. We do hope also to hold a **Fives competition**, as well as **squash and tennis** being available for those who are interested. **School art, craft and music displays** we hope will be available as well. As last year, the day will be rounded off by an informal **barbeque** on the Terrace (weather permitting!), to which we do hope you will all join us.

School **Founders' Day** will take place on **Friday 14th** and OSBs are invited to join the school for their **Chapel Service**, followed by the **School Sports' Day** and finishing with **cream teas** in the afternoon.

We hope you can join us for what we trust will be a very enjoyable two days, with a chance to renew old acquaintances and make new ones whilst supporting the Society and school.

Please confirm your attendance at the various events by completing the enclosed Booking Form.

Friday 14th June		Saturday 15th June	
School Founders' Day		St Beghians' Day	
10.00	Founders' Day Chapel Service	09.45	OSB Committee Meeting
12.15	Lunch	11.00	Talk by Headmaster & AGM
14.00	School Sports Day	12.15	Chapel Service
16.00	Presentations & Cream Teas	13.00	Lunch
All Day	School Art Exhibition	14.15	Five-a-side Football begins
			Priory Walk/Talk (Meet Quad)
		14.30	Eton Fives/Sport begins
		16.00	Refreshments
		17.30	Barbeque on the Terrace
		All Day	School Art/Music Displays

Please complete the enclosed Booking form to confirm your attendance at events. Prior booking is required for some events.

OSB NOTES

Mike Charnley (FN 70-75) writes:

“Your article and photos regarding the ‘OSB Priory Walk’ brought back some memories I can tell you!

The first was the gravestone of Emile Zullig (pic 145829). I am sure that was one I had to wash one Sunday detention!

As for the famous tuckshop owner, Dinah Haile; I did not go that many times as I had a problem with sugar, hence I used to go more to the grocer further up the street (Blenkinsop's) for apples and other fruit! Mind you, first years were often sent on a Sunday to see Dinah, at the side entrance, to fetch a cheese and onion bap for some sixth former in FN; fagging as it was called then!

Bill Fox I only really met during my last days of school when I found I was now a member of the Old St Beghians.

Also yes, I do remember May Dodds, during all those times when I was sick with flu or headaches related to excess sugar! Cough mixture loomed very large. I think there were two colours, one rose-coloured the other I think dark brown. It was hit or miss which one you got!

Lastly the garden walk which appears to be around the site of the foot path from Abotts Court to Foundation past the Priory.

The times I dragged a trunk and tuck box from Abotts Court in the early morning and at the end of each term to catch the train back to Hexham via Carlisle. I still don't know how I did it! Apart from the summer end of term when our parents collected us, other terms were quite a hassle getting these two items to the station, first from Foundation North and later Abotts Court. There was never any help from the school when it came to the end of term dash to the railway station!

The only other memory I have regarding the village would be the street branching off to the right past the station and tuck shop that led to the newsagent and of course the phone box where we used to phone home! This was many years before the mobile phone came along!

I do remember the story of the demise of the RAF CCF glider, when I think it was Fothergill (see RAF pic mentioned below – Fothergill is front row, 2nd from left) flew it after the 'spoilers' were removed. He went up then down and I think up again before finally going down and crash landing - thankfully he was OK, just shocked! The glider was powered by two bungee teams!”

(Mike has also sent in an RAF Trip photo from 1974 (or 1973) at Waddington he thinks. This is now on the website and can be seen as per below.

“Mr Pritchard (ex-biology teacher) (RAF pic - back row, first on left) may remember the date of the picture when the glider demised as he was there.

He may also remember me during one of his biology lessons when he described the bones on the skeleton next to the blackboard. I had to be taken out as I nearly fainted!

Happy days!”

Photo of RAF Trip may be seen at:

<http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan24bulletin>.

The following piece was intended for the previous Bulletin and we apologise to John for its delay.

A BRIEF ENCOUNTER by John Ogden (FS 51-56).

(But not with Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson at Carnforth Station!).

“Reading the January 2023 Old Boys Bulletin I saw that Harry Murray passed away in 2022. He was on Foundation North when I was on South a couple of years or so older than he.

After I left St Bees at the age of 18 in 1956, I joined a Preston firm of chartered accountants as an articled clerk and qualified five years later after taking my final exams. I then was taken on by Simon Engineering at Cheadle Heath, Stockport as a management trainee, initially at Simon-Carves, a major design and build engineers of amongst other things nuclear power stations (at Hunterston on the Clyde and Tokai Mura in Japan, both in partnership with GEC, coke ovens for the steel industry, water treatment plants, and other major chemical plants in the UK and abroad). I was walking past the drawing office one morning when I was astounded to see Harry Murray walking in the opposite direction with a group of men who turned out to be a sales team from his family owned company in Glasgow. They must have been there to sell their services as sub-contractors. We stopped for a few minutes before both continuing on our way, a brief encounter indeed.

My next surprise encounter (although not so brief) was when sitting on the bench outside the school chapel at St Bees on Founders Day 2022 watching the school sports day on the Crease when another Old Boy came and sat next to me. We exchanged pleasantries and I discovered that he was George Robson, who entered school the term after I left. He had been practising the organ in the chapel in anticipation of the Old Boys Service the following day. We got talking about various things of interest and I mentioned the telephone lines I laid between the prefects’ studies in School House, Hostel and Grindal when I was in charge of the school’s CCF Signals (reported in a previous OSBs Bulletin). Somehow, we got onto the subject of the Priory Church graveyard and the school’s masters who are buried there and George took me to see their headstones. He then asked me if I had seen the Mill Hill garden at the back of the Priory, which I had not. After showing me the stones he took me further down through a gate into this delightful

wildflower garden. Unfortunately, the garden had been neglected, but as a result of our enquiries as to who was supposed to look after it, we discovered that the St Bees local council is, and, as a result of our contacting them, I understand a great deal of work has taken place to bring it up to standard.

This gave us the idea for a conducted tour of the Priory on the 2023 OSBs weekend, which was included in the program of events. This included a local speaker who outlined the history of the Priory including the grave of the St Bees Man, and a guide to the church, before a short recital on the famous Willis Organ by a local organist, and then a visit to see the graves and the garden as above.”

(The tour was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by many OSBs. It is hoped that something similar can be arranged for OSBs day in 2024. Ed.)

John Ogden (FS 51-56) remembers rugby and Bev Risman.

“Prior to coming to St Bees School in 1951 I played soccer at Charney Hall, my prep school, at Grange over Sands. My father captained Lancashire at rugby union and Fylde RUFC before the 2nd World War and was nicknamed ‘Pop’ Ogden because he was a highly successful goal kicker, kicking with his instep rather than with his toe as was the practice in those days, and ‘popped’ the ball between the uprights. The next instep kicker of fame was Johnny Wilkinson CBE. One of Pop’s pals on the Lancashire team was an England trialist and an OSB, and dad thought that if I was at St Bees I might play for England! How wrong he was!

I did however play one match for the 1st XV at the Workington Ellis sports ground. Then I was demoted to the 2nd XV! The 1st XV played other northern public schools, Rossall, Sedbergh and Stoneyhurst etc., but the 2nd XV played the local grammar schools, and Cumberland being strong rugby league territory, we were up against it. I always remember one match in particular, against Cockermouth GS, away. At the time their star player was Bev Risman (Son of Gus). I was given the job of stopping him from scoring. I was good at tackling, shoulder against the opponent’s thigh, and I downed him every time. He particularly came to mind when I read that he had passed away in June this year. After school Bev became a dual code international playing union for England and the British Lions, and league for Great Britain. He was born in Salford a couple of months or so before I was (in Blackpool). His father Gus was a famous rugby league player for Wales between 1920-1950.

I found a photo of some of my 2nd XV colleagues (possibly known as the Colts?), wandering through Workington, before a match there against Workington GS. Unfortunately, it’s not too sharp and I am wondering if any of the people featured recognise themselves or any of the others. Pam Rumney has confirmed that this is probably on Oxford Street, close to the old Workington Town Hall, when possibly

walking up from the train station. If you do recognise any faces, please do let Pam know at the OSB office. It would be interesting to put the names alongside the picture in my album. Sorry but there are no prizes for this! Many thanks are due to Pam for a great deal of help identifying this location.”

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan24bulletin>.

Anthony Payne (M 67-01) writes:

A small world and the long arm of coincidence.

“In August I was contacted by former pupil and retired headmaster David Sibson (SH 80-85), as the latter was coming up to Cumbria to work some shifts as a guard on the Ratty and wanted to meet up for a chat. David had arranged an appointment with Peter Rooke, who runs the West Cumberland Railway Museum in St Bees Main Street, so they arranged to meet there. When I arrived, a young couple were also there, having seen the lights on and wanting to look round. It turned out that the husband, Nathan, was the son of Sarah Howard, one of the three children of Brian and Lois Howard - Brian was Head of Music in the 60s and 70s: although Sarah did not attend St Bees, Anna and Richard did - in fact Anna and David were contemporaries in ACP’s German set. Sarah is the wife of Paul Maybury, also an Old St Beghian (FS 72-77).”

George Robson (FN 57-64) has discovered more about a name on the paneling in the dining room.

A FACE TO A NAME.

“In September 2018 a plaque was unveiled during a special service in the Chapel held to mark the centenary of the armistice which ended hostilities during the Great War.

Later in the day a dinner was held in the Foundation dining room, at the end of which another plaque was unveiled. This plaque listed the eight pupils who had beautifully carved their names on the dining room paneling and who subsequently fell in action during the Great War.

One of the eight - Captain Donald Neilson DSO MC - was highlighted in the first OSB bulletin of 2019 by which time a lot of details about him had been uncovered. Amazingly, he represented the school at cricket during four consecutive seasons. Donald is shown on the 1st X1 cricket team photographs for 1908, 1909, 1910 and 1911 each of which is displayed on the walls of the dining room.

During the Founders' Day and OSB Day held in July 2023 a further discovery was made. A picture of another of the eight shown on the plaque to the fallen - P.T. Loft - was discovered on a photo showing the OTC squad of 1915. This photo

hangs immediately next to the wall cupboard which is on the left wall of the dining room. Fortunately, the photo is annotated with the name of each pupil. **Percy Trotter Loft** was part of a Bishop Auckland family as revealed in facts shown on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's website. Further information is to be found on the St Bees School Roll of Honour:

'Second Lieutenant P.T.Loft:

PT Loft was killed in action on March 21st 1918. He came to the Foundation from St. Michael's College, Tenbury, where he had been a chorister. During the time he was at the School (1913-17) he took an active part in all School games, and was a corporal in the O.T.C.. He had a great love of music, and his musical abilities were turned to account at the School concerts and House music competitions. In his last year he gained an Open History Exhibition at Keble College, Oxford. He obtained his commission in the King's Royal Rifles in August 1917, and went to France in October to be attached to the 18th K.R.R.C..

His division was sent to Italy with the Italian Expeditionary Force. There he was given a temporary position on the Brigadier's Staff. Returning to France in March 1918, he rejoined his regiment a few days before the Germans made their great attack upon the British Fifth Army to which the King's Royal Rifles were engaged and suffered many casualties.'

He was taken prisoner and killed by a shell while passing through the German lines. He was known as a charming and gallant young officer.

Percy's name is inscribed on the list of the school's WW1 fallen in the school chapel. He is also listed on a plaque in Bishop Auckland's parish church and on the town's war memorial in the market place.

He had a younger brother who appears on the annotated photograph of the 1919 cricket 1st X1 hanging further down the same wall in the dining room.

LEST WE FORGET."

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan24bulletin>.

George Robson (FN 57-64) writes:

THE CURRENT AFFAIRS CUP.

"Back in the 1950s and 1960s the inter-house competitions included the Current Affairs Trophy. It was the only one not to be relating to sport.

Each term one lesson included pupils being asked twenty questions about home or international affairs. The teacher marked the sheets and passed the results to whichever master was in overall charge to ascertain the final results. During my time classics master and Housemaster of Grindal, Tony Coates, had this responsibility. When the results were finalised, he posted them on a noticeboard in the Foundation corridor.

Not being capable of contributing much to the inter-house sporting competitions, even though a proud member of Foundation North, I thought up the idea of listing important events at home and abroad and posting them on a notice board for fellow boys of the house to read prior to the test. Even though a snag to my idea was that boys from Foundation South would also benefit from the postings, I resolved to go ahead with the idea. So, every day I scoured newspapers and made a note of important or interesting happenings. My postings increased in number as the days leading up to the termly test drew nearer. On the morning of the test lots of boys would be seen crowding around the noticeboard to read what I had posted.

One day I spotted on an inside page of *The Telegraph* a short article about the abdication of King Zog of Albania. I thought the name Zog was amusing so I included it in the list for the day, even though there wasn't even the remotest chance that the abdication would feature in the test. As I say, it only featured well down an inside page.

But I was wrong. Incredibly one of the questions in the next test was *What is the name of the King of Albania, who recently abdicated?* I later learnt that not a single pupil on School House or Grindal knew the answer, whereas well over 50% of the Foundation boys answered it correctly!

The Housemaster of Foundation North during most of my time was John Hall, referred to by us as 'Shuff.' Apparently, kudos were at stake between the Housemasters when it came to inter-house competitions and Shuff had great hopes that one year his house - Foundation North - would win the Current Affairs Trophy. But as the years passed, he was consistently disappointed in this. That is until 1963 arrived. During the 1962-3 academic year Foundation North won every one of the inter-house competitions. I am sure those Old Boys still alive from that era will confirm this. Mind you, the most spectacular victory was winning the cricket final against School House, which boasted over half the school's 1st XI. Anthony 'Spiv' Dearle was overheard remarking from the terrace 'This is the shock of the decade and probably of the century too'.

All cups were presented from the Memorial Hall stage by Headmaster, James Wykes, at the final assembly of the summer term. As a reward for my efforts, I was chosen to ascend the stage and receive the Current Affairs Trophy which was, as I am sure some will remember, to be later placed on one of the small shelves protruding from the walls of the Foundation dining room (since removed).

Having been given the cup by the Headmaster I descended the stage accompanied by applause - especially from the boys of Foundation North. I noticed out of the corner of my eyes 'Shuff' furiously joining in.

The next morning as we filed into the dining room for breakfast 'Shuff' was standing there doling out to each of his Foundation North boys a bar of chocolate.

He was saying to each boy as he did so: ‘A Little largesse...A little largesse...A little largesse...A little largesse.’

Few of us knew what ‘largesse’ meant, so many dictionaries were put into use after breakfast. (Google tells us that the word means ‘Generosity in bestowing money or gifts to others’.)

Apart from a bar of chocolate, I was given something else to reward me for my efforts – the Foundation Senior House tie.”

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan24bulletin>.

Grindal’s Information Book

Recently, in sorting through some of the archives we have stored at the school, a book with the above title emerged. It had been created by N.J. Bagguley (G 53-58) and J.D.S. (Tim) Brown (G 53-59) ‘To help with ‘General’ competitions’. A later note in another hand, and dated 1956, adds the following: ‘This book was placed on a table in Grindal to ‘educate’ the House in current affairs so that we could win the monthly(?) Current Affairs Cup.’ Readers of this issue of the Bulletin will see its relevance to George Robson’s article on that very cup.

It comprises largely national newspaper cuttings describing major political events of the early to middle 1950s such as: Suez, petrol rationing, government changes, the invasion of Hungary, the Aden crisis etc.

Tim Brown was notified of the discovery and has commented:

‘Well, I never. It must be over 65 years old and I’m afraid I have no recollection of it. I think, however, I must have given it to the school when I was moving house, perhaps.

Nicholas Bagguley and I were keen to see we regularly won the General Knowledge Cup, and Sam Parkinson gave us permission to put up a board in the corridor. The two of us would cut items from the newspapers and build a story round them, but I don’t remember the book. It was gratifying to see that even the prefects would consult the board.

I have to say we did pretty well in the competition, but I think other houses felt we were cheating!

The whole thing stimulated my long interest in politics; it was the time of Suez and the Hungarian Revolution and quite a bit of turmoil in the Cold War, with Russia launching the Sputnik; there was the Treaty of Rome, and the retirement of Stanley Matthews. And of course, October 1957 saw the infamous fire at Windscale (Sellafield).’

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan24bulletin>.

Dacre Watson (SH 56-62) recently wrote to the Headmaster following a piece in the school's September Newsletter.

"I was impressed with the latest Newsletter and the ongoing connections with China. I know that there have been somewhat apprehensive comments on our connections with China, but I think that it is the way to go. Regimes change in attitudes and new leaders have new views on how to deal with the rest of the world. Hopefully, that will come sooner than later and to the benefit of St Bees. I applaud the school's proposed visit to the Everest Base camp. Some thirty years ago I and a group of others walked across Tibet (as one does) from Katmandu to Lhasa via the Base Camp from which Mallory and Irving set off on their last attempt. I was born in Chile (3rd generation) and brought up in Bolivia and Chile, always living at the foot of and very near the Andes, indeed climbing a few of them, though nothing of a silly height. My father (also an OSB) and I spent many weekends simply walking in the mountains, and he bought me many books on the early attempts on Everest, so a trip there was a bit of a pilgrimage.

My younger daughter spent a year after university teaching in China and loved it. Another OSB, long since dead, was the official photographer on the 1953 expedition and whose name was Tom Stobart; I was at school with his son, Pat, on School House.

George Lowe, who was also on that expedition, became the Headmaster of my old school in Chile and was the first man to climb the Torres de Paine in Patagonia.

A small world in so many ways.

Congratulations on what you have achieved at St Bees. You may not know it, but I was President of the Society when we had to close the school down in 2015. We formed a small team of Pam Rumney, David Lord and Tony Reeve, amongst others, to keep the Society and school buildings ticking over through the winter while a buyer was sought. There were, of course, many people involved in the re-opening (in particular: Mark George, Laurence Gribble and Peter Lever) but, in my opinion, it could not have been done without those first three I have mentioned.

That the school is functioning so well is, to me, deeply humbling and thank you for doing so much for it.

Just one last thing. You may be aware of it, but for the first time ever, Chile has a place in the Rugby World Cup this year; they have a tough job, of course (though they MIGHT beat England on present form) and I do not expect them to get past the first round. However, my father also played for Chile in 1935 and 1936; probably the only OSB to have played for that country.

Enough nostalgia; a sure sign of old age, I fear."

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan24bulletin>.

SNIPPETS.....

An OSB has been in touch and would like to make contact with **Andrew Gardner (G 66-71)**. Unfortunately, we do not have any contact details for Andrew. Is anyone in touch with Andrew or knows of his whereabouts – please do contact the OSB Office if you can help at osb@stbeesschool.co.uk.

Jill Hudson (M 90-15) has just published another historical novel which OSBs may find of interest. It is entitled, ‘Callistus of Rome’ and set in the days of the emperor Commodus. This will be Jill’s sixth novel, the previous four having been translated into eight languages worldwide. It is a thrilling read and details may be found on the Society website at <https://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/> under the heading OSB News.

Anthony Payne (M 67-01) writes:

“On Saturday I carried out the duty of Town Crier in Whitehaven. The Lammis Fair in Whitehaven, Cumbria, which takes place each year on 12th August, has by law to be announced to the public by the Town Crier. This year both the Town Crier and the Deputy Town Crier were unavailable, so an appeal was put out via Facebook. I contacted the organisers and had the honour of stepping into the role, reading the proclamation in stentorian tones honed by 34 years of schoolmastering!”

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan24bulletin>.

St Bees School Morris Dancing Team.

In the July 2020 issue of the Bulletin an article by **Robin Rigby (FS 72-79)** appeared recalling the establishment of a school Morris Dancing team when G.W. Lees was Headmaster and concluded with an appeal to any OSBs who might have photographs of the team.

Some photographs have now been found by **Chris Evans (FS 74-79)**, who also apparently discovered two pairs of his old school games’ socks whilst un-earthing the pictures! Robin is very grateful to Chris for finding these photos and hopes it may prompt others to go searching.

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan24bulletin>.

An OSB who has a collection of pre **1939 Goss china tourist souvenirs** relating to St Bees has sent in some photos of them.

Photos of the items may be seen at:

<http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan24bulletin>.

SNIPPETS continued.....

Andrew Trafford (SH 88-92) writes to say he is the publisher of a novel, 'The Snow Forest' by Charles Masefield. Further details can be found on the Amazon website:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Snow-Forest-Charles-Masefield-ebook/dp/B08B9HL82P/ref=sr_1_1?crd=1VGU4TQL8IRPD&keywords=the+snow+forest+charles+masefield&qid=1695719135&prefix=the+snow+forest+charles+masefield%2Caps%2C124&sr=8-1.

Rosslyn Park Sevens.

Jen Warren (nee Lee) (L 92-99) has found a photo of the first St Bees girls' team to play at the Rosslyn Park Sevens.

Jen is in the middle (with the tufty hair – Jen's words!), with Hilary Harrison next to her (on Jen's right). Do you recognise anyone else?

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan24bulletin>.

Cine film of the school in the 1960s.

The original film of scenes and characters in and around the school in the early 1960s was highlighted in the July 2023 Bulletin where copies of this, created by Richard H. Taylor (FS 59-64) and later converted into a dvd by George Robson (FN 57-64), were offered to OSBs. The offer met with an encouraging response from members with thirteen copies so far having been sent out.

Alan Quayle (AC 84-89) has subsequently kindly digitised the film and made it possible to be generally available on the St Beghian Society website.

The film can now be viewed here:

<https://vimeo.com/user36556023/stbees60s?share=copy>

and may also be found on the OSB website on the 1960s General photo page **<https://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/Pics2%201960s%20General.htm>**.

Also, a written contents sheet describing some of the scenes captured may be obtained by contacting the OSB Office.

The following piece is from Terence Mayne (SH 47-52), who is a loyal supporter of the 200 Club with several numbers in the draw. Indeed, he recently won £124 in the July draw. We would encourage all OSBs to follow in his footsteps and take out a number or two, to help support the school and the St Beghian Society.

GAMBLING.

One morning I was sitting in the kitchen after breakfast, thinking of practically nothing whatsoever, when all of a sudden I felt a stabbing pain in my left foot. I began thinking I must call Dr Doolittle, who to be fair, in spite of his unfortunate name, has spent much time keeping me alive. When, just as I popped the last spoonful of porridge, brown sugar and cream into my mouth, the postman plonked the usual junk mail through the letterbox, but this time, joy of joys, there was a handwritten letter from an old friend, for friends who write letters in longhand, or any letter at all nowadays, are like hen's teeth. This was enough to make my foot less painful, but imagine my thrill and the curative power in opening another envelope to find a cheque for €100 from my rugby club, of which my father, a natural athlete, made me a life member on my birth some time ago.

In 2002, for club funds, I invested in the bi-monthly prize draw. Now, I am not a gambling person, but this is something similar to putting money in the Marie Curie or Macmillan feel good games of chance; it is called 'benefit gambling' for fun and profit to the organisers, and with a faint chance of personal enrichment. Although life is a gamble from day one, I have been cautious or mean enough, with a natural native wit not to give money to 'Bookie Bob' or any establishment mathematically geared to never lose.

Well, apart from the goody, goody ways above described, there is a big world out there. Take my cousin Clive, he has been playing the horses for forty years, and playing the horses is something he himself says he's very good at. His ability to consume alcohol is not to be ignored either. Personally, I take it upon myself to avoid this and recommend you do the same for many reasons. Recently, I heard he had had bad spells with the beautiful animals, and had moved on to roulette, dogs, poker and much more, as alternative sources of income. But it seems I am a gambler too. Furthermore, I am gambling the €100 I won, thirty pounds each to Marie Curie, Macmillan and the rugby club, and €10 for nicotine (that's another gamble). So, I now have the excitement of maybe winning another €100 sometime in the future. So, sign up to the OSB 200 Club (even if it is gambling!).

200 Club

Have you thought about joining the OSB '200 Club' Prize Draw?

By taking part it gives you the chance of winning a **top Prize of around £200** and also **helps the school and the Society**.

All money raised goes towards supporting the school and the St Beghian Society. Over the years a variety of projects and clubs have been aided within the school, such as the purchase of canoes and canoe trailer, a donation to the Car Kit Club, assistance with sports kit and sports tours and also the development of the ecology pond.

This year, the 200 Club has donated £500 to the school Eco Club and £3,000 to the library refurbishment and reopening. These contributions were very much appreciated by both the school and the students, who greatly benefit from these activities and facilities.

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan24bulletin>.

For just **£2 a month or £24 a year** you are entered into **one draw a year** and the more members we have, the bigger and more prizes there are. Remember, it is possible to have more than one number in the draw – and hence potentially to win more than one prize! For information, last June's winners are posted on page 42.

We do hope that you will consider joining in with this fun, but also very worthwhile, 200 Club draw. Why not buy a ticket for a family member or for friends – it could be a 'different' and lucrative Birthday/Christmas Present or Gift for someone!

Thank you to all of you who are already members; your support is very much appreciated. And we very much look forward to welcoming many more new OSBs to the Draw soon...

Entry forms can be completed online: <https://forms.office.com/e/gpd8KcMSqD>

Alternatively, further information can be found on the Society website, along with printable postal forms in Word and PDF format at:

<https://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/200%20Club%20Website%20Intro.htm>

Or for further details and an entry form, please contact me, Darryl Davies:

5 Marlborough Avenue, High Harrington, Workington, Cumbria. CA14 4NW.
darryl.davies1@bopenworld.com or 07970 180 751.

George Robson (FN 57-64) has kindly forwarded from **Frank Messenger (SH 50-55)** the words and music of the old school song. Many of our readers will probably have never heard this sung or seen the lyrics. The words are printed below, and the music may be seen on the Society website (Historical Listings) at <https://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/The%20School%20Song.jpg>.

ST. BEES SCHOOL SONG.

WHEN Skiddaw's crimson glare alarmed
The burghers of Carlisle,
And ev'ry true right hand was armed
To guard our glorious isle,
Our Cumbrian fathers fought and died,
And dash'd the haughty Spaniard's pride,
Each played his part right manfully
To make our gallant England free.
For Cumbrian hearts were true and tried,
And Cumbrian blades were keen,
And then 'twas every Cumbrian's pride
To serve his land and King.

2.

When war's rude echoes died away
And all was calm and still ;
When sword to scholar's gown gave way
And arts of peaceful skill :
Our bounteous founder's pious care
This mansion reared a hostel fair
Where youth may come and learn the lore
That nerved their Fathers' arms of yore.
For Cumbrian hearts are true and tried
And Cumbrian blades are keen
And still 'tis every Cumbrian's pride
To serve his land and King.

3.

To countless Beghian boys since then
These grey old walls are dear
And countless gallant Cumbrian men
This ancient school revere ;
In western wilds and southern seas,
Their hearts still turn to old St. Bees
And sigh for moorland, sea and fell,
The old, old scenes they loved so well.
Then Beghians all be true and tried
As all your sires have been
And be it every Beghian's pride
To serve his land and King.

Words by
Rev. F. Lewis, M.A.

Music by
J. W. Aldous, M.A., Hon. R.C.M.

OBITUARIES

Thanks to Joyce Affleck, Bill's wife, and Chris Tetley (FS 63-67) for forwarding the following notice.

William (Bill) Strickland Affleck (SH 45-51), who died on the 5th August 2023, aged 90.

“Bill was born in 1932 in Kelowna, BC, Canada, where his family had emigrated. Following his father's retirement, they returned to England on VJ Day 1945, to enable him to send his boys to his old public school, St Bees School in Cumbria. In 1945 Bill went to St Bees, a sporting school, not entirely suited to an academic boy, but he did well, became head of house in 1951, appeared in several school plays and made some long-lasting friends. His national service was spent mainly in Austria as a signals officer, and he continued to attend reserve camps in Scotland and Germany for the next ten years.

Bill was awarded a scholarship to Queen's College, Oxford, to read Chemistry. He worked hard and achieved a 1st Class Honours degree. He spent his leisure time in the acting sphere, where he met his future wife, Joyce, who was studying geography at St Hilda's College. At that time his other interests were climbing in the Lake District and the Pennines and in Switzerland, and his car – a little Austin. Bill and Joyce married in 1957. They moved to London where he studied chemical engineering at Imperial College, gained a PhD and became an assistant lecturer.

Following the birth of their first child, Bill decided not to pursue an academic career and joined the Shell Oil Co as a research scientist and he moved to Cheshire to the Shell laboratories at Thornton, Ellesmere Port. During 1966-7, now with two more children, the family spent a year in St. Louis, USA where Bill worked in another Shell laboratory, and they travelled extensively over the USA at weekends and holidays. They returned to England where Joyce began teaching. During 1977-9 the family spent two years in Ontario, Canada where Bill was in charge of an American laboratory. He retired in 1992 and the following year moved to Nailsworth with Joyce, who retired in 1993.

They both fell in love with Nailsworth, and helped found and develop the Nailsworth News, and Bill became a councillor and eventually Deputy Mayor. For the News he wrote the business news for which he regularly visited Nailsworth shops and businesses to keep local people informed, writing pithy, witty articles which were widely enjoyed. He became a noted figure in the town as he walked his two Tibetan terriers.

He loved the common where he took regular walks and spent a lot of time writing and reading and drawing maps and pictures mainly on the computer. Passionate

about green energy and other topics, he had several letters published in the Times. He gave regular talks, immaculately prepared, to Probus clubs, etc on topics ranging from green energy to WW2 in Sicily.

Throughout his life he enjoyed travel. His work had taken him on regular trips to the USA, Japan and parts of Europe and SE Asia. He loved driving and did some notable trips mostly in France and Italy. One year he put the car on the train to Ljubljana and drove to Athens and back and then home. Perhaps his favourite place, apart from home, was Cannero on Lake Maggiore in Italy where he and Joyce spent their honeymoon, and they returned several times. In 2007 most of the family accompanied them there for their Golden Wedding. The last trip there was in 2017 when they went to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. It was on the return trip he became extremely ill and never again recovered his full strength. Bill was a very quiet man, with few words but all worth saying. He was a talented writer and a great ‘doer’; totally honest and straightforward, immensely kind, fond of animals and birds. Once in his student days he was described as ‘the most honest man in Oxford’. Sometimes he revealed high artistic talents, which he followed-through mainly with his computer graphics. Other organisations he involved himself with at various times were, Twinning with Leves, the Nailsworth Society, Nailsworth Probus, NCAT, N. Community Land Trust, and the Nailsworth Community Partnership (which he founded). He was the long serving Secretary of the Bristol and South West Branch of the St Beghian Society, and a dedicated supporter of his old school.”

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan24bulletin>.

James Bell (F 63-66).

Andrew Mitchell (FS 63-68) and James’ daughter Carolyn have submitted the following notice.

“Former old boy James Bell, known to everyone at St Bees as Jimmy Riddle, died on 12th August 2022 after a short illness. James was a man of many talents and hugely engaging.

He was born James Richard Bell in Carlisle to Lance and Edith on the 28th April 1950. He had a younger brother, David, who also attended St Bees, and a younger sister Christine. They lived near Longtown, north of Carlisle where his father was a vet and his mother was a local magistrate.

At St Bees James excelled in all school subjects. It is also where he pursued and developed a keen eye for shooting and flying. In fact, he was always incredibly proud of two achievements at school: being named the best shot at a schools’ competition in 1967 at Catterick as part of the team that won the Cultybraggan Cup; and being awarded a Royal Navy Flying Scholarship. Subsequently he

attained his private pilot's licence after many hours of flying practice which was no small achievement.

James had a rebellious streak. I recall one Sunday morning on the pretext of going to Kendal we decided to cycle 50 miles to his home in Longtown. Much to the displeasure of his mother Edith, who then had to return both us and the bikes to St Bees. He put his rock-climbing skills to use by climbing the outside of the school chapel when it wasn't an approved activity!

Given his passion for cars from an early age, it is no surprise that following a chance meeting with a head-hunter, James decided to pursue a career in road haulage. He had a fantastic skill for logistics, solutions and managing people, which saw him named the youngest manager of Atlas Express early in his career. Always looking for a challenge, he was promoted to working for Atlas Express Air at Heathrow. After which, he spent many years as managing director in various haulage companies. He absolutely believed in getting involved, with a first to arrive and last to leave work ethic and leading from the front. His involvement in both the Road Haulage Association and the Leicester Chambers of Commerce enabled him to be part of discussions for change and a part of the solutions, a trait that stayed with James all through his life.

He had the privilege to work all over the UK in Aberdeen, Edinburgh, London, Daventry, Leicester and all over the world including China, Africa, Canada, Russia, Turkey, Denmark, France and Italy. When he returned to his great love of science, he had a vision of green energy that was ahead of his time, working with a biofuels plant in Denmark, looking at anaerobic digestion as a form of power in the meat industry, and using microwaves to look at carbon emissions. He worked with several people to get wind turbines built in the early days. He thoroughly enjoyed his time working with the PhD students at Glasgow University researching a carbon neutral burner. He was a pioneering thinker who always tried to develop new ideas outside the mainstream of thinking.

In 1974 James married Christine. They had been together for 51 years and married for 48. I was very surprised when 40 years later he showed me the telegram that I had sent to them from Darwin on their wedding day. In 1977 he and Christine welcomed their only child, Carolyn, and in 2007 their only grandchild Oliver was born. James was lucky enough to spend much of Oliver's young years with him: teaching him to ride his bike, building tree houses, digging up ponds together and lining up troops of miniature soldiers as Napoleon and Wellington (to name a few)! Papa, as he was known, couldn't have been prouder of the young man that Oliver is becoming and regularly told anyone he was speaking with that his grandson played chess for Scotland.

I don't think you can talk about James Bell without mentioning his passion for cars, an interest which ran though him from his teens to his final days. Building

cars, racing cars, driving cars were a huge part of his whole life. The infamous beach buggy which gave so much undiluted pleasure to him and many others and latterly his Jaguar XJS which he was rebuilding with a few 'James' special features on it.

James's interest in his own history as one of the Border Reiver families led him to create a working replica costume of his distant ancestor William 'Redcloak' Bell, who was a participant in the notorious rescue of Kinmont Willie from Carlisle Castle. More recently an interest in his grandfather George led him to create a magnificent life size diorama of George and his horse Paddy along with WW1 replica field equipment. James and Christine donated George and Paddy to the Border Regiment Museum at Carlisle Castle where he can be seen in all his glory by the many tourists that visit. It is lovely to think that his creativity and enthusiasm will live on in that display for many other people to enjoy.

In addition, he had a deep commitment and enthusiasm for the church. First as church warden at St Michaels and All Angels, Arthuret, Longtown, for 15 years, and then as Rector's warden to the Reverend Russell Tague. James embraced the fabric of the church, the beautiful churchyard, and the congregation. I remember his seeking my advice on alternative methods of stopping the rabbits and foxes digging up and toppling the head stones.

The Longtown Community was always important to James. When foot and mouth had taken hold of the county, his background in carbon emissions and the environment made him ideally placed to speak up against the pyres. He spoke eloquently, with passion and knowledge, to challenge the veracity of the evidence provided as to the impact of the pyres on the community. His family were and are immensely proud of the role he played that night in stopping the pyres in Longtown.

James was always more than happy to give up his time to help others, to provide enjoyment and happiness, to offer solutions to problems. As he repeatedly said to Christine over the years, 'I couldn't do the things I do without you behind me.' It is with sadness that he and I lost touch; living in Australia didn't help. I tried many times to find him and was eventually successful on a visit to the UK in 2012. Through Martin Field (FS 63- 66) and his brother David, I managed to track him down and had one of the more memorable phone calls in my life. My son and I visited him in Gretna, and affable as ever he embarked on a tour of places of interest. I know he would have liked to have visited Australia and I would have enjoyed reciprocating his kindness in showing him around.

We know that James spent his whole life loving deeply his family and being so very proud of their achievements. To those that knew him he was an extraordinary man with an outstanding intellect, time for everyone and a huge heart. His thirst for knowledge and advancement were always ahead of his time.

In his family's words, 'He was simply the best' and 'A total one off.' He leaves his wife Christine, their daughter Carolyn and grandson Oliver. I will miss a good friend."

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan24bulletin>.

Peter-John Dixon (FS 56-63) who died on August 2nd 2023.

The following is an edited version of a contribution kindly supplied by Peter's daughter, Shelley.

"Dad was born in Keighley, West Yorkshire, in April 1944. Home was Cononley, 5 km south of Skipton where his grandpa, Louis Green, and granny, 'Queenie', owned the mills that produced textile-related products such as bed-ticking tape. The main family house was Lingsted Hall, up on the hill, which was surrounded by fields and woodland where dad used to happily roam freely and shoot as a boy. The local churchyard of St John's is filled with his ancestors. Two aunts and three uncles also grew up and lived in the village providing love, support and many cousins for him to play with. Two of his younger cousins told me life was idyllic for them all growing up there together and they have many fond memories of dad on the sofa with either the dog, cat, a snake or his mice. His love of animals was very obvious throughout his life. He loved his maternal grandparents dearly and they were very involved in his life until their death.

The love and care provided by his wider family were particularly important as he lost his father, two-months before he was born, in the Second World War in a plane crash.

His mum, Con, despite losing three husbands over her lifetime was the most positive, happy and kind person you could meet. Ever the hostess, it sounds as though the family home was always the place to be, with friends, relatives, animals and parties galore, she was a huge influence on him, providing stability and warmth, and was an ever-present influence on his life. She had a great love of the countryside and adventure, despite her difficult circumstances, and she took the kids on many trips climbing, skiing, swimming and mountaineering all over the world. This love of adventure was instilled in dad and his siblings, Patrick (Paddy) and Heather. Paddy, also an OSB, moved to the wilderness of Canada at just seventeen years of age to join the Hudson Bay Trading Company. Dad travelled the world, having many adventures in Africa (where he also lived for a number of years), Bangladesh and Venezuela, combined with his work as an anthropologist.

Prep School was at St Helen's in Cockermouth. Boarding from a young age, he was clearly traumatised by the morning bathing routine saying, 'The water was very cold, especially in winter!' It is funny to think that the local fell where I walk with my children to this day is in fact the same fell where he roamed as a boy

with his school mates during his time at St Helens. His best friend back then, Clive Milburn (OSB), recalls many fond memories of these times. He also recalls that dad, already quite big for his age, was often sorting out disputes. Soon known as 'scrapper' Dixon, it became clear that with his size and sporting prowess (Victor Ludorum in his year) it was not worth taking him on. Despite this reputation, he was always a kind and gentle soul. I could never imagine him in a fight, but that's what you did back then to sort a dispute and apparently later also on the rugby field!

His secondary education followed at St Bees School. His house was Foundation South and he played in many of the sporting teams including gymnastics, swimming, shooting (captain), fives (captain) and of course rugby (captain). Fives was something he obviously really loved and spoke to me about on many occasions. I hear from other OSBs that at times he even played without a glove with his great big hands!

He was very content at school and was made a prefect later on. Despite his old nickname from prep school, I believe he was a helpful and well-respected leader at St Bees. Younger OSBs boys have often told me of his kindness, which wasn't always the case in those days. These stories of his kindness continue onto the rugby pitch where many younger players have written to tell of his support when playing alongside him or even when they came up against the 'Great Peter Dixon' or 'Lenny the Lion' as he was known at Gosforth Rugby Club after the '71 Lions tour to New Zealand. Whilst at St Bees he represented England School Boys for rugby in 1961, a good year, as his friend Martin Dawson (OSB) played for England too at golf. I hear Martin was a great cross-country runner as well, but rarely met dad on the rugby pitch as he played for the 3rds. He does, however, remember him running straight through him on one occasion during a rugby match and says his back has never been the same since!

A trip with OSBs Clive Milburn and Patrick Stobart as 15/16 year olds to Africa sounds like quite the adventure, and likely sparked the love of Africa that remained throughout his life. Despite the OSBs dispersing across the world, I was always struck at how he managed to visit them frequently if passing anywhere near. John Cade (OSB) told me of meetings with him at Johannesburg airport when he went here and there across Africa and of playing rugby together at the opening of the Loftus Versfield ground, Pretoria. I was also struck at how many OSBs dad was able to still see in Cumbria and how many reached out with messages when they knew he was ill.

He moved on from St Bees to Durham University with a few school mates. He was in Grey College and immediately joined the rugby team. Already playing for Cumbria County first team at just 18, he took on the role of player-coach at the university. It sounds like he had a lot of fun at uni, but noted by his friends that he

didn't have quite as much fun as they did at times, taking his academic studies and his sport very seriously. Winner of the Palatine Plate and the Universities Athletics Union Cup with his team, he was also playing for Cumbria and Workington Rugby Football Club.

After completing his geography and anthropology degree he headed to Oxford University as a postgrad to continue his studies and rugby career. During his time at Oxford, he gained his MLitt in West African Burial rights (a weighty tome that stands in his old book case to this day), various teaching qualifications and four rugby blues. In the Varsity matches, the scores against Cambridge improved each year from a loss to a draw to a win, his team mates noting that this was due largely to his leadership, training and prowess on the pitch. Oxford also beat the Springboks at Twickenham in 1969, in a highly publicised and controversial match due to the apartheid laws in South Africa at that time. Apparently 400 policemen were needed to control the crowd. It was at one of these Oxford matches where the great Carwyn James spotted dad and invited him to join the 1971 British and Irish Lions touring team to New Zealand before he had even been picked to play for England. He did in fact just manage to play for England in the Presidents XV before he flew out to New Zealand.

After his various studies at Oxford came to an end, he eventually had to get a job, as back then, rugby was an amateur game so you didn't get paid. Juggling a full-time job, a growing family and an international sports career is not for the faint-hearted. Dad returned to Durham, a city that he has always loved and called home for over fifty years, and became a teaching fellow at Durham University based at Collingwood College. He loved the academic life and went everywhere on his bike, satchel over shoulder and bicycle clips on legs. He was well liked by staff and students, many of whom he played rugby with or coached over the years. He moved his rugby playing to Newcastle Gosforth (following a brief stint at Harlequins) where he stayed for nine years, winning the John Player Cup in 1976 and 1977. Alongside Gosforth, he continued with his international career winning 22 caps for England, some as captain. It sounds like the England selectors changed their minds constantly during this era, their inconsistency contributing to England's poor results at that time. Many say the pack was the best of any generation and he is still often considered to be one of the best to have played at number six from across the eras. Once his student days were finally over and he had to work, he was no longer free to go on further Lions' tours. They were long and often clashed with busy exam periods so the university sadly would not sanction the leave. Dad was not willing to give up his job at Durham which he loved so much although this ultimately led to his having to pass on two further Lions tours that he was invited on. It was said that his refusal to go on the tours meant that he was not selected for subsequent internationals, but over time, they

would pick him once again as he was considered to be one of the best back rows in the country. Mum used to say he just rubbed the selectors up the wrong way! He loved playing for the Northern and North Western Counties (proudly returning to his Cumbrian/Yorkshire roots) with many players having become firm friends over the years, most famously beating the All Blacks at Workington in 1972 and in 1979. In fact, with these two victories against the All Blacks and the 1969 win against the Springboks with Oxford, dad is one of the few (perhaps the only one) to play in three club/regional teams which beat the powerhouses of world rugby. Given the brevity of modern rugby tours and the death of such matches against club/regional teams, it is unlikely that anyone in the foreseeable future will match his record. In 1979, he had finally had enough and retired from international rugby, sadly missing out on the famous Grand Slam in 1980 - can you believe it! But I was born that year so maybe this almost made up for it!

Dad met my mum, Alyson, during his time at Oxford and was devoted to her from then on until his last breath. It was quite the love story. Sadly, my mum was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis at a young age but despite this, she was always on the side of the rugby pitch while she could. She accompanied him on his sabbatical year to Nigeria in 1980 and they also moved to Transkei, South Africa, for a number of years in the 80s where we had many family adventures. He lectured at The University of Transkei and in the school holidays we would accompany him on his field trips. We went all over Africa studying local tribes and places as we went.

Following his return to the UK in 1990, dad worked for the overseas development association in affiliation with the Durham University Anthropology department. He worked on projects including land and water interfaces to support women in the fishing industry as well as provision of clean water. He was a principled man and his stance against social and economic injustice was reflected in his academic work. He co-authored a book on, 'Indigenous Knowledge Inquiries' and was an active member of the Universities' Anthropology in Development Research Group.

Throughout all of this time, dad cared for my mum whose health deteriorated over time until she needed full time care at home. He chose to continue to do this in the home they loved in central Durham right up until she needed 24-hour nursing care only a year ago. At this point he returned to his beloved Cumbria to live with my family in the shadow of the mighty Skiddaw. I remember finishing his room and looking out on the view that he had known and loved since this house was built by his mother. He had lived here as a youngster and we subsequently stayed here for most of our school holidays. Dad got stuck in from the start, he was always a very active grandparent and the children loved having him around. Full of practical jokes, presents, love and care it was a great privilege to have him live

with us. He saw the boys play rugby, run, sail and ride their ponies. He helped with homework and he spent every morning playing with our young daughter, with whom he had a very special relationship. Diligently, every day once he had helped clear breakfast, he would go to mum's nursing home and spend many hours with her, returning at tea time. He would often pop to the horses first and help me do evening stables, just as he had when I was a child.

As well as his family and sport, his other love was music. He had a large collection of records, guitars and instruments from various exotic countries. He loved to play the guitar and spent any spare moments playing blues and folk music. He also loved his garden, sharing many cuttings and plants with neighbours and friends and collecting seeds and cuttings on his walks around Durham. He could never resist taking a bit of a beautiful plant to cultivate if there was an opportunity, even if it meant trespassing! He loved a bargain but was exceptionally generous with his time and money with us and his grandchildren. He was fiercely loyal, loved deeply, incredibly modest, warm hearted and stubborn as a mule. We will miss him so very much. Always a very kind and humble man, he was never more content than just being on his own in the garden, playing his guitar or with his family. He was modest to a fault. Despite his superstardom in rugby circles, especially his role in the 1971 Lions tour, when he scored the only try in the final test, which resulted in a draw, thereby sealing the series win, he never sought the spotlight or blew his own trumpet. If you didn't already know about his many rugby achievements, he would never have let on. Dad stayed in touch with many of his old friends from St Bees and Oxford, although this became much more difficult in more recent years as he was so busy caring for mum. Despite this, so many got in touch when they heard he was ill, especially those he had played rugby with, some who hadn't seen him for fifty years or more wrote to share some wonderful memories from their youth. Recurring themes included dad's sporting ability, inspirational leadership and deep friendship forged on the rugby pitch. As a family we were incredibly touched as it became clear how much impact he had had on so many people and he clearly enjoyed hearing these stories during his last days. Many OSBs attended his funeral, despite being at school together such a long time ago. Strong bonds are made at school, especially at boarding school, and there was obviously a strong and caring community at St Bees."

If you have any memories or photos of dad that you would like to share with us, we would love to hear from you. My email is: Shelleysldown@gmail.com.

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan24bulletin>.

Further Tributes to Peter have been received from the following OSBs:

Bill Fisher (SH 57-62).

“It was very sad to read in the Times today of the death of P.J. Dixon, who was my team mate in the school XV and in the Durham University 1st XV before he moved to Oxford and played for and captained England. He was also a star of the wonderful British Lions team of 1971. He was a wonderful player at school and beyond and a good friend. He deserves his tribute at Twickenham this weekend.”

David Newlove (FS 57-62).

“Very sad news. Peter and I went through St Bees together, we shared a study when we were joint heads of Foundation (I forget why there were two of us – maybe North and South). We were also the First Fives Pair and once drove to Eton to play in the National Public School championships, with fairly dismal results!

By the way, he was known universally as ‘Scrapper’ Dixon during his and my time at St Bees. I don’t know if the nickname survived into adulthood.”

Anthony Dearden (FS 62-66).

“That is very sad news. I was Peter’s private fag on Foundation South, and I couldn’t have asked for a better guy. Very laid back, never criticised me, unlike some of the prefects, and was very undemanding. He also had a sense of humour which I very much appreciated. Whilst fagging is not a subject talked about today, if you were a private fag then you were excused the duties of a general fag, which involved answering the call of ‘fag’ by any prefect, usually the last one arriving getting the job: tea fags who made and cooked the teas for the prefects and serving it in their studies etc. So, Peter saved me from all that hardship by choosing me instead of many others, for which I am grateful.

I admired him greatly and followed his rugby career after he left St Bees. He was a great guy.”

Callum Darbshire (FS 56-58).

“I was saddened to hear of the death of Peter Dixon. I remember him well as I believe that I was the first person to put a rugby ball in his hands, I was helping to introduce the Foundation new boys to the game when this (then) rather small gangly boy turned up for practice. It was not long before he took to it and earned the nickname 'Scrapper Dixon'.

He quickly filled out and became a very fine player.

I later enjoyed watching him many times from the stands at Twickenham.

Sadly, I shall be unable to travel to Cumbria for his funeral but will raise a glass to his memory on that day.”

Barry Lancaster (G 58-60).

“Sad to hear about Peter.

Long before we met at St Bees, we shared a black and white pony. Flicker spent some time at our farm but belonged to Peter’s relatives the Greens.

Many years after leaving school we met at some function in Workington and in talking over old times and connections we discovered that we had both known Flicker.

I think Flicker also spent some time in Skipton, which I believe is where Peter was from back then.

Also, I have previously mentioned that Walter Fletcher also lives in Mosman, which is a suburb of Sydney. His wife Jane is the daughter of Air Marshal Gus Walker who was also an Old St Beghian.

I reconnected with Walter many years ago when I was giving a talk, probably about computers. We had just returned from living in Papua New Guinea for a number of years and there sitting in the front row was the ever cheeky Walter. He still has that cheeky grin.

Computers and technology in Papua New Guinea were fascinating. They almost went from stone-age to modern technology without any in between. We were able to direct dial my parents in Cumbria from Papua New Guinea in 1972 which was many years before that was available in the UK.

I recall that Peter was an anthropologist of renown, so when we met, we not only discussed Flicker but also my experiences in the amazing Niugini (the name in Pidgin (the lingua franca of PNG)).

It can be a small world.”

Gervase Dodd (F 56-61).

His daughter Corinne has contributed the following.

“Gervase Dodd, 80, passed away on 4th April 2023. He was generous, musical, multi-talented and in possession of a sense humour which was never far from the surface. During his life he participated in, and led a broad variety of activities which touched many people’s lives. He was a proud St Beghian throughout his life and retained friendship with many he met while at school.

Gervase was a popular pupil and during his later life, frequently regaled his family with stories of high jinks, musical activities and sporting events against the arch enemy, Sedbergh School. A talented musician and a member of the Corps band, he had responsibility for playing the Last Post on his trumpet at the end of each school day at 10pm. He continued to play for much of his life.

After his A-Levels he went to Reading University in 1961 to study agriculture and he threw himself into student life with vigour and enthusiasm. Some might say that he enjoyed himself a little too much as he was required to re-sit his final year

following his commitment to all things social and musical. However, he met his future wife, Alison, during this year at Reading so it was a very positive outcome for all concerned!

Following university, Gervase went into the steel industry on a graduate scheme and got his foot on the first rung of the ladder of what would lead to a successful career in human resources. He and Alison married in 1966 and had their first daughter in 1969 and their second in 1971. They were now settled in Chester. Moving on to what was then called Greenall Whitley, a Warrington-based brewer and pub operator, he was a founding member of the personnel department. He would spend 29 years with the business as it grew and diversified, and he managed or was involved in many acquisitions, closures and disposals. For the last ten years of his employment until retirement, he was Director of Group Personnel Services.

During his retirement he took on the renovation of a small 17th-century hall in the Cheshire village of Alvanley and he and Alison spent nearly thirty years living there. His dedication and ability in carpentry, building, landscaping and other DIY allowed him to transform the very tired, old listed property into something to be proud of. He was an active supporter and participant of country sports and a lover of the countryside. While living in Alvanley he also instigated and organised the Alvanley Village show for many years. He even undertook a survey of wildflowers found within a mile of the village centre. He enjoyed sailing with his friends, fishing trips to Wales and Scotland, and in the 1980s was a rower with the Grosvenor Rowing Club in Chester, travelling far and wide to regattas. During his Greenall's career, he was a regular member of the company quiz team. He never lost the knack for remembering the most random facts and dates. Throughout his life, but particularly after retirement, he and Alison enjoyed frequent travel to places including Peru, Egypt, Italy and Portugal.

Gervase passed away after a relatively short illness and his life was celebrated at a lunch for friends, acquaintances, and relatives at Bangor-On-Dee racecourse where he spent many enjoyable days. The number of guests who attended was a testament to his kindness and character. He leaves a wife, two daughters and four grandchildren and will be greatly missed.”

S. G. M. (Simon) Johnson (FS 70-73).

Nina Johnson, Simon's wife, has kindly sent in the following tribute:

“Special people leave this world having made it a better place.

Simon had wonderful parents in Peter and Liz, who set him on the road to an interesting education, first at Miss Junes, onto Moorlands and then St Bees School in Cumbria where his polishing of the CCF Badges was legendary. Though he claimed not to be sporty he loved the game of fives, but the group never got their

Guinness World Record ratified! Squash and skateboarding activities he also enjoyed. Then followed Park Lane College of Further Entertainment and with the 'Roundhay Gang' he enjoyed adventures in the Lake District in a Fiat 500, acting as a 'roadie' at concerts so that he got in free, seeing great stars on their journey to fame - music was always a passion, also model-making, be it planes, tanks, boats. At our wedding Peter, the best man, raised eyebrows by saying Simon used to retire quite often to his bedroom with a model!

Holiday jobs at Johnsons or PGW helped to fund another passion, cars. At that time, it was VW Beetles, finishing a run of three with a Last Edition Silver B2, which became my runabout in London when the tank could be filled for £5 - those were the days!

A foot in the door at Radio Leeds led to his crossing the border to Lancashire and working at the then Radio Blackburn. The adventures really did begin when I was working in London on the Generation Game and Blankety Blank and Simon used to drive down almost every weekend in the Silver Beetle, his record time being 2hrs 55 minutes having been in the slip stream of various vehicles!

He was always on hand to help with technical support for my Drama Group's church Christmas plays (he did the voice of God!), as I always volunteered him and said I know a man who can.

Simon and Gerald produced one of the first single's for Children in Need, with Jon Anderson of the group Yes at Radio Lancashire - crazy nights but such fun. Then it was time to settle down as my father would say - and although my mother warned Simon that I was a bit of a 'wild cat' he was not put off - sadly my mother could not share our wonderful wedding in 1984.

Our honeymoon gave a flavour of what was to come - the Normandy beaches, gun emplacements and war memorials!

The Willys Jeep was obtained to take both our fathers back to Normandy for the 50th Anniversary. What an incredible trip we had, and finding out that they landed on the same beach one day apart was mind-blowing. We filmed their chats each night over a few whiskies and Bradley's collection of Solido vehicles grew.

Moving to Manchester with the BBC, Simon gained new skills; always a trendsetter, working in the new concept of Bi-Media, Studio Cameras, the Satellite Truck and Video Editing; he could turn his hand to anything, but also helped others; the only things he struggled with were Hoovering and dusting! When he worked on the Sydney Para Olympics, he not only globe-trotted but helped the Spanish broadcasters get on air - he was the 4th Emergency Service. He was always helping someone or some group - be it The Air Cadets when his son Bradley joined, the British Legion, Help for Heroes, and the various military charities.

Simons' involvement with the Military Vehicle Trust started with helping with press and publicity, which led to a phone call one day and a voice saying could you find me a tank? This was for a memorial to the veterans of the battle for Hill 112 - of course he helped, and it is there.

Becoming chairman of the MVT was a role and a responsibility he took very seriously, and he worked tirelessly to modernise and develop the club to a very high standard, and I am proud of what he did and achieved.

Simon's retirement had given us time to make more precious moments and of course new hobbies. His enthusiasm, talents and support for people and causes knew no bounds. Unfortunately, he contracted pulmonary fibrosis, an awful disease. He missed out on two lung transplants and was taken into hospital and tragically caught Covid. He was so very brave dealing with the challenges and the restrictions he faced. All the messages, cards and calls subsequently received have said what a gentleman, how generous, kind, helpful, diplomatic, supportive, knowledgeable and loving they found him. To all of the people who respected, gave him friendship and support, I thank you."

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan24bulletin>.

Trevor Whitwell (FS 66-72) writes regarding the late Simon Johnson.

"Simon was one of the nicest, well liked and gentle-mannered people I have ever known.

At his funeral service the full extent of his life, both professional and personal, was laid open for all to hear, and he certainly lived his life to the full, managing along the way to have many, many friends.

We did not keep in touch much until the South Reunion in 2015, when I also met his wife Nina and son Bradley; between them they organised the helicopter landing on the Wallside Rec.

Sadly, he has gone, and I send my most sincere condolences to Nina, Bradley and his sister Penny."

Duncan Merrin (G 53-57).

Ross Merrin, Duncan's son, has sent in the following:

"One Year On.

Can you believe it has been a year since dad passed?

It's incredible where the time goes.

Yati, Richard and I would like to thank you all for kind words, support or just your involvement with dad over the period of his passing and his funeral - we were in a different headspace of course so, thank you.

It has been really lovely and extremely heart-warming to hear so many fond

recollections of dad since his passing, giving us a deep insight as to how valuable he was to so many others.

I have created a memorial website for him which I will keep up indefinitely, so do feel free to drop in on it anytime you like - it'll always be there.

www.duncanmerrin.com.”

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan24bulletin>.

Chris Pellant (SH 59-63).

Chris Pellant died on 15th November 2023. After leaving St Bees School, where his father was for a time the senior English master (Geoff Pellant), he went on to graduate from Keele University in geology and geography and subsequently lectured in geology until 1997. He was the author of many books on his subject, including the best-seller: ‘Eyewitness Handbook, Rocks and Minerals’, which sold over half a million copies.

Chris married his wife Helen, a botanist, in 1969 and they had two sons and a daughter. He was a keen cricketer and golfer throughout his life, which in his earlier days had included being the lead singer in a rock band. He maintained contact with many OSBs.

Hugh Redway (G 62-67) kindly advised us of Chris’s death. Hugh used to play cricket with Chris in the local Leatholm cricket team in the Eskdale League.

Eric Middleton (M 58-69) writes:

“Like a number of my old pupils, I also kept in touch with Chris.

He wrote in my last book of his special places (thin places where heaven and earth are very close) in north Scotland, Achmelvich in Sutherland, and also in Inverkirkaig - his special places were also Leeds General Infirmary, where he had an operation for bowel cancer. When he left the ward, Chris wrote, ‘I lay and thought things over and almost at once had a weird feeling of calm and peace, the experience was almost spiritual and certainly life-changing’ (quote from my book ‘Surprised by the Spirit’).”

W.G. (Bill) Roberts (M 58-62).

Gilbert Roberts has sent the following:

“I write to let you know about the death of my father Dr W.G. ‘Bill’ Roberts, who taught at St Bees School from 1958-1962. Some older members and ex-pupils may remember him from that time. I believe he may be remembered for leading boys up Pillar Rock and other adventurous exploits. They might also recall he was taken very ill whilst there; or, that after recovering, he left St Bees to teach in Tasmania. I know that he was proud to have worked at the school and I hope that people have fond memories of him.”

Notification of Deaths (Since the July 2023 Bulletin)

ADAMS, M.P. (Marc)	Died 27.08.23	FN 69-75
AFFLECK, W.S. (William - Bill)	Died 05.08.23	SH 45-51
CLEMENTS, D. (Deborah)	Died 19.07.23	G 81-84
DIXON, P.J. (Peter)	Died 02.08.23	FS 56-63
GIBSON, D.D. (Daniel)	Died 30.03.23	F 44-49
KERR, A.W.E (Anthony)	Died 17.12.23	FS 60-65
LEIGH, J.F. (John)	Died 18.10.22	SH 46-48
NEWHOUSE, A.E. (Anthony)	Died ??.11.23	G 50-53
PELLANT, C. (Christopher)	Died 15.11.23	SH 59-63
SLATER, J.T. (John)	Died 06.12.23	F 46-50
TOWNSEND, A.E. (Anthony/Tony)	Died 02.05.23	SH 52-56

THINK OF US....

REMEMBER THE OSBs IN YOUR WILL

A legacy in your will, made out to ‘The St Beghian Society’, would undoubtedly help to support us in the years to come.

For further information please contact the OSB Office.

Articles for ‘The Old St Beghian’ Bulletin

The next issue of ‘The Old St Beghian’ is due out in **July 2024**.

We would welcome write-ups from any OSBs who would like to contribute.

Whether it is a piece about life at school or your career since leaving, if you think others will be interested, please do send it in.

We would love to hear from you!

The Editor would be most grateful if you would let him have your write-ups by the **31st May, 2024**.

SCHOOL NOTES

From the Headmaster Robin Silk

It has been a hugely successful calendar year for the school. Still in its start-up phase, we have now grown from less than 100 at the end of the last academic year to almost 130 at the beginning of this one. If we can continue to grow at a rate of 25% + per year for the coming five years, we will be in a very good place indeed. The school is also growing in its reputation once again, not only with students going on to excellent universities (including our first two Cambridge interviews since the school reopened), but because we are out and about making our mark, both in the local community and by playing matches and competing against other schools.

Fixtures in volleyball, squash, fives, tennis, rugby, football, cricket, netball, basketball, badminton, athletics and cross county have happened across Cumbria and more recently even further afield, with volleyball being played as far north as Edinburgh and as far south as Manchester and Liverpool. Fives has taken off again and students really enjoyed playing in last year's Shrewsbury School Championship. In traditional St Bees fashion, we win most fixtures against much larger schools and clubs, and if we don't win, we compete with pride and a fine sense of sportsmanship. We have also competed in more cerebral pursuits, with our students excelling in Olympiads and university competitions in poetry, chemistry, computer science, mathematics and physics.

We are heavily involved with the local community and followed up last year's support of Gary McKee's 365 marathons in aid of MacMillan Cancer Research and Hospices at Home, Cumbria, by fundraising for the very noble local charity, 'Team Evie'. We have thus far raised almost £1000 with more events to come. The school council is now working on choosing next year's local charity. We continue to provide events both for and to bring in the local community to our school. Not only do local primary schools frequently use our facilities, including the fields, science labs and swimming pool, but we also host charitable initiatives, including the 'Bees Bash'. Our most recent event was a tree planting on behalf of the Woodland Trust - our Key Stage 3 students enjoyed planting 420 saplings at the Adam's Rec on what turned out to be a very fine winter afternoon. Next Friday we have a Year 7, 8 and 9 choir representing the West Cumberland Choral Society performing for a concert at St Bees Priory.

The opportunities now available to our young people are superb. Many students have taken the chance to get involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's programme and we have students engaged at every level: Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. Outdoor Pursuits has, for the first time, now become a discreet subject within school, and this has been well received by students. The number of trips is incredible for such a small school. Our annual trips' week is fantastic with excursions to Edinburgh's Dynamic Earth exhibition, and the Houses of Parliament, and the Globe Theatre in London, among many others.

However, most impressive of all has been the chance to embark upon international adventures in this post-covid world. This term alone there have been trips to Amsterdam for art and China for business, economics, and the Chinese language. Most auspicious of all though was the school's expedition to the Everest Base Camp, with 24 students, parents, staff and one OSB following in the footsteps of our OSB forbear, Tom Stobart, and trekking to 5550m, adjacent to the world's highest mountain. The photography was not quite so impressive as Tom Stobart's, but the sense of endeavour and pride was.

I am delighted also to see the school bringing old facilities online anew. The Barony building is now being used, with academic music being taught for the first time since the reopening, and the squash courts are both well-used once more. The gym has developed into a really nice space for free weights, rowing machines and spinning bikes, with the old and very decrepit multigym finally being scrapped. Most impressively of all and thanks in part to a few generous OSB donations, we have reopened the Library again. It is yet to be a lending library in its new incarnation, but that will follow shortly. Without the donations we received, the library opening would not have happened, but this is why I appeal to any OSBs reading this to give generously to the school, with the next major target to reopen Abbot's Court as a boarding house. Smaller projects include reheating the Art Department and Chapel and refurbishing the tennis courts and cricket nets.

On a different note, we continue to be well-supported by Full Circle, and we are developing our relations with China, principally by becoming a training partner for many schools, and not only our own St Bees Schools. I was able to visit Dongguan in the summer and meet potential partners in both Guangzhou and Beijing. We now also deliver training to our school in Dongguan and with an imminent senior trip to China we aim to build on what we have achieved. The Trust also continues to be a huge support to us, helping out financially where they can and supporting us with expertise in our development projects. Lastly, I would like to thank our Local Advisory Council (LAC), which acts like a governing body and whose members continue to be good critical friends to the school.

Much to celebrate then, but still plenty of work to do. We will continue to build our ties to the OSBs and look forward to the upcoming events, including the Dinner at Armathwaite Hall in February and the OSB Weekend in June. A very Happy New Year to you all and we wish you the very best for a great leap forward in a new leap year.

Robin Silk

St Bees School – The Hive Newsletter

Keep up to date with news from the team at St Bees School.

If you would like to receive current news about the school, you can sign up to their mailing list and get The Hive delivered directly into your inbox.

To sign up to The Hive Newsletter - <http://eepurl.com/dyLWWP>.

SOCIETY WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

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

www.st-beghian-society.co.uk

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

Please take time to have a look at them and **‘follow’** us 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.

Wanted! - OSB Dinners and Events Photographs

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

Please remember to take your camera and capture the memories!

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

ST BEGHIAN SOCIETY NOTES

St Beghian Society Annual Subscription 2023/24

In 2020 the St Beghian Society Committee took the decision to introduce an annual subscription to secure the future of the Society, payable each September. We sincerely thank all OSB Members who have supported this request so far, and for those who have not, we should be very grateful if you would consider paying this year's subscription as soon as possible.

The minimum subscription stands at £20.00 per annum; however, if you would be willing to pay a larger amount that would be very much appreciated. The ways in which you can subscribe are set out on the Society's website at **www.st-beghian-society.co.uk** or alternatively please contact the OSB Office for further details.

OSB SHOP

If OSBs would like to have details of the range of items for sale in the OSB 'Shop', please contact the Office and a descriptive price list will be sent, or alternatively the information may be viewed on the Society's website

(www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/School Shop.htm).

We have had to omit the usual advert to conform with data protection legislation.

Data Protection Permissions

To update your permissions in respect of communications from the Society relating **specifically to Marketing and Fundraising** matters (including details of the OSB 'Shop' items for sale and School/Trust Information), please complete the online form at <https://forms.office.com/r/MmWi8QUk91> or contact the OSB Office.

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

St Beghian Society, St Bees School, St Bees, Cumbria. CA27 0DS.

Annual General Meeting – June 2023

The Minutes of the Society's Annual general Meeting which took place on OSB Day last year are now given below.

Minutes of the 28th (113th) Annual General Meeting of the St Beghian Society held in the Whitelaw Building on Saturday, 17th June 2023 at 11.00am.

There were 29 people present, including Carter Croft (President), David Lord (Treasurer), Pam Rumney (Secretary) and Robin Silk (Headmaster).

- 1) Welcome by the President, Carter Croft.** Carter welcomed OSBs, family and friends to the meeting and thanked them for attending St Beghians' Day 2023.
- 2) School Update by the Headmaster – Robin Silk.** Robin commenced by reiterating Carter's welcome to OSBs, stating how important St Beghian Society Members were to the school. Robin went on to say that the school was doing well, with 100 students starting the year in September 2022 and it was hoped that in September 2023, the school year would commence with around 125 pupils. He indicated that with increased numbers, the boarding house (School House) was now full, and discussions were taking place regarding the redevelopment of Abbots Court. He mentioned that the school was becoming ever more reliant on international students as there was an increased reluctance from locals to pay for education and also a reluctance from parents to send children further afield for boarding. Currently the school was made up of 50% day pupils and 50% borders, including weekly borders from Cumbria and others from Manchester. International students accounted for 35% of pupils and came from a variety of countries, including Ukraine, Germany, Spain, Turkey, China, Nigeria etc and all spoke English. Robin reported that Full Circle's Danny Wang had been over the previous week for Speech Day and that the school was now beginning to look like an established one. Owing to numbers, they were not yet in a position to field a rugby or cricket team, but the students had had several fixtures this year in sports such as volleyball, Eton fives, basketball, athletics and cross country. In addition, outdoor sports were now built into the curriculum, including kayaking and a very successful Wainwright Club, which also involved parents. He mentioned the school's first international trip to Iceland, which had included 20 students and also the Everest Basecamp trip, which was planned for October 2023. Additionally, he referred to a trip to China in December to visit sister schools. Robin was pleased to report that the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme was being offered again, which he felt helped to create character and build leadership skills.

He further advised that academically, maths and science Olympiads had been entered, and the school had undergone its first ISI Independent Compliant Inspection, with a Quality inspection to come.

He concluded by acknowledging that not everything was perfect, noting that the tennis courts and cricket nets required attention, but that the library would be painted and decorated by September.

Looking at the finances, Robin said that he hoped the school would break even by September 2024 and appealed to OSBs to help with donations, if possible. He concluded by stating that these were positive times for St Bees School, but that there was still a lot to do.

Questions followed from St Beghian Society Members present.

Steve Crossley-Smith asked about exchange students. Robin mentioned that two students from Dongguan were currently in St Bees, mainly to study history, as they didn't cover the subject in China. He also confirmed that in October 2024 a short two-week exchange programme would start for both pupils and staff. He went on to say that St Bees UK would be the mothership and training institution for the St Bees China schools and perhaps other schools.

David Lord asked about the length of stays for the exchanges. Robin confirmed that at present, as the curricula were not yet the same, the stays would need to be short and no longer than a few weeks.

Carter Croft thanked the Headmaster for a very useful and informative summary of the progress being made.

- 3) **Brief Silence in memory of departed OSBs.** The names of those who had passed away since the last AGM were read out and a period of silence held in their honour.
- 4) **Confirmation of the Minutes of the 112th A.G.M. held on Saturday 25th June, 2022 (published in the January 2023 Bulletin).** The Minutes of the previous meeting in June 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record. They were proposed by Steve Crossley-Smith and seconded by Darryl Davies.
- 5) **Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- 6) **Election of Officers:**
 - a) **President Elect** – Vacant.
 - b) **Committee** – Retiring this year were Sara Calvin, Alastair Lord and Anthony Fox.
 - c) **Treasurer** – David Lord.
 - d) **Secretary** – Pam Rumney.
 - e) **Golfing Secretary** – Tom Wright.
 - f) **Accounts Checker** – Jason Spires.
 - g) **Bulletin Editor** – Tony Reeve.

A proposal to elect all the officers, as above, was made and unanimously agreed. This was proposed by Darryl Davies and seconded by Tim Brown. George Robson requested that thanks be recorded to all the people mentioned above, many of whom had served for a number of years.

- 7) **St Beghian Society Finances and Accounts (2022-2023)** - David Lord, Treasurer of the Society, drew attention to the accounts tabled and in particular the considerably increased income to the Society for the 2022/23 financial year, owing to a generous legacy of £22,500 and a further £2,500, which had just recently been received. The amount generated by the subscriptions appeal had declined slightly from £5942 to £5318, however David advised that this was owing to a reduction in one-off contributions from the previous year but that overall, the annual payments had remained fairly constant. Expenditure on printing, postage and the Bulletin was also very similar to the previous year, but slightly distorted as payments were now required up front by the school for franking machine costs. Pam's salary costs had also increased, owing to additional hours worked, especially in relation to the organisation of the Stuart Lancaster Black-Tie Dinner in June 2022. David thanked OSBs for attending what had been a very successful and enjoyable Black-Tie event.

David summarised by stating that although a profit was made last year, this was only due to the legacy, without which, the situation would have been very different. He went on to say that, in his opinion, the Society had enough funds to see it through the next 7-10 years. He reiterated that since the school had closed in 2015, there had been no life membership income, although he hoped, following talks with the school, that this would change in the near future. He informed members that he envisaged a small loss each year but that he hoped that the occasional legacy or donation would enable the Society to continue to function effectively in the future.

John Ogden suggested that the accounts should be signed by the Treasurer as well as the accountant. David said he would query this with the accountants.

- 8) **Branch Activities** – A Dinner/Events List had been circulated and Carter Croft confirmed his desire to encourage small splinter groups to come together to create gatherings in relevant areas. He also proposed to try and resurrect the Scotland and Manchester events. Carter mentioned the success of the London Social and Cumbria Dinner, alongside the small, but very enjoyable North East Branch event. He went on to thank Steve Downham and Joe Croasdale for helping to arrange the new South Lakes Social, which would take place in September in Grange.

A dinner on St Beghians' Day 2024 was mooted and he acknowledged the

need to encourage more younger OSBs to attend. He also requested ideas for appropriate speakers.

Carter thanked everyone for their support in arranging and attending the various OSB events and concluded by requesting that all those present should also try to encourage friends to attend gatherings in future.

- 9) **The 200 Club Report and Annual Draw** – Darryl Davies reported that the online 200 Club membership form, suggested at a previous meeting, had worked extremely well, and had brought in around 20 new members. He confirmed that there was now one large draw a year, which included substantial prizes.

The school’s Eco Club had been put forward as a worthy project for 200 Club funds. This after-school activity, where students learned about their environment, had subsequently benefitted from a donation from the Club. He confirmed that there was currently £3,500 funding available for worthwhile causes.

Darryl informed members that the Headmaster had also suggested the library as a project to receive some funding, however he requested Committee approval, as historically the 200 Club had provided funds for extra-curricular activities, for which the library possibly didn’t qualify. After some discussion a vote was carried, with one against and the rest in favour of a donation of £3,500 being provided to the school for the redecoration of the library.

John Ogden expressed his disappointment at the physical state of the library. During a discussion it was pointed out that the old library furniture had been removed many years ago in 1998, when it was refurbished, and that now, money was being raised to try and update the library, to make it a useful asset once more.

The subsequent 200 Club draw produced the following winners:

PRIZE	No.	WINNER	PRIZE	No.	WINNER
£200.00	12	Howard Graham	£40.00	51	Andrew Johnston
£100.00	25	Terence Mayne	£40.00	76	William Wright
£60.00	73	Derek Kaye	£40.00	65	Sam Ashton
£60.00	42	Bill Affleck	£40.00	2	Gavin Spencer
£60.00	71	Gordon Mathison	£24.00	35	Terence Mayne
£60.00	3	Charles Gray			

- 10) **Any Other Business** – John Ogden requested that Pam Rumney leave the room whilst he asked a question relating to a salary review for the Secretary. He was concerned at the apparent lack of a formal review procedure for the Secretary’s salary, and he proposed that the salary be reviewed by the Committee annually. This was agreed by the meeting.

The President thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at around 12.00pm.

John Braithwaite (G 65-69) explains how he has set up an informal OSB group in Cambridge for pub meetings.

I came to live in the centre of Cambridge just a year ago from the beautiful Devon South Hams area known for its coastal and rural scenic beauty and quiet hidden hamlets, where everyone knows everyone else.

The original idea to set up these fun pub meetings had its roots in feeling anonymous in a city, and listening to what Steve Downham is doing in Kendal. Pam quickly and efficiently contacted those OSBs living in the area who were on the Society's database and requested that they contact me if they were interested in some sort of event in the Cambridge area.

Not knowing where this idea would lead, I then visited many pubs, restaurants, and colleges in and around Cambridge to find suitable venues in spite of not knowing who and how many would be interested. It seemed to me that the prerequisites were: places with character, quiet table areas, no loud music, car parks and where we could book tables. Also, of course, we would need quality food and beer at sensible prices. I also checked out posh venues for those who wanted the occasional smart black-tie dinner parties in a prestigious college.

The next step was to contact by phone or email the sixteen names of those who might be interested. Of these, two decided it was not for them sadly and of the remainder, two decided the journey to Cambridge for a mid week evening at night was too taxing, and perhaps we may see them again when the nights get shorter.

After four meetings, roughly one every two months, we have a core group of five attendees, or one table. This has clarified for me our situation, so that although the first three meetings were booked at a gastropub in Grantchester, our last meeting didn't require a table to be booked and we met in a quiet central pub near a public car park which is free at night. So now, little organisation is necessary, we just agree where and when and our fifth meeting will be in January.

There is almost overload on what is on in this university town, whether it be at the twenty three theatres, the colleges and churches, music concerts, or public lectures in the university departments; and it is good to be able to exchange information about societies and websites.

All are welcome to join us; we meet at 7:30pm when the traffic has died down, and people are free after work, mid week, when it is quieter, and we eat and chat for a couple of hours.

We have even received interest from London and the USA!

Pam Rumney will give details of future dates and locations via email and the Society website and Facebook pages. I look forward to hearing from you.

John may be contacted direct on 07717209399 or at braithwaite.john@icloud.com or details can be obtained via the Society office.

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan24bulletin>.

BRANCH NOTES & EVENTS

Branch Activities:

Cambridge – 2023.

Please see previous page from John Braithwaite (G 65-69), summarising to date the informal OSB group recently established in Cambridge for pub meetings.

Cumbria South Lakes Informal Social - Fri 1st Sep 2023, The Grange Hotel, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria.

It is now several years since the Society's South Cumbrian Branch held its own 'get together'. 2023's event took place on 1st September and was arranged with active encouragement from our President, Carter Croft.

The venue was the Grange Hotel in Grange-over-Sands and proved to be an excellent location, being midway between members living in the Windermere and Kendal area and those from Barrow and Ulverston. The hotel overlooked lovely Morecambe Bay, and provided excellent facilities including a spa and swimming pool for those staying overnight. Hot soup, bread rolls and sandwiches were provided with all attendees putting their contributions into a collection box. Just over forty members and partners made advanced bookings, but we were then hit by a rail strike necessitating at least four members who were coming from further afield to cancel their rooms.

All in all, it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening with many old friends meeting up and exchanging memories. The Headmaster gave an excellent address followed by a few words from our good President. There was an interesting and informative update from Peter Lever concerning the school's future with Full Circle and the possible consent for renewed coal mining in the area and the importance of the school's mineral rights.

We do hope to repeat this South Lakes informal social format at some point in the future. We are currently considering changing the venue and the date perhaps to later in September or October. If you are interested in attending the next event or have any thoughts and ideas about a future 'get together', please do make contact with either Steve Downham on downhamstephen@gmail.com or 0751 517 0858 or Carter Croft on cartertusm1946@icloud.com or 01759 302859 or 07743 700 986.

London Social (Informal Gathering) – Friday 6th Oct 2023, The Samuel Pepys, London.

Regrettably, the decision was taken to postpone the London Social Informal Drinks at The Samuel Pepys Pub on the 6th October. An overtime ban on many

train lines coupled with a strike on the London Underground that day would have made it very difficult for people to travel to the gathering. It is hoped that the London Social will resume in 2024 in October, as usual. We look forward to seeing you there.

North East Branch Lunch – Wed 8th Nov 2023, Northumberland GC, Newcastle.

Since I have been Chairman, and for years before, I have always been proud of the turnout at North East evening Dinner reunions and the loyalty of our branch members. On behalf of Secretary, Bill Dove and myself, thanks to all for joining us at our first Luncheon Event on Wednesday 8th November 2023:

Adams N. W. (Nicholas, 68-71 FN), **Atkinson** R. E. B. (Rodney, 61-66 FN), **Brown** J. D. S. ('Tim', 53-59 G), **Burn** A. O. (Allon 'Oz', 62-65 G), **Clothier** N. D. (Nigel, 53-57 FN), **Croft** C. (Carter, 60-65 FN), **Davies** D. W. (Darryl, 62-68 FS), **Dove** W. E. ('Bill', 57-60 FN), **Gribble** L. (Laurence, 02-09 SH), **Jackson** R. J. ('Ron', 55-58 FN), **Kennedy** C. R. (Clive, 55-59 FN), **Lewis** R. V. ('Rosie' 77-79 L), **Lockwood** R. (Richard, 59-64 FS), **Lord** D. F. (David, 60-65 SH), **Mackay** T. ('Tim', 68-73 FS), **McBryde** J. M. (John, 58-61 FN), **McLaren** D. A. G. (David, 58-61 SH), **Messenger** F. O. ('Frank', 50-55 SH), **Redway** H. W. (Hugh, 62-67 G), **Reid** D. G. W. (Dougal, 75-80 FN), **Rumney** P. ('Pam', SBS Sec), **Southern** J. M. (John, 55-59 FN), **Spencer** G. L. (Gavin, 61-64 G), **Steven** T. G. ('Geoff' 59-64 G), **Windle** M. P. (Michael, 68-71 FS) and **Williams** D. H. ('Don', 61-64 FN).

An attendee summed-up the event in an appreciatory email to me: 'Thank you, Bill and Don, for such a wonderful North East Branch lunch. It was a lovely occasion and seemed to be really enjoyed and appreciated by all. The lunch format worked very well and meant that people were happy to stay and chat afterwards in a lovely and relaxed setting. The numbers attending suggest that the new format worked well for many. I thoroughly enjoyed the day and was able to put some new faces to names that I have known for some time, which was lovely to do. I look forward to next year's lunch, to celebrate Bill's tremendous half century as Branch Secretary. A feat that I feel will be extremely hard ever to better!'

The Golf Club staff served a tasty three course meal and coffee. After the Chairman's toasts to 'The King', 'The School' and 'The St Beghian Society', responses followed from Laurence Gribble, Assistant Head and Finance Director of St Bees School, and Dr Carter Croft, President of The St Beghian Society. From a student's perspective, Laurence first spoke at a N E Branch Dinner fourteen years ago. His current overview covered the school's 130 students, which includes 66 boarders. Crowned by good exam results, there is an expanding curriculum for 'A levels', better planned use of the Lakes environment and further

international trips. Badminton, Eton fives, squash, and volleyball are supplemented by football and netball as the core sports. With the library now re-opened, on-stream refurbishments include the sports courts, and for future boarding expansion, Abbots Court by September 2025. In China the three St Bees Schools continue to flourish and will provide student exchanges and transfers to St Bees School UK. Laurence concluded with an invitation for all to attend the OSB Cumbria Dinner and OSB Day at St Bees.

President, Carter Croft, spoke with evident passion for the Society. Although he was clearly disappointed with gatherings that had had to be cancelled (London being one), the success of other 'hub' events like the one held at Grange-over-Sands worked well with 36 attendees. Carter would like to encourage more like this and to find ways of forging links with younger members of the Society.

Mentioning Bill Dove's good work over the years and organising the luncheon, his well considered speech was both inspirational and humorous.

Before moving into the lounge bar for more social chat, the Chairman reminded everyone that next year we will be holding an important special event to celebrate the 50 years that Bill Dove has held the post as Secretary of the North East Branch.

Don H. Williams, Chairman North East Branch.

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan24bulletin>.

If any younger OSBs from the North East area are interested in attending a different type of event, or at a different venue or location, please do get in touch with us. We would welcome your thoughts and suggestions regarding an additional future venue, location, format etc. Please do contact Don Williams on 01670 789 489 or don@kingdomofnorthumbria.co.uk or Bill Dove on (01274) 585147 or williamdove15@yahoo.co.uk with your ideas.

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 you 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 & <https://www.facebook.com/osbsociety>

Forthcoming Annual Dinner and Other Dates:

Asia - Hong Kong and Shenzhen

If you are interested in attending dinners and get-togethers in Hong Kong and Shenzhen, or would be willing to organise such an event, please get in touch with Laurence Gribble, James Rebert or Chris Ma:

Facebook Group: “Old St Beghians in Asia”
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/480912405435555/> or
E-mail: OSBinAsia@gmail.com or
WhatsApp: +44 7930 258791 (Laurence Gribble).

Cambridge Social - Wed 10th Jan 2024, Burleigh Arms, Cambridge

The next Cambridge Social Evening will be held at the Burleigh Arms in Cambridge (<https://burleigharmscambridge.co.uk/>) on **Wednesday 10th January** at the usual time of 7:30pm. As it is a Wednesday it should not be crowded and booking a table will not be necessary. There is parking. Let me know if you can attend: John Braithwaite - braithwaite.john@icloud.com or 0771 720 9399. If this date has already passed, please contact John or keep a look out for details of future dates and locations via email and on the Society website and Facebook pages.

Cumbria Dinner - Fri 9th Feb 2024, Armthwaite Hall, Bassenthwaite

There will be a St Bees Gathering at Armthwaite Hall on **Friday 9th February 2024** - 7.00pm for 7.30. Champagne reception with live music. Three-course dinner with wine on the table. Speeches from the Head and the President with compere, The Dazzler. Live music to round off the evening (for those who wish tranquillity, the bar and lounges are available). Cost: £36.00.

If you have not already booked and would like to join us, please contact Darryl on darryl.davies1@btoopenworld.com or 07970 180751 asap for more details.

London Branch Dinner - 2024, London

Graeme Bagnall and Martin Birkett are the points-of-contact for the event, and if you would like to attend the London Dinner in 2024, please email Graeme (graembagnall@me.com or call on +44 7778 301584) or Martin (martin.birkett@gs.com) to register your interest. Further information will be available soon.

London Social (Informal Gathering) - October 2024, The Samuel Pepys, London

It is planned to hold the next London Social in **October 2024**. Nicola Shannon (nee Metcalfe-Gibson) (L/G 78-85) would love to hear from you if you are interested in attending the evening at The Samuel Pepys, Stew Lane, EC4V 3PT. Please contact Nicola at nicmetcalfeshannon@gmail.com or 0776 619 5468. A lovely evening to catch up with OSBs over a drink and/or a bite to eat.

North East Branch Lunch - Wed 6th Nov 2024, Northumberland GC, Newcastle.

A date has been set, **Wednesday 6th Nov**, for the 2024 Annual North East Branch Reunion Lunch event at The Northumberland Golf Club. After the

tremendous success of the 2023 Lunch format, the 2024 gathering will once again start around midday, enabling more OSBs to travel to and from the event in daylight. We look forward to seeing and welcoming members and guests in November 2024.

Please get in touch with Bill Dove if you are interested in attending: (01274) 585147 or williamdove15@yahoo.co.uk.

Scottish Gathering

Tim MacKay is planning to hold a Scottish Old St Beghian gathering on **Thursday 9th May 2024** at 12.30pm for 1pm. The venue will be Scotts Restaurant (www.scotts-southqueensferry.co.uk) at Port Edgar (EH30 9SQ), just outside Edinburgh. The venue is between the two Forth road bridges and has spectacular views across the estuary, plus there is adequate parking (which is free, if your details are entered, as requested). The Scotts' Signature Menu offers 2 courses at £29.95 or 3 courses for £35.95. Details of the menu may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan24bulletin>.

If you are interested in joining us and wish to come along for a get together, please register your interest with Pam at osb@stbeesschool.co.uk, by **12th April**.

Thomas Froggatt Memorial Rugby Match - 28th December 2024

Should anyone like more specific information nearer the time, please contact me via facebook <https://www.facebook.com/jonathan.garrod> or by email jonathangarrod@hotmail.com. **Jonathan Garrod (G 03-10)**.

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.

Asia: Laurence Gribble, James Rebert and Chris Ma:

E-mail: OSBinAsia@gmail.com or Facebook Group: "Old St Beghians in Asia"

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

WhatsApp: +44 7930 258791(Laurence Gribble) or WeChat: laurence358499.

Bristol & West: Currently Vacant.

If you are interested in assisting with this position, please do get in touch.

Cambridge: J. Braithwaite (John),

Tel: 0771 720 9399. Email: braithwaite.john@icloud.com

Cumbria: D.W. Davies (Darryl),
5 Marlborough Avenue, High Harrington, Workington, Cumbria. CA14 4NW.
Tel: (01946) 831650 or 07970 180 751. Email: darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com.

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

London:

G. Bagnall (Graeme) - (**London Dinner**),
Tel: 7778 301584. Email: graemebagnall@me.com.
Mrs N. Shannon (nee Metcalfe-Gibson) (Nicola) - (**London Social**),
Tel: 0776 619 5468. Email: nicmetcalfeshannon@gmail.com.

Manchester: R.P. Calvin (Roy),
The Lymes, Priory Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire. WA14 3BS.
Tel: (0161) 928 9812. Email: rcalvin1@googlemail.com.

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

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

Scotland: T.H. MacKay (Tim),
Tel: 0785 008 2583. Email: timmackay5859@gmail.com.

Golfing Society (OSBGS)

Old St Beghians' Golfing Society

2023 Halford Hewitt

St Bees were drawn to play Felsted in the Halford Hewitt, the match to be played at Royal St Georges. The team assembled at our usual accommodation at Knowlton Court on the 28th March for the practice days on the Tuesday and Wednesday on the links at St Georges in preparation for the first round match on the Thursday.

We had expected a close match against Felsted, as their record in the Hewitt in recent years has been similar to St Bees, and we did not disappoint the watching supporters.

In the top match, Gareth Edgar and Ben Wilson, were drawn against the Felsted top pair and struggled to gain a foothold and lost 6 and 5.

In the second game, John Currie and Cameron Wood had a great tussle in their match with no more than a hole between them throughout the match, standing 1 down after the 15th, the opposition played excellently down 16 and 17 to win the match 2 and 1.

In the third game Andrew Deall and John Berry played magnificently to win 6 and 5, to bring the match score to 1-1 following the loss of the top match.

The fourth pairing, Jeff Ellis and Stephen Moss, played a great match taking an early lead but were then pegged back to be all square after ten holes. The St Bees pair then won three of the next five holes to be three up after 15 holes and despite a brief fightback by their opponents, Jeff and Stephen held on to win 2 and 1, to bring the overall match score to 2-2.

In the final game Andrew Goodwin and Adrian Peckitt never really found their best game and were behind from the start and went four down at the 13th. A fightback started at the 14th and 15th to get back to two down. The St Bees pair had a chance to make it just one down at 16, but unfortunately the putt did not drop; the pair suffered the same fate at the 17th to lose 2 and 1 and the chance was gone.

Match result Felsted 3 St Bees 2.

So on to the Princes Golf Club for the Plate competition for all the first round losers.

In the first round St Bees played Wellingborough in weather that had taken a turn for the worse. However, this seemed to spur the team on to a resounding victory by 2.5 – 0.5. John Currie and Cameron Wood won the top match 4 and 2, the second pair Gareth Edgar and Ben Wilson secured a half, whilst Andrew Deall and John Berry continued their good form winning comfortably 5 and 3.

The second round was a tough draw against one of the more successful schools at the Hewitt, Shrewsbury. The team played magnificently to win the match 2 and 1, Andrew and John winning again 4 and 3 and John and Cameron securing a win in a close tussle 2 and 1.

Then into the Quarter finals where we would now be playing Bedford, not a team we knew much about, but they had beaten Rossall in the previous round. A great match ensued but the Bedford team ultimately proved too strong winning 2.5 – 0.5. Bedford then went on to win the Plate tournament.

Another great year at the Hewitt, roll on 2024.

In 2024, the Halford Hewitt will be celebrating its 100th Year. Celebrations are to take place throughout the year – so, keep an eye out for further information and photos from the various events.

QE Competition at Royal Burgess

St Bees returned to Edinburgh in September to participate in the QE at Royal Burgess. The team had limited availability for selection this year, but were delighted to welcome Rory Bain, who represented the OSBs for the first time whilst he was visiting home, in-between US golf commitments.

The Team photograph, **which may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan24bulletin>**, shows...

Back Row (left to right): Rory Bain, Adrian Peckitt, Cameron Wood, Ben Wilson and Front Row (left to right): Nigel Costeloe, Tom Wright (Captain), Rodney Atkinson.

Thanks to all who attended to play and support.

Notable shout outs:

To Adrian Peckitt, who despite injury, ventured from the south of England to support from the side of the fairway.

To Rodney Atkinson, whose annual commitment to this event (as a spectator or player) doesn't go unnoticed. We are grateful for your commitment to St Bees. Without this kind of support, we would have been short.

To Richard Crummey, thanks for maintaining 'Crummey status' at this event!

After the golf, the team enjoyed an evening meal in the centre of Edinburgh.

It is hoped that turn-out for this event will be improved for next year's tournament. Plans are in development for the team to be based in one location together throughout the competition and to utilise practice rounds together.

Events such as the QE are a privileged opportunity to represent our old school and to play good competitive golf amongst other Old Boys schools. St Bees looks forward to maintaining the etiquette that this competition warrants.

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan24bulletin>.

The Golfing Society continues to run on behalf of Old St Beghian golfers. If anyone is interested in further information or joining the Society, please do get in touch with either myself (Tom Wright) or Michael Coffey, the President.

OSBGS Contact Details:

Michael Coffey, President – Michael@golfclubsec.co.uk.

Tom Wright, Secretary – tomosbgolf@hotmail.com.

St Bees Golf Club - For further information:

ST BEES GOLF CLUB, Peck Mill Lane, St Bees, Cumbria, CA27 0EJ

01946 824300 or secretary@stbeesgolfclub.co.uk

For any other **general enquiries** please email: info@stbeesgolfclub.co.uk

SOCIETY OFFICERS:

President:

R.C. Croft (Carter)
(FN 60-65)

President-Elect:

Vacant

Treasurer:

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

Secretary:

P.J. Rumney (Pam)

Committee:

R.P. Calvin (Roy) (SH 79-83)	A.J. Haile (Andy) (F/SH 76-83)
S.J. Calvin (Sara) (G 77-84)	R. Hall (Richard) (F 64-68)
L.M. Cox (Lucy) (L 05-10)	A.D. Lord (Alastair) (SH 90-95)
D.W. Davies (Darryl) (FS 62-68)	M.N. Roberts (Mark) (SH 93-95)
J.M.W. Dunn (John) (FS 64-69)	
A.P. Fox (Anthony) (G 62-67)	

Trustees:

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

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

The next St Beghian Society Committee Meeting – Sat 15th June 2024.
The AGM and St Beghians' Day, 2024 – Sat 15th June 2024.

Copy Deadline: As the target month for the next issue of 'The Old St Beghian' is **July 2024**, the Editor would be most grateful if Branch Secretaries and other contributors would let him have their notices and reports by **31st May, 2024**.

The St Beghian Society, St Bees School, St Bees, Cumbria. CA27 0DS.

(01946) 828093 or osb@stbeesschool.co.uk

Website: www.st-beghian-society.co.uk

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