



# *The Old St Beghian*

January 2025

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## **From Our President Darryl Davies (FS 62-68)**

It was a great honour for me to be elected as your President for the next two years. I was a pupil at the school from 1962-1968 and a master from 1975 to 2007, although I did return to help from February 2022 to the summer of 2023. A good friend, John Braithwaite, commented, 'How did the pupils respond to being taught by a geriatric?' My hope was that they benefited and enjoyed my jokes, which hadn't changed in over forty years!

Currently the school is going through a period of change, and we are fortunate to have an excellent Head in Andrew Keep, ably assisted by Vanessa Johnstone. Sadly, Andrew's appointment is only temporary as he is due to retire at the end of the summer term.

In my time as President I have attended two events. The first was a social event with a meal at Grange-over-Sands Golf Club. Thanks to Carter Croft and Paul Haywood for organising this event, which was well supported by those in the Barrow and Kendal areas. My second was a lunch at Northumbria Golf Club in Newcastle, which is an annual event, but this year it was held to commemorate the life of Bill Dove and his work over what would have been fifty years as secretary of the North East Branch. Bill's daughter Amanda helped with the organisation of the proceedings, which were hosted by Don Williams.

During my time as President, I have two main areas I would like to develop. The first is to encourage female OSBs to be recognised and become more involved with the Society, and the second is to see how the Society can generate interest for

our younger members. Representatives from both these groups attended a meeting in October, which proved to be very successful. A follow-up meeting has been arranged for January. Some great ideas were put forward, which are now being considered. I urge anyone who has any ideas to get in touch with me or Pam Rumney.

Two local events for 2025 are the Cumbria Dinner on February 28<sup>th</sup> 2025 at Armathwaite Hall, near Keswick. If you haven't already confirmed, please do so as over seventy reservations have been made. The other event which I am greatly looking forward to is Old St Beghians' Day, which will be held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025. This year we have a new innovation, 'Music in the Quad' – rock, pop, folk and other genres. At this event there will be a barbecue and a bar. I hope to see as many of you as possible.

I should like to conclude by thanking our Secretary, Pam Rumney, whose hard work and advice are invaluable.

With every good wish for 2025.  
Darryl Davies (FS 62-68).

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

### **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](mailto:osb@stbeesschool.co.uk)**  
if you wish to update your contact details.

**All Photos mentioned within this Bulletin may be seen at**  
**<http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan25bulletin>.**

If you wish to receive an electronic version of the Bulletin in future, in addition to your postal copy, please do let me have your email address.

**Please contact: Pam Rumney on (01946) 828093 or [osb@stbeesschool.co.uk](mailto:osb@stbeesschool.co.uk)**

# Calendar of Events 2025

<b>2025</b>		
<b>January</b>		
<b>February</b>	Friday 28th	<b>Cumbria Dinner</b> , Armathwaite Hall Hotel, Bassenthwaite, Nr Keswick
<b>March</b>	tbc	First <b>Cambridge Gathering</b> of 2025 The Free Press, Prospect Row, Cam
<b>April</b>		
<b>May</b>	Thursday 8th	<b>Scottish Lunch</b> , Scott's Restaurant, Edinburgh
	Friday 30th	<b>London Dinner</b> , Civil Service Club, London SW1A 2HJ
<b>June</b>	Saturday 14th	<b>St Beghians' Day Reunion and Live Music in the Quad</b> at St Bees
<b>July</b>		
<b>August</b>		
<b>September</b>	tbc	<b>South Lakes Informal Social</b>
<b>October</b>	Friday 17th	<b>London Social</b> , The Samuel Pepys, London EC4V 3PT
<b>November</b>	tbc	<b>North East Lunch</b>
<b>December</b>		
<b>TBC 2025</b>	<b>Cambridge Gatherings – Various, every two months</b>	
	Asia - Hong Kong and Shenzhen	
	Singapore Lunch	

**All 2025 event dates & info may be seen on the Society website  
at [www.st-beghian-society.co.uk](http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk).**

We look forward to seeing you at an OSB event.

**St Beghians' Day Reunion  
and  
'Live Music in the Quad'  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

During the afternoon there will be **'Live Music in the Quad'**, with various artists from the OSBs and school. These will include Vicky Davies (aka Miss Dee) (L 94-99), Carmen Brown (G 88-93) and Lee Shackley (Head of Music, St Bees School) performing a mix of music across the genres.

A **barbeque in the Quad** (£5pp) at around 4.30/5.00pm will conclude the day. In addition, a **cash bar** will be available from lunch time onwards until the end of the event.

The day will commence with a Committee Meeting and **AGM**, including a **talk by the Headmaster**, followed by the **Chapel Service** at around mid-day, which this year will be taken by The Revd Canon Dr Andrew Todd (G 72-79).

An informal, self-service, sit-down **OSB lunch in the Foundation Dining Room** will be at 1pm. The cost of the 3-course lunch, including wine, will be £20 (this price will also include the barbeque for free, later on in the day).

There will also be a **Fives competition**, as in previous years, for anyone who would like to play – in the past it has included, OSBs, students and staff. All are welcome to participate or spectate.

A few OSBs (late 60s/early 70s) are already actively trying to encourage a group of their contemporaries to attend the day. If anyone else is interested in doing the same, we are more than happy to send out a message to a specific group of people on your behalf. Please do just get in touch if you are keen on getting a group together for the day - [osb@stbeesschool.co.uk](mailto:osb@stbeesschool.co.uk).

If you are a musician and would like to perform, we would love to hear from you. Please do get in touch with the OSB office - [osb@stbeesschool.co.uk](mailto:osb@stbeesschool.co.uk).

**All are welcome, including partners, family and friends.**

**However, we do need to know if you intend to come along on the day,  
so, please confirm your attendance at the various events  
by completing the enclosed Booking Form.**

**We hope to see you there!**

## Programme - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June

### St Beghians' Day Reunion and 'Live Music in the Quad' (All Welcome)

9.45am	<b>OSB Committee Meeting</b> in the Foundation building
11.00am	<b>Talk by Headmaster &amp; AGM</b> in the Salad Room
12.15pm	<b>Chapel Service</b> in the School Chapel
1.00pm	<b>Lunch</b> in the Foundation Dining Room
2.15pm	<b>Eton Fives</b> Competition begins
2.30pm	<b>Live Music</b> in the Quad*
4.30/5.00	<b>Barbeque</b> in the Quad*
	(*weather permitting – otherwise in the Salad Room)

+ **Please confirm your attendance at the various events +**  
+ **by completing the enclosed Booking Form +**  
You are welcome to come to all or just part of the day if you prefer.

## SOCIETY WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

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

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

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

Please take time to have a look at them 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.

## ST BEGHIAN SOCIETY NOTES

### St Beghian Society Annual Subscription 2024/25

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

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

## OSB NOTES

### **Mike Charnley (FN 70-75) writes about Mark 'Jump' Adams.**

"I was very sorry to read in the Bulletin of the death of Marc 'jump' Adams and send my condolences to the family. We both went through Foundation North together and spent the final year at the old Abbots Court Hotel!

I often wondered what he got up to after St Bees and assumed he was perhaps involved in diving from the rigs in the North Sea as I remember he did some diving at school.

I knew his brother Nicholas as a senior though our lives at St Bees were limited to our forms.

Nic did in part organise a visit to see Eric Richardson at his home in Nenthead to talk and see his rock collection! Marc was with me for that. Eric had written a book 'Pennine Lead-Miner' and I was studying geology, alone, for A level in my final year.

Why jumpy? Well, the photographs I have included with this piece show Marc at St Bees Head when I used him as scale for some sandstone pictures, perhaps it was in 1975.

Another picture shows some hike in the fells when we were on the way to the railway station. I am not sure who is on the far left, maybe MacNaughton, but going left to right Andrew Carr, Bernie Moore, Marc Adams and Graham Nicholas. I think it was in 1974."

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan25bulletin>.**

### **Neil Dumbleton (FS 60-64) records his sadness at two recent deaths.**

"I was very saddened by the notification of two deaths in recent issues of *The Old St Beghian*:

**Ronald Johnson (M 59-65).** Ron was a Foundation Housemaster during my years at St Bees (FS 60-64) and senior history teacher during the years of 'O' and 'A' Levels and university application. I have little recollection of his teaching up to 'O' Level but, thereafter, he played a critical role in getting me properly prepared to apply to Cambridge to read history. My Lower Sixth year was probably a disappointment to Ron, so much so that he took the decision to widen my history studies away from the curriculum's traditional focus on the 18th and 19th centuries to the Tudor and Stuart eras. As well as greatly extending my options in answering questions at 'A' Level, that decision revived my interest and restored my enthusiasm for the subject.

That interest and enthusiasm continued after 'A' Level into my preparation for the Cambridge Entrance examination during the autumn term of 1964. My success, assisted by the many hours of private tuition which I received from him, owed a

huge amount to Ron's confidence in me and the exceptional support which he provided.

After leaving St Bees at Christmas 1964, I was in touch with Ron just once, in spring 2013, when, now living in Sydney, Australia, he learnt that I was organising a reunion to mark the 50th anniversary of the school's first Atlas expedition in March-April 1963. Together with Gordon Dyke and Alan Francis, Ron was one of three school teachers on that trip. Looking back fifty years later in an e-mail to me in March 2013, Ron reflected that they were a great combination. 'Gordon was the leader. He chose the route, the resting spots, the food menus [and] was also responsible for the climbing programme. He was a great observer of human nature and saw fun everywhere. Alan was a great backup with a whimsical view of life. I guess that we made a good team.' It was typical of Ron that his own memories of that trip concentrated more on the mishaps and misadventures, some funnier after the event than at the time, than on the climbing. Being the least experienced mountaineer of the three, he had more than his fair share of other duties, including provisions, money, negotiations with the Berbers, and setting up camp. The last of these, in particular, was not without its challenges. At the end of the 2013 reunion, everyone present signed a card to be sent to Ron in Sydney. He replied by e-mail: 'Your card arrived this afternoon and I will treasure it. At my age, looking back, the whole thing achieves a cheery/teary nostalgia and that is a pleasant feeling'. Many will surely look back on Ron's time at St Bees with a similar feeling.

**Michael Jamison (FN 61-65).** Mike was another member of that Atlas expedition in March-April 1963. To be entirely honest, being a year apart, we were never the closest of friends at St Bees. But it was impossible not to be aware of him. In many ways, he was a paragon, so very good at everything he did. He excelled at every sport which the school provided. He earned a place in the First XV, playing in the centre, while still in the Lower Sixth, and my album for those years contains a photograph of Mike winning the 100 yards on Sports Day in July 1964. I also remember him as someone invariably anxious to get involved and to put himself to the test. On our Atlas expedition, he was probably the keenest among us to do some real climbing. Another photograph shows Mike, fully roped-up, working his way up an alarmingly vertical chimney which I had avoided by finding a less challenging route. He undoubtedly played a key part in what was a very successful team and enjoyable expedition. Yet, in spite of his multi-skills and attributes, he was remarkably modest and self-effacing. Later, at Cambridge, our paths crossed just twice. Very regrettably in retrospect, our studies, in different Colleges, different years and different subjects, simply kept us apart. The two meetings which did take place were both on the squash court. Needless to say, Mike won on both occasions. The 2013 Atlas reunion was



our only subsequent meeting. It was a weird surprise to discover there that we two Old St Beghians had married two women, Barbara and Gill, educated at the same Belfast school, Strathearn. Eleven years later, Barbara and I were both upset to learn of Mike's death in February this year.

Mike's time at St Bees resulted, as was the case with so many of us, in a lifelong love of the Lake District. He and Gill acquired a timeshare at Chapel Stile in Langdale, which they let Barbara and I use immediately after the Atlas reunion. Mike e-mailed afterwards that 'We do love our visits to Langdale, even when it's just the two of us rattling round in no. 37. We have many happy memories of our kids growing up and making use of all the facilities'. Living on Anglesey, within sight of Snowdonia, Mike was rarely far from the hills."

**A link to the July 2013 Bulletin article about the Atlas Expedition of 1963 and subsequent Atlas Reunion in 2013 may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan25bulletin>.**

**Donald Jackson (SH 75-80) writes:**

**Origin of the DDD tag – How St Bees School helped to save my life!**

"In the mid 80s, I was an undergraduate at Oxford and spent holidays at the parental home in Worcester.

One summer, my younger sister Caroline was planning to go and stay in Keswick, in the Lake District, with seven friends. The venue was the house of a family friend.

As their group did not collectively possess enough cars and driving licences, I offered to drive up with them and carry on to Scotland for a few days.

On the day of the drive we arrived in the late afternoon. Having dropped off my passengers, I carried on to St Bees, where I spent the evening with old school friends, notably James Craig. Thus, I returned to Keswick after pub-closing time, but sober, as I had been driving.

Caroline and her friends were having a toga party, and it was clear that I wouldn't be able to catch them up in terms of party mood, as there was little drink left.

Also, they all knew each other, and I didn't know most of them; and the 'music' was too loud for going to bed to be an option.

Thus, I decided to go for a little stroll behind the house, and enjoy the beauty of a summer's night in the Lake District. One of Caroline's friends, Steve Carroll, said that he would join me, as he wanted some fresh air.

We walked along a path a few hundred yards to the base of Castle Crag, and then climbed up to the top of this small rise by moonlight. From the top, it is possible to see two lakes: Bassenthwaite and Derwentwater; we enjoyed the view for a few moments.

We then set off to retrace our steps. After a couple of minutes we realised that we

had strayed off the path. This made it darker, as we were now amongst trees. Since we knew that the path could only be a matter of yards to our left, we started to walk on an angle to converge with it.

At one point we came face to face with the top of what was clearly a very tall tree, so we realised that there was a big drop in front of us. From this point we followed the contour back towards the path, walking along a lesser path.

Suddenly I dropped through the air and fell about 20 feet. Almost before I knew it was happening I had come to rest. The first thing I did was to say to Steve 'Don't move an inch'. He was probably startled to hear my voice from directly below him. This was the only time in my life that I have been grateful to be with a smoker. He struck a couple of matches, which enabled us to take stock of the situation. I could go neither up nor down, nor to either side. The cliff-face of a small worked-out quarry was too close to sheer. There was at least 20 feet more below me, to a steep slope strewn with large, loose boulders.

Steve headed back to the house to phone for the rescue services, while I took further stock. I had a big bump on my head, and bangs on both elbows and knees. I was on a ledge which was marginally smaller than one of my feet. Initially I had hand-holds for each hand, but these rapidly crumbled away, leaving me supporting myself on one foot. I was able, gingerly, to shift position every few minutes, and even to change feet occasionally, so as to avoid pins and needles becoming too serious.

I put my hand round my back, and found a long gash by my spine. The hand slipped into a nice, warm, velvety groove which was oozing blood, and some safety mechanism probably cut in because I didn't really think about this wound. While waiting for Steve and help, I decided to keep my mind occupied in order to avoid dropping off, in both senses, as it was now the wee small hours.

Initially I tried to work out if, having just avoided death, and still facing it, I should be eligible for profound thoughts, images of past life flashing past or anything of the sort. But nothing happened.

Plan B was to recite stuff. Having recently read some of the Fitzgerald translations of the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, I started with those. But the first one which came to mind started:

*Ah come with old Khayyam, and leave the wise,  
To wrangle ....*

but I got no further. Subsequent pondering led to the conclusion that a sub-conscious mechanism intervened, as the quatrain continues:

*.. one thing is certain, that life flies*

Not the best message to dwell on! I turned next to Henry V, my 'O' level play at St Bees.

During my O Level year, I often received punishment lines to write. The words

had to be copied from a book. So, I had decided to kill two birds with one stone by memorising enough to allow me to write 100 lines.

Between school and university, while living in a kibbutz in Nazareth, I often worked night shifts in a bakery. It was such mechanical work that I learned a few additional lines of Henry V before each night shift, and then recited the play up to and including the new lines.

In the end I knew the whole of Act I and part of Act II by heart. This includes what is regarded by some as the most boring speech in the whole of Shakespeare, the Salic Law speech.

So the text which I could recite amounted to an hour's worth; which was useful, hanging off a cliff!

While reciting, I generally felt that I wouldn't be able to hold on for very long, and it seemed implausible to survive the remaining fall without sustaining horrific injuries, I decided that my best chance was to fall head-first and hope for a clean kill. For two hours, after the handholds had crumbled, I kept my hands inside my waistband to prevent myself using them during the impending fall.

Meanwhile Steve had alerted the household, and the rescue services. The initial 999 reaction was that it might be a wind-up, so PC Plod was sent to check that it wasn't a hoax. He was directed towards my eyrie. He shone a torch up and saw me and asked if I was hurt.

Then the mountain rescue people were called out. They were unsure whether I was more accessible from above or below. In the end they decided to belay a rope round a tree above me, send one fellow down to strap me into a stretcher, and then lower me to the forest floor.

The chap came down by rope and put another rope under my shoulders. Having been hanging on for about two hours, for most of which time I was contemplating how best to ensure a clean dashing out of brains, this was welcome.

He asked about my injuries and inspected the spinal cut and shouted up 'Send down the biggest dressing we've got. Severe flesh wound.' He did some dressing of the wound, and strapped me into a stretcher.

In the end I was lowered to where a few of them could carry me. They refused my request to walk. I suppose they knew that the wound was very close to my spine. But I was upset, because I felt fine and was concerned that Caroline (and others) would be unduly alarmed to see me thus trussed up like an oven-ready turkey. As I recall, I stuck my tongue out as I was carried past Caroline to show that all was well.

At the hospital in Keswick, a nurse spent a half hour or so pulling grit out of my back while we waited for the doctor. He tested my vertebrae to see my reaction, to check whether there was a real risk of spinal injury. A painful experience. I suspected the thought was that I had been a reveller at a party! But of a

household of drunken teenagers – how likely is it that the one who went walkabout and fell off a cliff was the only sober one?

At Carlisle hospital a lady doctor spent almost an hour putting in stitches. In addition to putting in 10 internal, soluble stitches and 26 external ones, she was applying the local anaesthetic by injection. The system seemed to be that the anaesthetic lasted for 2 ½ stitches; so, we got into a cosy little routine whereby halfway through each third stitch I would tell her that she had gone past the anaesthetised area, and she would agree to give me another jab after the current stitch was finished.

She also gave me a monster tetanus jab, and a general painkiller. Both went into my left thigh, and for the second she said, ‘This won’t hurt as much, as I can use the same hole’. Curiously, this didn’t encourage me much, and I am convinced that for one or other of them someone stood pouring two pints of liquid through a kitchen funnel via a huge syringe into my leg.

My parents had rallied round by abandoning a good night’s sleep in Worcester and driving up the motorway to sort things out. The hospital was happy to discharge me once I was safely stitched up, so my mother drove me home the same day.

I was given a course of antibiotics to take over the next two weeks, and some painkillers. The latter were also supposed to last a while, but the hospital staff said that because a 200 mile car journey might tickle an injured back somewhat, I could take extra painkillers on the journey if need be.

It was a very painful journey, despite the extreme solicitude of my mother, who is an excellent driver. I particularly noticed a curb we had to drive over to enter a petrol station forecourt. By the time we got home, I had finished the entire course of painkillers. Except that I had actually finished the two-week antibiotic course, and not had a single painkiller, which would explain the discomfort on the drive. By now the Worcester Evening News had hit the streets. Presumably the Keswick local rag had got the story from the rescue services, and established a few salient facts, and passed them on to their counterparts where I lived. And so it was that the evening edition bore the front page headline:

‘Death Drop Don Saved.’

A few people read this story and immediately concluded that I might in some way be in trouble, and a couple telephoned in evident distress, which we had to defuse as convincingly as possible.

I was upset by the somewhat sensational reporting, and contacted the newspaper, asking them to publish a follow-up, pointing out that rumours of my near-death were greatly exaggerated. They professionally retorted that ‘Local Man Nearly Dies’ makes better newspaper copy than ‘Local man not badly hurt after all’. So, I had to think up a scheme to interest them.

First, I offered them a photograph of the spinal wound, in case perchance they might find a large acreage of bandage in any way usable. Secondly, I pointed out that I had been reciting Shakespeare for two hours. I understand that this latter detail probably led to the story being syndicated somewhat more widely; for when I returned to Oxford next term several people, including members of college staff, had read of the incident in the national press. I never saw any of those articles. However, I received a signed copy of a new edition of Henry V, autographed by the editor, Gary Taylor, with the inscription 'Seldom can anyone have made better use of this play!' The accident caused me to delay an inter-rail trip round Europe by a couple of weeks; but I did do the trip late. Thus, the only lasting effects on me (as of 20 years later) were a scar along my spine and a name, DDD (or Death Drop, for those who prefer to be more formal)."

### **A 'band' photograph sent in by David O'Connor (G 59-65), found by Grant Muter (G 60-65) - Can anyone help?**

"Vicky Jones, Grant Muter's wife, has emailed to me a photograph taken at St Bees in 1963 which they recently discovered in the attic of their Welsh farmhouse. Grant's memory is not so good these days and the hope was that I could confirm the lineup and shed some light on what was going on. Written on the back in Grant's handwriting is 'Grant Muter, Grindal House, St. Bees School, 1963' and he identifies the sitters, starting in the top row, as 'Hay, Goldthorpe (Wand-Tetley), Grant Muter, 'Hiram' Richard Bourne, David O'Connor, Anderson, Adrian Lees, Sam .., ... ..'. Damage means that the last two names are incomplete, but they must be Sam Morton and I think Geoff Steven.

The band comprises in the top row: David Hay on horn, D.J. Goldthorpe with rifle, Grant Muter on trumpet, Richard Bourne wearing fives gloves and David O'Connor on bugle. In the bottom row Michael Anderson, appropriately attired in CCF uniform, on trombone, Adrian Lees holding I'm not sure what (a cricket bat?), Sam Morton on trumpet and Geoff Steven on cello.

I'm afraid I have no recollection of the occasion which looks a bit like a restaging of a Surrealist Group event in 1920s Paris or Dada in Zurich in the 1930s! In his dressing gown and false moustache Grant might be standing in for Salvador Dali. Most, if not all of us, were in the choir so may be the band was formed as part of the entertainment which used to follow the termly choir dinners at the Abbots Court Hotel. But given that we are all Grindalians, we may have been rehearsing for an end of term House concert. I think 1963 pre-dates the Grindal Grinders, a small orchestral group got together by Mr Stanion when Assistant House Master. Four of the brass players in the photo were in the Corps bugle and drum band and are included in the 1963 school photograph of that ensemble. Most evenings it

was Grant who climbed out of a window onto the roof at Grindal to sound the Last Post down the valley at the end of the day. Others in the group had to stand in for him from time to time and I have a recording made in 1965 with Sam carrying out this task in the background. I can't make any sense of the setting, though the presence of the tuck box suggests that it is likely to be somewhere in Grindal.

I'm hoping that everyone in the photo is fit and well. I have been pleased to read news of some of them in past issues of the OSB. If anyone can shed further light on the occasion, the setting or even possibly the photographer, then Grant and I would be pleased to hear from you.

Fortunately, Richard is the only person to whom Grant has attached a nickname. I seem to remember that this came about because of his supposed resemblance to an American sitcom comic character, Hiram Holliday, whose adventures were broadcast on BBC tv in the early 1960s."

**A link to the band photograph which is displayed on the Society website may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan25bulletin>.**

**Anthony C. Payne (M 67-01) writes:**

"I was greatly saddened to read of the death of Richard Elgood (nicknamed "Dickon" by Sam Parkinson!). He and I started together in September 1967 (David Marshall was out by a year in his excellent reminiscences), and I picked up contact with him briefly in later years when I found out that he wrote light verse (as do I). I remember him with great affection."

**George Robson (FN 57-64) has completed his research into some of the boys whose names appear on the paneling in the Foundation.**

**THE FINAL THREE.**

"The January 2024 bulletin included an article regarding Percy Trotter, who was one of the eight St Beghians who had carved their names on the Foundation dining room paneling and subsequently fell in action during the Great War. They are highlighted on the plaque that was unveiled on the panels on St Beghians' Day 2018. Since the plaque was unveiled, details of five of the eight have been unearthed and reported on in subsequent Bulletins.

Thanks to the assistance of Blyth (Northumberland) Library, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the Blyth Battery some details of the remaining three can now be given:

**FREDERIC ALAN RANKIN** was the youngest son of James and Jane Rankin of 2 Valley Road, Welwyn Garden City, who were natives of Oxton, Cheshire. He attended the school from 1911 until 1915 when he volunteered for the 1st Battalion Border Regiment. As a 2nd Lieutenant he was attached to D Battalion

Tank Corps. In January 1917 corps D and C were amalgamated to form 1 Tank Brigade under the command of Colonel (later Brigadier) Christopher Baker-Carr and soon saw action at Arras. It was during this action, on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, that Frederic was killed. He was aged 20. He was buried at Wancourt British Cemetery, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France.

**JOHN ROUTLEDGE** was the son of Richard and Jane Routledge of Galeaberry House, Brampton, Cumbria. He attended the school from 1911 until 1915 and shortly afterwards volunteered for the first battalion of the King's Own Scottish Borderers. He served as a rifleman and was killed near Arras on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1917. His name appears on the Arras memorial's Bay 6 (ref. 124934637) at Nord-Pas-de-Calais in France.

**PHILLIP H. STOTT** was the son of The Reverend H. R. Stott of Beckwithshaw Vicarage, Harrogate. He entered the school in 1912, and apart from becoming a house prefect, rose to become Head Boy. He became an Exhibitioner of Merton College, Oxford but in February 1917 took leave from this to volunteer for the West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales' Own) 4th Battalion.

In May 1917 the Reverend Stott received a letter from Lieutenant Colonel Wm. Oddie which reported that his battalion had been 'involved in a great struggle on 26<sup>th</sup> April and put up a magnificent fight. Your son was with his company in the front line. There is no news of him and we can only hope he is wounded and in the hands of the Germans. He had not been very long with us but quite long enough to appreciate his value. He was a reliable officer, and his loss is a serious matter to the battalion. I sympathise with you in this terrible uncertainty about his fate and am hoping you may have good news of him before long.'

On 13<sup>th</sup> July 1917 the Harrogate Advertiser reported that Philip Stott 'is now known to have been killed on April 25<sup>th</sup>'. He was buried in the massive Tyne Cot Cemetery at Passchendaele and his name appears on panel 42 (ref. 11961618).

**LEST WE FORGET."**

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan25bulletin>.**

**George Robson (FN 57-64) has also been investigating a relatively unknown monument: THE HAND.**

"In 1956 my parents and I arrived in St Bees to meet Headmaster James Wykes and for him to show us the school's principal buildings and learn what it was to be a pupil of the school.

Of course, the then new Memorial Hall was one of the buildings we looked around. On leaving it to cross over to the library I noticed a slate-coloured feature standing just outside the Hall. The Headmaster didn't mention the feature as we swept past it.

Not even once during my six years as a pupil of the school do I recollect any

reference being made to what I now know is called THE HAND. This is rather strange as I reckon the Bible quotation on the plinth would be an obvious starting point for a sermon.

The Hall was built in 1954 as a tribute to those St Beghians who fell in World War Two, and the following year The HAND was placed on an inscribed pedestal just outside the entrance.

Sixty-seven years have passed since this first visit to St Bees and I have been driven to find the story that lies behind THE HAND.

JOSEFINA ALYS HERMES DE VASCONCELLOS is an exotic mouthful of a name. She is described on Google as a ‘notable sculptress who worked in bronze, stone, wood, lead and perspex’. For much of her working life she lived in Little Langdale in Cumbria, i.e. not a million miles from St Bees.

Born in Surrey as the daughter of a Brazilian diplomat, she built up a distinguished reputation through achievements at the Academy de la Grande Chaumiere in Paris and the Royal Academy. Her first exhibition was at the Royal Academy’s summer show in 1929 and her first major commission in the same year was for the church of St. Valery at Varengeville-sur-Mer in Normandy. Here she produced a reclining life-sized figure of St. Valery, which was placed under a stone altar.

Although maintaining a studio in London she bought a house at Little Langdale in the Lake District. Her husband Delmar Banner was an Anglican lay preacher and together they adopted two children in 1940. Banner led his wife to be received into the Church of England and henceforth the topic of faith came to run through Josefin’s artistic life. This was seen in her creating THE HAND (known in some quarters as THE HAND OF GOD), which she carved in memory of a friend killed during the war and placed outside the newly built Memorial Hall at St Bees. She initiated the founding of the Harriet Trust at Millom so that disabled children could enjoy nature holidays within a purpose-built dwelling. She then modified a fishing trawler called THE HARIETT to be used by the children as a recreation space. For this charitable work de Vasconcellos was awarded an OBE.

At the age of 84 de Vasconcellos was forced to leave her large Little Langdale home but found a small cottage and studio in Ambleside. Here she created her final work known as ESCAPE TO LIGHT which commemorates the men of the independent off-shore rescue service. She had been a close friend of Beatrix Potter and at the age of 99 published a large collection of letters of friendship between the two titled SHE WAS LOVED: MEMORIES OF BEATRIX POTTER.

Her final months were spent at The Orchard Lodge nursing home in Blackpool where she passed away at the grand age of 100 in July 2005.



Maybe we should find the time to dwell on the words of the monument's inscription: IF I TOOK THE WINGS OF THE MORNING  
AND REMAIN IN THE UTTERMOST PARTS  
OF THE SEA EVEN THERE ALSO SHALL  
THY HAND LEAD ME AND THY RIGHT  
HAND SHALL HOLD ME Psalm 139 verses 9-10."

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan25bulletin>.**

### **John West (SH 61-64) sent in a school team photograph and comments as follows:**

"Rob Astin (SH 62-66) and I irregularly exchange emails. Rob has recently moved and sent me an email with a school team photograph attached. His email read as follows:

'In the great 'putting away' of things I came across the attached photograph. The questions become harder: Name the reason for the photograph? The year? The players?

There are a couple of supplementary questions which I will ask but it will give the answer to the first question. Whom did we beat and who was our main try scorer?' Rob also told me that he had written the names on the back of the photo at the time. This got me thinking and I replied suggesting that the photo was of School House and that it was the Junior House match winners in 1963. I thought at first that it was the Colts team, then wondered where Jonathan Roberts was, and then realised that everyone was on School House!

I think we beat Grindal in the final, on the Crease. I also can't remember who scored the most (R. Astin? Maybe Steve Moss, he could run, or maybe MCV Spencer Ellis who could also run fast) or even the actual result. I can't recollect whom we played before that.

I also won my house colours, although I'm not wearing them in the photo because I didn't get matron to sew the badge on in time. I was wing forward and as I was breaking loose from the pack, you (Rob) came past on your way to score, but touched me and it was ruled no try, accidentally offside.

My recollection of names initially, starting at the top left:

Not sure, but I think it was Murray. Then Julian Russell and Rollo Twitchin (since deceased I think) - he was also a fast runner. Must have been in the backs. (Maybe top scorer - probably not - no house colours.) Then Ian Mc Nichol, John Mosgrove, Jonty Campbell, 'Jacko' Jackson (can't think where he played) and Colin Entwistle. Middle Row: Chas Gibson (prop I think?), John West, Tommy Donaldson (probably middle of the back as he was bigger than anyone else), Robert Astin (Captain, and deservedly so! Scrum half sometimes on the Colts, but possibly stand off on this occasion), T. M. Gascoigne (also played scrum half on the Colts

at times as well as R. Astin. Did he play scrum half on this occasion? I can't remember). I think the next person was called Green? (he was the under 15's hooker and was hooker for this team too), then MCV Spencer-Ellis (fast runner. Was he top scorer?).

Front Row: Guner (spelling?) Bursell (I don't remember what part he played in the victory) and nor do I remember the name of the boy hiding the ball in front of you. On the end is Steve Moss? (fast runner, nice guy. Maybe top scorer?)'

Rob replied that I was nearly right. The player I couldn't identify was J H Wood (Woody).

The one I identified as J. Campbell was actually P N Telford.

He also added 'It was Grindal we beat in the final (6-0) and TMG was at scrum half with myself at Fly half. We won 16 - 3 against FS in the semi.

Some other memories from that match: the leading scorer was 'Rollo' Twitchin with three tries. I do remember that he was 'blind as a bat' which stopped him from playing for school teams but we discovered that if somehow we could get the ball to stick in his hands, he could run like the wind! He did with great effect scoring twice in the final (try = three points). Woody and Moss scored the other tries along with Donaldson.'"

**These are John and Rob's memories, but they would be interested to know if others have similar recollections.**

**Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan25bulletin>.**

**'Reminiscences of school days are often lost to history as the generations move on, that is why we are always keen to encourage OSBs to let us have anything of interest, significant or apparently slight, for the Bulletin.**

**Our regular correspondent, George Robson (FN 57-64), has gathered some more of his own, which may jog some memories.'**

### **OUR TUCK SHOP – George Robson.**

"For countless years, if not for ever, Joe Tyson and his wife ran the shop in Finkle Street which we boys recognised as our tuck shop. They lived above the shop but welcomed us to make use of the room behind the shop as a kind of dayroom. They even installed a television for our use - I remember watching the 1962 cup final there.

The shop had on offer many things, but to my mind come memories of a fruit squash known as 3Cs, and an ice cream made by a firm called Franchi. We never discovered any other shop either in St Bees or Whitehaven which stocked Franchi. Where on earth was it made?

In previous years Joe had sold ices at the beach, whilst his wife offered donkey rides, but this had ended long before 1962.

Suddenly in 1962 cheerful Joe was not behind the counter. We learnt that he was seriously ill, although he remained upstairs at home.

Realising that the future of the shop was in jeopardy, some of us set up a rota in pairs to man the shop - mornings, afternoons, and evenings. This entailed some of us missing lessons. I never found out whether the teachers were aware as to why a couple of pupils were absent from lessons. Possibly they knew the reason, but then possibly they didn't.

Sadly, Joe died, and the shop was put up for sale. A woman with the unusual name of Colquhoun bought the premises, and business at the tuck shop continued for some years before being converted into a house.

For us Tyson's had been home from home. Nice man."

**Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan25bulletin>.**

### **THE CORK TREE – George Robson.**

"One day in 1961 a villager told me that one of only two cork trees (*quercus suber*) in England is only a short distance from St Bees at Gosforth. The other specimen was at London's famous Kew Gardens. (I've since learnt that in fact there are a few other specimens in Britain but the most northerly is in Gosforth's churchyard). It was planted in 1833 where evidently there is a micro-climate that enables it to thrive.

This drove me to find three mates willing to make up a foursome to cycle out to view the tree on the following threequarter day's holiday. This with the intention to slice off some of the cork bark to bring back to school as trophies.

So we arrived, only to find a substantial protective iron fence surrounds the tree. However, we were young, fit and resourceful and with the aid of penknives we soon had our pockets filled with slivers of bark. I guess that today our consciences would be racked by 'green issues' but it never dawned on us that this was wrongdoing. Many years later I read on the internet that *bark can be peeled away without causing any harm to the tree*, so today any lingering harm to my conscience is salved.

We noticed not far from the tree an eye-catching fourteen feet high slim stone column which I have since learnt is the tallest Norman cross in England. Known as *the Gosforth Norman Cross* it depicts the victory of Christ over the heathen gods and dates from the early 900s.

With it being only early afternoon, we reckoned we had ample time to repair to a local hostelry, where we spent some happy hours before pedaling back to St Bees. I still have my piece of bark and a clear conscience to boot!"

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan25bulletin>.**

## **THE ROYAL VISIT – George Robson.**

“In 1961 it was learnt that the Princess Royal would be passing the school en route to Fleet House. Princess Mary was the third of King George V's five children and his only daughter.

It was decided that all pupils and staff would line both sides of the road outside the quadrangle to cheer the princess as she passed by. I found myself standing next to geography master 'Spike' Cawthorn. Suddenly the royal car, with a flag fluttering, came around the corner and we saw the princess sitting alone on the back seat. Clearly Spike was a fervent royalist for he shouted 'Cheer boys, and cheer loudly!'

Suddenly the car drew to a stop and a rear window drew down. Clearly the princess wished to speak to someone. And guess who the boy was that was standing next to the open window? It was myself! The princess said to me 'Do you like it here?' and I replied 'Yes your majesty (sic), the countryside is magnificent.' I remember clearly the response I got from the royal lips - 'Remember, one is nearest to God in the countryside.'

And with that the window closed and the car moved off with cheers resonating down the line.

A slight occurrence but for me a memorable one.”

**Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan25bulletin>.**

## **THE SIGN - George Robson.**

“As one comes downhill on the Whitehaven road into the village the road sweeps right to skirt around the Foundation.

There is a roadside sign to warn motorists that around the corner there may be children and that drivers should be aware of this.

Back in my day the sign featured two children walking hand in hand - one a girl and one a boy.

In 1960 some wags thought that with pupils being exclusively boys, it would be a laugh if the girl on the sign was blanked out. With the aid of a ladder, blank paper and glue this was done during the hours of darkness.

A day or two later the Headmaster, James Wykes, having had a phone call from the police, referred to the prank in a Memorial Hall morning assembly. He admonished the culprits, whoever they were, but we noticed a twinkle in his eye and could see his ire was minimal.

Nowadays there are a number of designs used by the Highways Commission to warn motorists of children ahead, but in St Bees the sign of 1960 is still in place.

\*In case the police still hold details of the incident, I refuse to say whether I was one of the wags!”

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan25bulletin>.**

## **WASPS AND ORGAN PIPES – George Robson.**

“Behind the pipes in the organ case in the chapel there is a small window leading out onto the terrace. Over many years the flap at the top became rusted but left the top slightly open.

Unbeknown to anyone, during the summer holidays in 1958 wasps had made use of the opening to enter the chapel and made their home inside the numerous organ pipes. With hardly anyone being about on the Terrace during the summer break, and the chapel not in use, no-one was aware of this intrusion.

On the first morning of the new academic year staff and pupils congregated early in the day for morning service. Music master Donald Legatt flounced in with his gown flowing behind him and perched himself on the organ stool. He switched on the blower and the sound of air filling the pipes soon rumbled.

Almost immediately literally thousands of angry wasps flew out of the pipes and into the chapel. To say there was consternation would be an understatement! The Chaplain, the Rev'd Moule, was fortunate for he had to take only very few steps from the altar to retreat into the vestry. But for everyone else it was a case of 'every man for himself'! Boys pushed masters aside to escape from the angry wasps and masters pushed aside boys. It was pure chaos!

Somehow during the rest of the day, the wasps were persuaded to vacate the chapel and the rusted window was - maybe with the aid of WD-40 (which I think existed even then) - shut tight.

This is a memory which surprises me has not been commented on before, so far as I am aware. Maybe there are contemporaries still around who can also bear witness to this?

By the way, the service was abandoned, and the matrons were kept busy during much of the day treating wasp stings!”

**Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan25bulletin>.**

## **SNIPPETS.....**

It was lovely to welcome back **Barry Williams (F 52-57)** to the school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Barry and Phyllis called in on their way for a few days in the Lake District. A very enjoyable nostalgic hour was spent in the Foundation followed by a look around the library and Memorial Hall.

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan25bulletin>.**

Congratulations to **John Cade (FS 58-64)**, who recently celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. David Lord (SH 60-65) has sent in some photos of the occasion.

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan25bulletin>.**

## OBITUARIES

**Philip Barratt (M 69-92), who died on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2024.**

**Philip Etchells (M 75-06) has kindly provided the following:**

“Philip Barratt came to St Bees in 1969 after beginning his career in his native Midlands at Dudley Grammar School before moving to Arnold Grammar School in Blackpool. At that time St Bees was a boys’ school with the great majority of its pupils being boarders. Philip’s time at the school was one of almost continual change, and his part in that evolutionary process was to be important and central. This was not least between 1982 and 1985 when he and Maureen opened Lonsdale House, the second of the girls’ houses. However, it will be for the commitment, expertise and enthusiasm that he brought to the teaching of chemistry that he will be remembered by the majority of Old St Beghians. Certainly, I found that working alongside Philip was always a pleasant, rewarding and often amusing experience.

He was involved in the Careers Department, and the production of the Junior Plays and Gilbert and Sullivan operas gave the opportunity to many pupils to begin their careers on the boards. Always keen on cricket, he was a stalwart of the Common Room XI, with a deceptive and bizarre, though frequently effective, right arm bowling action.

He retired in 1992 and continued to be involved in chemistry education, mainly through curriculum development and examining with the Welsh Board. Philip was also active in the village community in various ways.

He is survived by Maureen. Their two sons, Geraint and Roland, are both OSBs and continue to live locally.”

**Richard Hall (FS 64-68).**

**Jeremy Hall (FS 67-72) has kindly sent in the following notice.**

“Richard was born in September 1950 in Carlisle to a farming family, running a traditional mixed working farm near Aspatria.

Richard’s was a happy childhood, growing up with younger brother Jeremy (FS 66-72), but despite being brought up on a farm, it was never going to be part of the life of one who from the start displayed inclinations to the indoor and the cerebral life.

Richard was sent to Seascale Prep School. Given what was already emerging in him as a shy and reserved nature, this might have been thought an unhappy environment for him, but this proved not to be the case, with school encouraging his enthusiasms for Latin, history and English literature. Active participation in sport was not for him, but this did not prevent his acquiring enthusiasms for

cricket and rugby union, although not in any sense in a participatory way. For all that knew him in later life, his lack of practical involvement in rugby and cricket was no inhibition to his acquiring an encyclopaedic knowledge of the intricacies and histories of both sports.

Senior school followed at St Bees. This was a formative time for him both intellectually and in terms of his character, and he retained a lifelong affectation for his old school, being a long-time member of the St Beghian Society Committee and a regular attender of reunions.

His academic ability pointed to a good university, and he duly went up to Jesus College, Cambridge, to read history, focusing on medieval history, for which he was well suited given his ability in Latin. It was a happy time for him and he graduated with a good 2.1. Like many history graduates before and since, he then had to consider what his career would be, and like many history graduates before and since, he thought teaching would be just the thing, but his putative teaching career lasted a matter of weeks.

In what might be termed a 'gap year', Richard started what would now be considered an internship, that is unpaid work filling in at the Carlisle Record Office. Since his school days he had shown an inclination for record keeping, compiling his own daily collection of Times newspapers; now he discovered his life's passion - archives. It soon became apparent that he had discovered his ideal career, but if he was going to be serious about it then he needed a professional qualification. There were but three places that offered such a qualification, and one was Aberystwyth, the university by the sea, a higher educational mirror of his school by the sea at St Bees.

In 1978 he was to take up a permanent post as archivist at the Kendal Record Office, melding his love for archives with locating to his native Lake District. Kendal was where he was to remain.

Richard was a committed bachelor and he was a man of great charm and conviviality, so he was able to combine his love of history and archives into becoming a highly active member of the Kendal Historical Society and the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, being a long-serving secretary of the latter.

History might have occupied the preeminent position in Richard's intellectual life, but his cultural interests were extensive. There was his love of English literature and poetry, reflected in his reading tastes and his membership of the Houseman Society and the Wordsworth Trust. There was his love of English painting, especially portraiture, reflected in his membership of the Romney Society. But above all there was music. His membership of music societies and his love of attending concerts, recitals and festivals transcended all other interests. There were the Vaughan Williams, Holst and Dvorak societies, but reigning supreme

was the Elgar Society, of which he was sometime archivist and an extremely active member of the north west branch, plus an avid attendee of society promoted events. There was the regular concert season, with the Halle and Royal Northern series featuring heavily. Then there were the festivals - English Song, Ludlow, Buxton, Edinburgh, Cambridge Handel Opera, Kendal Midday Concert Club, but two were preeminent - The Three Choirs and Lake District Music. As both were held in the high summer, some intensive juggling of commitments was required, but he never missed either.

Richard was, however, no mere passive observer of the musical and arts scenes. Putting back into music the love he took out, he began actively to sponsor concerts and recitals on an individual basis, then latterly establishing the Richard Hall Charitable Trust, to maximise his support for the arts. His support was eclectic, but the work of the trust was weighted towards supporting young performers in the foothills of their careers. The Three Choirs was also a regular recipient of Trust sponsorship. Indeed, the last concert he sponsored through the trust was that given by the Dante Quartet on the last day of this year's Worcester festival, featuring the string quartet by his beloved Elgar. It was at this concert that his sad death, just days before, was announced with much emotion.

Richard had not been in good health for a long time, but his health was especially poor in recent years. This did not, however, dampen his indomitable spirit or his cheerfulness in the face of physical adversity, nor his attendance at his round of concerts, recitals and festivals. His final descent was rapid, and even those of us who knew that he was at risk were still shocked when the news came through that he died at home on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. The large number who attended his funeral on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, which included the President of the St Beghian Society, Darryl Davies, attested to the high regard with which he was held by so many people and societies."

**Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan25bulletin>.**

### **George Patterson, who died on 31st July 2024, an appreciation by Huw Lewis (M 89-14).**

"To put it mildly, George Patterson was not a man who tiptoed through life. Unlike the character of one of his favourite poets, Robbie Burns, this was no 'Wee, timorous beastie'.

My first encounter with George was in September 1989 when I joined St Bees School and was taking pre-season rugby training with the senior boys' squad. George was not available for the first morning session, so I took it myself and was disappointed and a little shocked to hear the free use of some pretty industrial language whenever a mistake was made, a tackle missed, or a pass spilled.



George joined us for the afternoon session and as he knew the boys from working with them previously everyone settled into the session and a highly productive afternoon flew by.

To complete the day, we gathered around for a summing up debrief in advance of our first game of the season the coming Saturday.

The captain addressed the group eloquently and passionately; I added my very positive observations of the talented group before me and then asked George if he had a few words of his own to add.

He most certainly did, although many of them were the less than delicate expressions of his building site background and were most definitely not expletive deleted!

Thirty faces swivelled in my direction to gauge my reaction, and fortunately I was able to shrug my shoulders and see the funny side of it, which created a bond between us all which lasted throughout that season and beyond.

George and I continued coaching together at St Bees for the next twenty years or so through good times and not so good, both on and off the field.

He was always fiercely supportive of 'the boys', as he called his teams and during school matches his anguished cry of 'Referee!' became the stuff of legend as he would spot some scrummaging infringement, imaginary or otherwise, from fully 50 metres away.

With St Bees he went on to tour England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and France, but I never saw him so happy in a touring environment as on our two trips together to South Africa, where the combination of rugby-mad locals, intense competition, stunning scenery, great company and wildlife safaris saw him in his element.

George's own rugby era as an 'old school' hooker of considerable prowess was from schoolboy into the 60s and 70s, when he played for his beloved Musselburgh and London Scottish and came tantalisingly close to being capped for Scotland.

George meant many things to many different people and I am not naive enough to pretend that all those things were always positive.

However, many will also be aware that when he was on form and you had seen the sparkle in his eyes and had been embraced by those huge hands his company was to be treasured, especially if those hands contained a pint of his beloved Guinness."

**John Anthony Turnbull (1948-2024) (F 62-65).**

**David Rowlands (G 62-66) has supplied the following notice:**

"This is going to be very difficult to put into words because I want to celebrate John's life but I also have to record the many misfortunes which he endured with great courage.

In 1957, at the age of eight, John and I were sent to board at Lime House School in Cumbria. His father was in the British Army stationed in Germany. In our second term there, the Headmaster announced at morning prayers the tragic news that John's mother had died. For a nine year old boy, already adjusting to life in a boarding school, this was an unimaginable hardship.

In 1962 John and I moved on to St Bees, which offered a new regime filled with opportunities to learn, engage in sports, join the CCF, and make lasting friendships. I know that John had very fond memories of our school. He particularly liked metalwork lessons under the guidance of Mr Broadhurst. His skill in making and mending things stayed with him throughout his life, alongside his love for model railways and Meccano, a passion he maintained well into adulthood.

After leaving school in 1965, John worked as a draughtsman at AEC, the lorry and bus manufacturers in West London. He had many friends at work and in various clubs, including a rowing club, a rugby club, and the Meccano Society. These years were filled with the joys of independence, good neighbours and home ownership, as he worked on his house and embraced the pleasures of life.

In 1996 however, life took a devastating turn when John was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, a condition that would affect him for the rest of his days. MS is a cruel and unpredictable disease, and John faced its challenges with unwavering determination. In November 2008, he married his neighbour Joan who was herself battling brain cancer. Sadly, she passed away a month after their wedding. A year before John married, I had retired to Cumbria, so I rather lost contact with him for a while.

In 2015, I heard the news that St Bees School was closing! Unbelievable! I urged John to join me at what should have been the final OSB Weekend. Despite his MS, he insisted on driving the 305 miles from London to Penrith, determined to make the journey and be part of the final day. This proved to be his last opportunity to visit St Bees.

On July 16th 2016, at the age of 68, John's life tragically changed. While doing some DIY work upstairs at home, he fell from his ladder and ended up on the ground floor with his legs tangled up in the ladder. He could not extricate himself and lay there struggling for three days before being rescued. He was rushed into Ealing Hospital where he was treated for dehydration and lacerations to his legs. He very nearly died. John remained in Ealing Hospital for about three months and was then discharged to a succession of care homes for the next nine, repeat, nine years! All he wanted was to go home and resurrect the life he enjoyed before the accident.

Gradually, during the care home years, the MS was clearly taking its toll both physically and mentally. For a while John was convinced that with a little bit of

physiotherapy he could walk again. If he could walk to the gate of the care home, he could hail a taxi and get home! That was all he wanted, to get home. What was pitiful to hear, was that whenever he talked about his home, the home that he had not seen for so many years, he could remember every detail of every room and where, and in which drawer of which piece of furniture, any of his belongings could be found.

John endured a mixture of pain, anger, frustration and many challenges from being confined to bed, literally 24 hours a day. His deep desire to go home never waned. His final years, although filled with hardship, showed us the depth of his strong will and resilience.

Rest in peace John.”

Notification of Deaths (Since the July 2024 Bulletin)		
ARMSTRONG, M. (Mark)	Died ???.?.24	SH 76-81
BARRATT, P.J. (Philip)	Died 03.08.24	M 69-92
BURNETT, S. (Stuart)	Died ??.01.24	FS 82-90
COTES, D.E.A. (Elizabeth)	Died 16.10.24	Grindal Matron
CRANNA, R.A. (Allister)	Died 05.11.22	SH 33-37
HALL, R. (Richard)	Died 02.08.24	FS 64-68
PATTERSON, G. (George)	Died 31.07.24	Rugby Coach
SKLAVOUNOS, G.N. (George)	Died 15.12.24	G 55-58
TURNBULL, J.A. (John)	Died 18.10.24	F 62-65
WARRINGTON, E.F.C. (Frank)	Died 07.04.24	F 52-55

**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 details and an information leaflet, please contact the OSB Office.

## 200 CLUB



We currently have 64 members which is a slight increase from last year, but still a little way off the 77 that we previously had.

This is partly due to members passing away, but it is mainly due to people making a one-off payment last year.

Please do consider renewing your membership for this year too or, better still, set up a standing order going forward.

Many thanks to Pam Rumney for designing and distributing our on-line form, which we hope provides an easy sign-up option (details below).

We currently have a total of £1573.33 in the bank. The reason for the small amounts we currently have at our disposal is due to a donation of £3,000 to the school library, which is now open, and £500 to the school's Eco-club.

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

**If not, please do because...** ➡

By taking part it gives you the chance of winning a **top Prize of £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 benefited within the school by the purchase of such things as canoes and a canoe trailer, a donation to the Car Kit Club, assistance with sports kit and sports tours, the library and also the development of the ecology pond.

Recently, 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.

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 35.

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**, information and forms can be obtained from Darryl Davies, details below.

Please also try to persuade your friends to join. The prizes are not as good as the National Lottery’s, but you have a better chance of winning. The more money we get in, the more we can donate to the school and Society, and the better the prizes.

**Darryl Davies (Secretary and Treasurer 200 Club).**

**Or for further details and an entry form, please contact me, Darryl Davies:**  
5 Marlborough Avenue, High Harrington, Workington, Cumbria. CA14 4NW.  
[darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com](mailto:darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com) or 07970 180 751.

## **Articles for ‘The Old St Beghian’ Bulletin**

The next issue of ‘The Old St Beghian’ is due out in **July 2025**.

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 may 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, 2025**.

# SCHOOL NOTES

## From the Headmaster

Dear OSB,

As we approach the end of a very busy and successful term, it is appropriate to look back on some of the achievements of the past ten weeks and look forward to some highlights already in view for the New Year.

A huge amount has happened during the term, on the academic, cultural, pastoral, musical and sporting fronts. We have 125 students enrolled and hope to increase this next September. A consequence of our increasing numbers is that our boarding house is currently full! We have increased our boarding staff and refurbished many of the rooms and facilities. Moreover, we are exploring options for expansion, including the potential purchase of property in the village to create a dedicated sixth-form boarding house. This initiative is not just about increasing capacity, it is about fostering a nurturing and happy family atmosphere, things which are at the heart of our school community.

The academic momentum continues to gain pace, and classrooms have been a buzz of learning activity. I have reviewed a lot of the students' work and sat in on many lessons, and it is clear that the focus is very much one of success and advancement, but in a controlled and empathetic way. A first check of year-group examination results in Years 7 to 10 shows some outstanding performances from a number of talented students as well as excellent progress in general. The public examination results in the summer were very pleasing and all our leavers achieved their choice of university. This academic year we already have two aspiring Oxbridge candidates.

Activity outside of the classroom has been significant as well, and this adds to a student's ability to balance their time at school and experience so much of what we have to offer. The Duke of Edinburgh group is advancing through the programme well and we soon hope to have our first Gold Award winners. The outdoor education programme is developing a culture of outdoor awareness that promotes a healthy and sustainable view to the alternative of the classroom. The varied experiences achieved here are significant and life-enhancing as well.

In the sporting arena, we continue to develop and improve, and inter-school matches in badminton, volleyball, Eton fives and basketball have all taken place in leagues against sides not only from much larger schools, containing many older players, but also players who have representational honours. Such fixtures not only highlight our students' talents but also spread the name of St Bees School far and wide. In addition, we recently welcomed onto the staff a female England

rugby international player, whom we hope will inspire our students and help to elevate our rugby programme.

We have continued with our school trip programme and have seen the successful return of the group who went to Iceland and we have said Bon Voyage to the China trip students, who departed on the 5 December. They should have had a very happy and enriching experience. Plans for further visits both at home and overseas next year are in progress.

As many OSBs will be aware, the new government has decided to impose VAT on independent schools' fees. We have developed a strategy to address this, and though there will inevitably be a slight increase in our fees to cover the VAT requirements, we shall not pass all the burden on to our parents. We are confident that we can sustain our growth and the quality of education we provide. Parental response to our intentions has so far been generally supportive.

Around the school there have been many improvements and we have now completed the first phase of the school security programme, ensuring that all on site can be safe and contained should the requirements for this arise. New showers and additional improvements have been made in School House and the heating systems in the main building have been overhauled, as has the swimming pool and the Sixth Form Centre. We have installed new projection and sound equipment in the Memorial Hall, and this now greatly adds to the facility as a place of multi-purpose usage.

As many OSBs may be aware, the school featured in an episode of Villages by the Sea, broadcast by the BBC on 16 December 2024. This gave invaluable publicity both to the school and the village.

I look forward to next year with great confidence and would like to extend a warm invitation to Old St Beghians to visit the school, through arrangement with Pam Rumney. We cherish these connections and look forward to building stronger ties with our alumni. Please do contact me if you would like to know more about the school's progress. Your support is greatly appreciated.

I wish you all a healthy and happy 2025.

**Andrew Keep, Interim Headmaster.**

## **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>.**

# OSB AGM

## Minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> (114<sup>th</sup>) Annual General Meeting of the St Beghian Society held in the Foundation Building on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 11.00am.

There were 27 people present, including Carter Croft (President), David Lord (Treasurer), Pam Rumney (Secretary) and Andrew Keep (Headmaster).

- 1) **Welcome by the President, Carter Croft.** Carter welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending St Beghians' Day 2024.
- 2) **School Update by the Headmaster – Andrew Keep.** Andrew introduced himself as the Interim Head until August 2025 and went on to say that during his first four weeks in office he had experienced a vertical exponential learning curve. He confirmed that the school continued to thrive and indicated that the OSBs were crucial to the school going forward. Andrew thanked the 200 Club for their £3k contribution towards the library refurbishment, which had recently been officially re-opened by Dr Fiona Ironside, a former parent of the school. He went on to say that, in his opinion, the new library had transformed learning within the school, especially for the sixth form. Andrew advised that 130 students had started school in September 2023 across the year groups with 62 of those pupils being boarders on School House. This had highlighted the need for additional boarding places by September 2026 and, as a result, various options had been considered, such as Pods, the redevelopment of Abbots Court, or a modular structure behind School House. The latter currently being the favoured option. The Head stated that the academic programme was strong and flourishing, with excellent academic progress and pastoral care being experienced. He mentioned that of the 20 students leaving in the summer, two had achieved Oxbridge interviews, resulting in one being offered a place to read maths at Peterhouse, Cambridge, and several places had been gained at various Russell Group universities. However, owing to the large number of upper sixth formers leaving at the end of the summer term, he advised that next year's sixth form cohort would be a little smaller. Sport at the school was also understood to be thriving and Andrew listed a range of activities which were on offer to students, including Eton fives, volleyball and football. In addition, several extremely successful trips and visits had taken place, including to Amsterdam, Iceland and the Everest Base Camp, all of which had been well supported by parents and students alike. It was indicated by the Head that on the cultural side of things provision for music, for example, was being increased, alongside opportunities for subjects



such as university cookery and chess, through the GCAS (Global Awareness, Creativity Active, Service) after school activities' programme.

Andrew addressed the issues relating to the proposed changes to VAT and confirmed that the situation was obviously of concern to the school but advised that various scenarios had been drawn up and assessed. He went on to say that the school had lobbied the local MP and that, as local state schools were currently full, there was the question of St Bees as a special case being raised. At the present time, the numbers for the 2024/25 academic year were thought to be very similar to the current year, but Andrew recognised that the income raised from these was key to the future success of the school. The Head concluded by thanking OSBs for their support and mentioned that the next project the school was keen to tackle was the auditorium at the back of the Art block. Andrew wished everyone present a pleasant day and expressed his willingness to answer questions at any stage throughout the day.

- 3) **Presentation by the President – Carter Croft.** On behalf of an anonymous OSB, the President presented Pam Rumney, the Society Secretary, with a fun gift of a 'Queen Bee' clip-on charm. Pam thanked the donor for their kind thought.
- 4) **President's Yearly Report – Carter Croft.** Carter began by explaining that, prior to just a few years ago, he had not had anything to do with the St Beghian Society for many years as he had been living abroad. On returning to the UK he had attended a Yorkshire Lunch organised by Steve Crossley-Smith and from then on, he had been converted. Determined to help boost Society numbers during his time as President, Carter explained that he had set up and organised the successful South Lakes Social in 2023 which, he advised, in September 2024, would be held at the Grange Golf Club. The President went on to thank all the Branch Secretaries for their hard work in sustaining the various events which were held throughout the country. In particular, Carter mentioned Bill Dove, the Secretary of the North East Branch, who had died earlier in the year, and who had organised the NE Dinners for a commendable 49 years. Carter indicated that during his two years in office he had experienced both highs and lows, the main low being the cancellation of the Aviation Dinner in June 2023 which had been a huge disappointment to him. In addition, the unavoidable postponement of the London Social last October owing to train strikes, and the break in the London formal Dinners were also mentioned. However, Carter emphasised the positive get-togethers which had taken place, including Daryl Davies's Cumbria Dinner at Armathwaite Hall, John Braithwaite's regular Cambridge gatherings, Dick Lockwood's Huddersfield rugby event and Tim MacKay's Scottish lunch. He also thanked Steve

Crossley-Smith for his organisation of the Yorkshire Branch lunches over many years.

In conclusion, Carter expressed his thanks to Robin Silk, the outgoing Headmaster, and wished him every success in his new venture. He went on to welcome Andrew Keep, as the newly appointed Interim Head. Thanks were also conveyed by Carter to George Robson for his help and ideas, and also to David Lord, Tony Reeve and Pam Rumney for their guidance and assistance, when needed.

- 5) **Brief Silence in memory of departed OSBs.** The names of those who had passed away since the last AGM in 2023 were read out by the Secretary and a period of silence was held in their honour.
- 6) **Confirmation of the Minutes of the 113<sup>th</sup> A.G.M. held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 (published in the January 2024 Bulletin).** The Minutes of the previous meeting in June 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate record. They were proposed by Steve Crossley-Smith and seconded by Richard Hall.
- 7) **Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising from the Minutes.
- 8) **Election of Officers:**
  - a) **President** – Darryl Davies.
  - b) **Committee** – Committee – Retiring this year were Roy Calvin, Darryl Davies and Andrew Haile. Roy Calvin and Darryl Davies were willing to stand for re-election. Andrew Haile wished to stand down. Proposed new additional Committee Member – David Paul.
  - c) **Treasurer** – David Lord.
  - d) **Secretary** – Pam Rumney.
  - e) **Golfing Secretary** – Tom Wright.
  - f) **Accounts Checker** – Jason Spires.
  - g) **Bulletin Editor** – Tony Reeve.

Following a proposal by Tom Lowrey and seconded by Tim Brown, it was unanimously agreed to elect all the officers, as mentioned above. In addition, George Robson requested that special thanks be given to the Bulletin editor, Tony Reeve, for another excellent edition of the Bulletin.
- 9) **Presidents' Handover** – Carter Croft, the outgoing President thanked everyone for their support and handed over the Presidency to Darryl Davies.
- 10) **St Beghian Society Finances and Accounts (2023-2024)** - David Lord, the Treasurer, advised that the accounts, which had been circulated, were straight forward and that much of the income and expenditure was similar to previous years. Worthy of mention, however, was the receipt of £2659 being the balance of the £25,000 legacy from an OSB. David also mentioned that the amount of subscriptions had continued to fall mainly as a result of a reduction

in the number of one off payments. Standing Order payments are now, to a very large extent, the main source of regular income. On the expenditure side, Pam Rumney’s salary had increased from £12,064 to £12,995, Pam now having almost completed 17 years of loyal service. David confirmed that the Society currently had just over £94k in the bank but he warned that this figure would continue to reduce as expenditure exceeded income unless legacies or other forms of income were received. There were no questions raised regarding the accounts.

- 11) Branch Activities – Dinners/Events List distributed.** Darryl Davies advised Members that all the upcoming OSB events were detailed within the St Beghians’ Day programme but drew specific attention to the next two gatherings due to take place, at the Grange Golf Club in September and the Samuel Pepys Pub, London in October.

Tim Brown asked for confirmation regarding the organisation of the North East Lunch by Bill Dove’s daughter. It was affirmed that Amanda, Bill’s daughter, had very kindly offered to take on the role of organiser for the forthcoming lunch in November, in memory of her father. Thanks were conveyed to Amanda for her generous offer.

Darryl mentioned that the date of the Cumbria Dinner in February had been moved to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> in order to avoid the Rugby Six Nations competition. He also referred to the proposed Scottish Dinner in May and the formal London Dinner, which he sincerely hoped would take place at some stage during 2025.

- 12) The 200 Club Report and Annual Draw** – Darryl Davies reported that the number of members had dropped from 77 last year to just 57 this year. This was due to an online promotional mailing last year which had encouraged several OSBs to join, but unfortunately one-off payments were received, and these were not renewed this year. Darryl advised that a further mailing would be circulated early in the autumn to try and boost the number of members. He went on to confirm that there was currently £1181 in the bank account and he thanked the Headmaster for his recognition of the donation given to the school for the library refurbishment and also the school’s eco club.

The 200 Club draw took place and produced the following winners:

PRIZE	No.	WINNER	PRIZE	No.	WINNER
<b>£200.00</b>	73	Derek Kaye	<b>£40.00</b>	1	Bill Dove
<b>£40.00</b>	57	James Brindle	<b>£40.00</b>	76	William Wright
<b>£40.00</b>	71	Gordon Mathison			

- 13) Any Other Business** – No further issues were raised.

**The President thanked members for attending, but also expressed his wish to see more younger and female members actively involved. He closed the meeting at 11.55am.**

## BRANCH NOTES & EVENTS

### Branch Activities:

#### **Cumbria South Lakes Informal Social - Friday 27th Sep 2024, Grange-over-Sands Golf Club, Cumbria.**

**Carter Croft (FN 60-65) has sent the following report.**

Paul Haywood (SH 60-65) offered this venue and a wholesome meal, all for £15.00.

The Grange over Sands Social Evening turned out to be a huge success. We were looked after by four volunteers, who produced a lively reception followed by a meal of steak pie or pasta and a choice of dessert of apple crumble, or Eton mess. The atmosphere and banter were lively. The invitation of partners to OSB events is without doubt the way forward, with everyone integrating and mixing brilliantly. This branch is fast developing into a strong friendship group.

I was able to read a letter from the Headmaster, who apologised for not being able to attend, giving a positive message for the immediate future of the school. The highlight of the evening was a very entertaining speech from the President, Darryl Davies, who outlined his intentions for his tenure, including encouraging the more recent alumni to connect with the Society. He also spoke of his efforts to involve more females, who, after all, make up over half of today's membership. Our new President's message is all about networking and friendship, things which we can all work on.

**Those present were:** David Cade (FS 59-64) and Sheila, John Croasdale (FS 70-75) and Deborah, Carter Croft (FN 60-65) and Lynda, Nick Curry (SH 60-66) and Vivienne, Darryl Davies (F 62-68) and Pat, Stephen Downham (G 61-65) and Kornelia, Malcolm Gow (SH 66-71), Paul Haywood (SH 60-65), Peter Lever (G 62-66) and Jane, Tim Melville (F 59-64), Mike Pemberton (SH 57-62), David Ward (FN 60-65) and Jenny.

Late withdrawals were Nigel Davies (G 57-62), Marcus Swift (AC 83-90), Nancy and Freda (friends of David Paul), who were missed.

I really appreciate and thank all for your support.

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan25bulletin>.**

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

The London OSB Social was held at The Samuel Pepys pub in the City on Friday 18th October 2024. It was an informal social event for OSBs to catch up with a drink and/or food. Nicola Shannon (nee Metcalfe-Gibson) (L/G 78-85) organised

the event. The years represented spanned from 1956 up to 1993 with both old boys and old girls attending. It was a fun and enjoyable evening with seventeen OSBs present including two former teachers. Everyone agreed they would like to repeat this social next year, so if you would be interested in attending, please let Nicola know. She can be contacted at [nicmetcalfeshannon@gmail.com](mailto:nicmetcalfeshannon@gmail.com) or 07766195468.

**Attendees:** Nicola Shannon (Metcalf-Gibson) (L/G 78-85), Alan Stewart (SH 82-89), Christopher Taylor (FS 57-62), Paul Mawson (F 83-90), Andrew Mawson (F 86-93), Kele Mbagwu (SH 82-84), Ken Ho (FS/AC 79-82), Adam Burdett (FS 80-86), Howard Graham (FS 80-87), Jane Barham (Wilson) (L 79-86), Dacre Watson (SH 56-62), Mark Spencer Ellis (SH 62-66), Steve Hardman (M 75-86) Head of Sport, Helen Hardman (M 81-86) Biology Teacher, Chris Evans (FS 74-79), Nigel Kirpalani (SH 82-86) and Richard Truett (AC 80-88).

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan25bulletin>.**

### **North East Branch Memorial Luncheon - Wed 6th November 2024, Northumberland GC, Newcastle.**

For the first time in half a century, this N. E. Branch report about our annual reunion is written by me without any shared discussion. The reason is that very sadly our Luncheon on November 6<sup>th</sup> 2024 was to commemorate the life of Bill Dove and his work over what would have been fifty years as Secretary of the North East Branch. His daughter, Amanda, agreed to act as Secretary pro tempore. As a VIP, together with her husband Tony, the Dodsworths were guests on the top table. Amanda had organised our Luncheon at The Northern Golf Club, High Gosforth Park with thirty-three attendees. St Beghian Society Members and guests began arriving at noon. After initial greetings and photographs, we gathered in the Lounge Bar for 'catch up' conversation. At 12.30 p.m. we moved to the dining room. The seating arrangements were as follows with guests underlined:

**Top Table:** Tony Dodsworth, Don Williams (FN 61-64)(Chairman NE Branch), Vanessa Johnstone (St Bees School, Director of Studies), Darryl Davies (FS 62-68)(M 75-07)(OSB President), Amanda Dodsworth, Linda Williams, Fiona Lord (Former SBS Staff), David Lord (SH 60- 65)(Bursar 92-02)(OSB Treasurer), Pat Davies (Former SBS Staff).

**Table 1:** Frank Messenger (SH 50-55), Bill Colbeck (FN 49-55), Isobel Colbeck, Clive Kennedy (FN 55-59), Ron Jackson (FN 55-58), Tim Brown (G 53-59), John Southern (FN 55-59), Henry McLaren (SH 53-57).

**Table 2:** David McLaren (SH 58-61), Gavin Spencer (G 61-64), Julian Wood (SH 63-66), Tim MacKay (FS 68-73), Carter Croft (FN 60-64), Ben Lambert (F/AC 87-93), Sally Hopkinson, Richard Lockwood (FS 59-64).

**Table 3:** Richard Ward (FN 74-79), Dougal Reed (FN 75-78), John Boag (FS 76-81), Stephen Pickthall (FN 75-78), Nicholas Adams (FN 68-71), Rosie Lewis (L 77-79), Pam Rumney (OSB Hon Sec), Ken Rangecroft (FN 75-78).

In my ‘Welcome Address’, I named all of our guests as well as greeting all OSB attendees. Naturally, the moment was also taken to remind us that this luncheon was particularly organised in the memory of Bill Dove. Our condolences went also to his wife Marjorie, daughter Amanda and son Lindsay. For us all, Bill would have wanted this to be an enjoyable time and not at all too serious. These were the sentiments given to everyone before we said the traditional ‘Grace’.

The menu was as follows:

Plum Tomato Soup, basil pesto and a warm crusty roll

\*\*\*\*

Steak and Ale Pie, Seasonal vegetables and chips

\*\*\*\*

Sticky Toffee Pudding with caramel sauce and vanilla ice cream

\*\*\*\*

Coffee

### **CHAIRMAN’S TOAST: ‘THE KING’.**

At the end of a short interlude it was time for the Chairman’s Address. This was brief but not without a little humour (so the rumours go!). A personal ordeal as a batsman facing a bowler’s bouncers, an oddly vanishing cricket ball with an incident doctor enquiring “How’s That?”, caused some amusement. However, the address mainly focussed on Bill’s lifetime love of cricket, enduring from school, and continued through to his beginning married life, starting a family and then to retirement.

### **CHAIRMAN’S TOAST: ‘THE SCHOOL’.**

#### **REPLY: VANESSA JOHNSTONE - ST BEES SCHOOL.**

It was a great pleasure to have Vanessa speak to our OSB NE Branch. Vanessa, the Director of Studies at school, explained that she has been with St Bees since it reopened in 2018. It now has 124 students with a 30% predicted growth by September 2025, having a scheme already in place to minimise the effect of the Government’s VAT on school fees. As well as increasing staff and boarding facilities, plans are for even more students to go on to universities. There will be more beneficial student visits too, like those to Iceland, China, and the Everest Base Camp. In sport, the school now excels in volleyball, badminton, squash, and fives. However, Rugby fixtures are also important, with the staff addition of a female rugby International. An invitation was given to OSBs personally to check out St Bees School’s progress, through visits which can be organised via Pam Rumney. Vanessa closed her school update by expressing her excitement for the future and the continued growth of its student body and community.

Thanking Vanessa, the Chairman moved on to the next speaker, the President of the St Beghian Society, Darryl Davies.

**CHAIRMAN'S TOAST: 'THE ST BEGHIAN SOCIETY'.**

**REPLY: DARRYL DAVIES - PRESIDENT ST BEGHIAN SOCIETY.**

It is always good to see Darryl, not only from school days but many know him through his teaching at school too! Both with his aspirations as President and also with some humorous impressions of staff characters from bygone days, his speeches are always worthwhile. Importantly, the two things Darryl aims to develop during his time as President are firstly to encourage female OSBs to become more involved, and secondly to generate interest from younger members. With this in mind he had an initial meeting in October and a further one is planned for early 2025 with a group of younger OSBs. With lots of ideas already, developing suggestions are next on his agenda. Darryl concluded by emphasising that it is important for the St Beghian Society to cater for both young and old members.

**After thanking Darryl, it was announced that David Lord had something special to announce.**

**ADDRESS BY DAVID LORD – ST BEGHIAN SOCIETY TREASURER.**

David spoke about Bill Dove's cricket accomplishments from his schooldays. As a tribute to Bill and the work he did for the St Beghian Society for nearly half a century, David had organised a special presentation to Amanda Dodsworth, Bill and Marjory Dove's daughter. David explained that on behalf of the Society, he had sourced a St Bees 1<sup>st</sup> XI cricket cap. This had been mounted into a specially made display case. David then formally presented this to Amanda and photographs were taken for The Bulletin.

**CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING STATEMENT and TOAST 'TO MEMORIES OF BILL DOVE'.**

As a final note, a bouquet of flowers from Don and Linda Williams was presented to Amanda Dodsworth for all her work in stepping into the role of Secretary for this event. For all attendees, there was a miniature bottle of spirits or wine individually given for a drink in memory of Bill. There was also a seasonal card for everyone, with best wishes from myself and my wife, Linda. The final words were given by me in a short, tongue in cheek, story about the tradition of Christmas trees topped with fairies. By around 4.00 p.m., I believe everyone was in good form for their return journeys.

As Chairman I recently have had to think a great deal about how to continue organising our OSB events, something I have done happily for many years. Sadly, I feel unable to carry on doing this and the time is right for me to step down. I would like to thank everyone for their past participation. In a background

capacity, I will be more than pleased to assist anyone ‘taking up the mantle’ in the interests of future Branch gatherings.

**Don Williams (FN 61-64),**

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan25bulletin>.

## **Help Required!**

OSBs will have read Don’s closing remarks above and how an organiser for the **North East Branch annual lunch** is now urgently needed. These gatherings have a very long tradition behind them and it would be a shame to see them lapse.

Please consider if you can help and contact either Don at

[don@kingdomofnorthumbria.co.uk](mailto:don@kingdomofnorthumbria.co.uk) or 01670 789 489 or 07747 778 786

or Pam Rumney at the OSB office.

**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](http://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](mailto:OSBinAsia@gmail.com) or WhatsApp: +44 7930 258791 (Laurence).

### **Cambridge Gatherings.**

John Braithwaite (G 65-69) and a small group of OSBs meet regularly, **every two months**, in various pubs in Cambridge. It is quite informal. As he says, “All are welcome to join us. We meet midweek at about 7.30 pm when the evening traffic has died down and people are free after work and things are generally quieter. We eat and chat for a couple of hours.”

The 11th of these Cambridge Gatherings took place on Wednesday the 18th of December at the Burleigh Arms, Newmarket Road (see photo).

If you live near and would like to join in, Pam Rumney will give details of future dates and locations via email and the Society website and Facebook pages or



John may be contacted direct on 07717209399 or at [braithwaite.john@icloud.com](mailto:braithwaite.john@icloud.com) or details can be obtained via the Society office.

**The first Cambridge meet-up in 2025 will be in March at the Free Press pub. Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan25bulletin>.**

### **West Cumbria Branch Dinner - February 2025, Armathwaite Hall, Nr Keswick, Cumbria - St Beghian Society Social Gathering 2025.**

There are just a few tickets left for the Cumbria Dinner and Gathering which is taking place on **Friday 28th February 2025**, 7.00 for 7.30 pm at Armathwaite Hall: Bassenthwaite Lake, Keswick, CA12 4RE. Telephone: 017687 88909.

So, **please do get in touch ASAP**. Husbands, wives and partners are most welcome. The cost will be **£39.00 pp** and will include:

- ❖ *A Champagne reception on arrival with Live background music.*
- ❖ *A magnificent three-course meal with wine on the table.*

Our private room is non-smoking and smart attire is requested whilst dining in the evening. Jeans, t-shirts and trainers are not permitted. Smart-casual is most acceptable.

Accommodation is available at the reduced rate of £185.00 (normal price £355.00) and this includes breakfast and the use of facilities. Deluxe Rooms are £250. A list of other local hotels is available.

**Please book your accommodation directly with the hotel.** Your contact is Leeann, her email is: [leeann.lennox@armathwaite-hall.com](mailto:leeann.lennox@armathwaite-hall.com) or +44 17687 88909.

**Please book your place and meal with me – Please see the insert included with this Bulletin for further information and the booking form.**

Darryl Davies, 5 Marlborough Avenue, High Harrington, Workington, Cumbria. CA14 4NW. Tel 07970 180751 (M) or [darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com](mailto:darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com).

### **London Dinner – May 2025, The Civil Service Club, London.**

We are pleased to announce that the 2025 London Dinner will be held on **Friday 30th May** at the **Civil Service Club**, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, London SW1A 2HJ. Attendees are invited for drinks from 18:30, with dinner at 19:30. The format will be a 3-course meal with wine for £55 per head (estimated, tbc).

St Beghian Society members are welcome to bring a guest (or guests) with them. The Civil Service Club is a new venue to us for 2025, and is located very close to Trafalgar Square, Charing Cross Station and Embankment Underground Station. Although we love the RAF Club, we believe the Civil Service Club will allow us to keep the price down while still offering a fantastic central London venue. We will clarify the dress code once we've confirmed it with the club, but we will encourage attendees to dress smartly or 'smartish' (along the lines of lounge suit/jacket and tie or equivalent for ladies).

**Please contact** Graeme Bagnall or Martin Birkett if you are interested in

attending: Graeme (graamebagnall@me.com or call on +44 7778 301584) or Martin (martin.birkett@gs.com).

### **London Social (Informal Gathering) - October 2025, The Samuel Pepys, London.**

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 on **Friday 17th October 2025**.

**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.

### **Scottish Gathering – May 2025, Scotts Restaurant, Edinburgh.**

The next OSB Scottish Gathering for a lunch will be at 1pm on **Thursday 8th May 2025** at **Scotts Restaurant** at Port Edgar, South Queensferry, Edinburgh (www.scotts-

southqueensferry.co.uk/?utm\_source=google&utm\_medium=organic&utm\_campaign=google%20my%20business).

It was a lovely spring day the last time and will hopefully be again. We look forward to meeting some more OSBs to enjoy a splendid lunch and spectacular views.

**Please contact** Tim Mackay for booking and further details: timmackay5859@gmail.com or 07850 082583.

## **The Edmund Grindal Society The New School Foundation Appeal Event**

Now that all the Edmund Grindal Society covenants/standing orders have come to a close, on behalf of St Bees School, the St Bees School Charitable Trust Ltd and the St Beghian Society, we would like to thank all those OSBs who very kindly donated towards the Edmund Grindal Society and the subsequent new school's opening in 2018.

By way of thanks, we invited the donors to visit the school on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December for a special Christmas lunch, followed by a tour of the school to see at firsthand the progress made since the re-opening.

Unfortunately, distance, age, work commitments and other reasons meant that several donors were unable to attend, however it was lovely to welcome the ones who were able to join us. We do hope you all enjoyed seeing the school in session, along with the end of term and Christmas festivities. We very much enjoyed spending the afternoon with you and thank you all once again for your support and generosity.

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan25bulletin>.**

## **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:** Currently Vacant.

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

**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.

# **Golf at St Bees**

## **The St Beghian Society, The OSB Golfing Society and St Bees School.**

At the OSB Committee Meeting in June 2024, the St Beghian Society received a request for assistance from the President of the Old St Beghian Golfing Society (OSBGS) as, following the closure of the school, the OSBGS had struggled to attract new younger golfers and hence funds had diminished significantly. The reduction in funding was now making it difficult for the OSBGS to attend some flagship competitions, such as the Halford Hewitt invitation event. The St Beghian Society therefore agreed that the Society should donate £5k to the OSBGS, to ensure that the club was able to continue in general but also to keep up their attendance, and hence their place, at the prestigious tournaments, such as the Halford Hewitt.

St Bees School is one of only a few schools to possess a golf course as part of its assets. Prior to the 2015 closure it not only owned its own golf course, but also boasted an on-site putting green and the services of an in-house golf professional. At the time, the sport enjoyed a high profile in the school, however, since the re-opening in 2018, golf has languished, until fairly recently.

The St Bees golf course is currently owned by the St Bees School Charitable Trust Ltd but is run on a day-to-day basis and maintained by the village golf club (St Bees Golf Club) and in return, the course is available for use by the school, if required.

We are delighted to hear that golf is now beginning to thrive once again at St Bees School, with the input of the Lead Teacher of PE, Brad Simpson.

Brad reports that:

“St Bees School use the golf course as a part of their after school activities programme in the summer term. This is open to any student and allows them to get their first experience on a golf course. They also use the course during senior PE lessons during the summer term. As a result, some students are being assessed in golf as a part of their IGCSE PE qualification and academic studies. We have also arranged with the St Bees Golf club to allow free casual use memberships for the students. Our school prefects are the only ones at present to take up this offer, but there will be plenty more sign-ups in the summer term. In addition, the school

uses the golf course for activities week at the end of each academic year and it is a significant part of the international programme for our Chinese visitors when they come to St Bees School.”

We sincerely hope that the re-kindled interest in Golf at St Bees School will result in students at the school excelling in the sport and eventually joining the OSB Golfing Society on leaving school.

If any other existing OSB members are keen to learn more about joining the OSBGS, please do get in touch with either the President or Secretary of the Golfing Society – details may be found at the end of the Golfing Society report.

## **Golfing Society (OSBGS)**

### **Old St Beghians’ Golfing Society**

#### **The Cyril Gray 2024**

Thanks to Niall Brooker, doyen of the Glenalmond side and a member of just about every club, we were accorded the privilege of playing our ‘warm up’ match against our usual opponents, Glenalmond, at the delightful New Zealand Golf Club, close to Worplesdon. The club is famed for its beautiful tightly tree and heather-lined course, its lunch, its members and their wine list, not to mention no handicaps and dogs galore.

We had a splendid lunch and did the wine list justice, then followed the match which we narrowly lost 2/1. It was a wonderful afternoon. We also were indebted to Aubyn Stewart-Wilson, the Club’s Secretary, for allowing an extra threeball (a no no in itself) after the match proper. Messrs WB Morrison, Mike Stamper and Michael Coffey, took to the course for a contest narrowly won by WB Morrison. After the joys of New Zealand, it was a dash to the Tournament dinner in the Worplesdon Clubhouse.

#### **The Cyril Gray matches -**

In our match v Stowe in the first round proper, Adrian Peckitt and Andrew Goodwin were 4 up on the 13<sup>th</sup> tee and eventually won 5/3.

Stephen Moss and Nigel Costeloe were all square on the 13<sup>th</sup> tee but eventually lost 2/1.

Charlie Crummey and Jeff Ellis were 3 down on the 13<sup>th</sup> tee and eventually lost 4/3.

The overall match was much closer than the result might suggest.

Sadly, if you are in the bottom 2/3rds of the draw and lose in the first round, you are forced to go out and play in the first round of **The Plate** that afternoon. Once again, we were up against Stonyhurst, an altogether too frequent occurrence, and one which has always been close but never successful. Until 2024!

After 10 holes the scores were 1 down, 1 down and 2 up. After the 13<sup>th</sup>, 1 down, 1 up and 5 up. Cruising... with match 3 now in the bag. Match 1 into extra holes. Match 2 now playing 18, 1 up... Match 2 now into extra holes! Now one match a piece. We won the decider at the 20<sup>th</sup>. Hurrah!

We retired to celebrate a WIN at The Jolly Farmer.

The next morning, we had a re-match v Glenalmond, who were obviously confident after the warm up contest. After 6 holes the scores were a/s, 2 down, a/s. All to play for. By the turn, it was 3 down, a/s, a/s, the joy of foursomes golf. In the end we won the first game 1 up and the other two games were narrowly lost.

Well played everyone, and well supported the two Michaels.

It is obvious that the Cyril Gray is the best bet for St Bees in Old (?) golf. It always has been since its inception. Let's hope we can re-invigorate the team and keep up our presence on the course, and not just as the best dressed team!

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan25bulletin>.**

The second of the photographs, dates from the Tournament dinner in 2022, so apologies to Nigel Costeloe... however, it illustrates two things: The team is still the same and competitive, but NOT getting any younger.

**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](mailto:Michael@golfclubsec.co.uk).

**Tom Wright, Secretary** – [tomosbgolf@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@stbeesgolfclub.co.uk)

For any other **general enquiries** please email: [info@stbeesgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:info@stbeesgolfclub.co.uk)

## **St Beghian Society – Careers Forum**

We are keen to strengthen the links between the St Beghian Society and the school and in particular, explore ways in which OSBs can offer professional help to students in terms of advice, talks, mentoring or even placements, internships or jobs. This sharing of knowledge and opportunities would also be of relevance between OSBs within the St Beghian Society membership.

In the past, the school has run a series of career-themed assemblies/talks to which OSBs and others have been invited to speak, plus a careers week. Currently, the work-experience week in the summer term is available to Year 11, Pre-A, 12 and 13 and, in addition, some students are often keen to take part in internships during the holidays. We would be interested to hear from any OSBs who feel they could contribute to these events, by offering help, advice, or opportunities to current school students. If you would like further information about the school's work-experience programme, please contact Konrad Hansen at [Konrad.Hansen@stbeesschool.co.uk](mailto:Konrad.Hansen@stbeesschool.co.uk).

In order to achieve the above, we are hoping to update and develop the Virtual Careers Forum information we hold, which was initiated by Don Williams several years ago.

If you feel you could help current students or other OSB members, by offering some professional advice, mentoring or even placements, internships and job opportunities, we would love to hear from you.

**We would very much appreciate it if you could complete the online form at:**

**<https://forms.office.com/e/2tSsuAZpKE>**

**or complete the attached/enclosed form and return to:**

**St Beghian Society, St Bees School, Wood Lane, St Bees, Cumbria, CA27 0DS.**

**On behalf of the St Beghian Society, Thank You very much for your help**

### **Photographs to enjoy...**

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

## SOCIETY OFFICERS:

### President:

D.W. Davies (Darryl)  
FS 62-68

### 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.P. Fox (Anthony) (G 62-67)
S.J. Calvin (Sara) (G 77-84)	A.D. Lord (Alastair) (SH 90-95)
L.M. Cox (Lucy) (L 05-10)	D.T. Paul (David) FN 71-76
D.W. Davies (Darryl) (FS 62-68)	M.N. Roberts (Mark) (SH 93-95)
J.M.W. Dunn (John) (FS 64-69)	

### 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)

**We currently have a few places available on the Committee.**

If you are interested in being involved, we would love to hear from you.  
Please contact the Secretary or any of the above members for further information.

**The next St Beghian Society Committee Meeting – Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025.**

**The AGM and St Beghians' Day, 2025 – Sat 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025.**

**Copy Deadline:** As the target month for the next issue of 'The Old St Beghian' is **July 2025**, the Editor would be most grateful if Branch Secretaries and other contributors would let him have their notices and reports by **31<sup>st</sup> May, 2025**.

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

**(01946) 828093 or [osb@stbeesschool.co.uk](mailto:osb@stbeesschool.co.uk)**

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

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