



# *The Old St Beeghan*

July 2019

---

---

**Editor: Dr A. J. H. Reeve, 6 Abbey Farm, St Bees, Cumbria, CA27 0DY.  
Tel: (01946) 822472 Email: [tony@ajhreeve.plus.com](mailto:tony@ajhreeve.plus.com)**

---

---

## **From Our President Peter Lever (G 62-66)**

This will be my last contribution to the Bulletin as President. My two years in office have passed very quickly but with age the speed at which time passes seems to accelerate!

I have been at the helm of the Society during a 'tricky passage of time', but I have had the privilege of seeing the school 'rise from the ashes'. The process of regenerating the school is only partially complete at this stage, 'but from small acorns mighty oaks grow'.

The St Bees School Charitable Trust is currently renegotiating its partnering agreement with the Full Circle Education Group; this will result in Full Circle taking 100% of the equity in the Joint Venture Company and full total control of both education and capital costs associated with the continued refurbishment of the school estate. The Trust is granting Full Circle an operating licence to run the school on a reporting basis, ensuring that the school is run in a manner compliant with the Trust's charitable status and historical educational standards and goals. The agreement will release the Trust from further significant financial demands. The Trust will however continue to support fully the reestablishment of the school, financially, in what ever way it can as financial resources become available to it.

I have never doubted that the Full Circle Education Group was the right partner for the School Trust. The catalyst of Laurence Gribble, an OSB, with his close friend Danny Wang, CEO of the Full Circle Group, has ensured that the project of reopening the school has remained on course despite significant headwinds.

As I compose this report I have just been informed that the Home Office has granted the school a Tier 4 Licence, which will enable it to offer full time boarding courses to foreign students. This development is highly significant for the future of the school. I really do believe that with the recent appointment of Roger Sinnett as Headmaster, who has previously worked for Full Circle, a man who has drive and passion along with commercial and communication skills, combined with current developments, we will now see the school rapidly come back to life. This will not perhaps be as we remember St Bees School, but it will be an innovative and diverse educational establishment focusing on a 'fusion' style of education, where 'the best of east meets the best of west', offering children with varying abilities the chance to prepare themselves for work in an international workplace offering significantly different job opportunities than those that exist today.

As OSBs we owe Laurence Gribble a great debt of gratitude and I wish him the greatest success as a senior member of the Full Circle management team in developing their international educational business.

Full Circle will open their first St Bees School in China, in the Beijing region, in September 2020 with a capacity to educate over 2000 pupils. This will be in addition to their Language schools and Summer schools in the U.K, their charity school in Cambodia and their established school in Shenzhen. A number of kindergarten schools in China is also planned. St Bees School's 'name' will be their branding, with the St Bees School Charitable Trust benefitting financially from an intellectual property licence agreement.

I would remind all OSBs that the preservation and advancement of our Society are matters of paramount importance to us all. Not only for the benefit of the new school, but for us all individually. The Society provides the point of commonality to our pasts and affords the opportunity to catch up with lost friends and to share St Bees' experiences. The single most rewarding aspect of being your President has been reengaging with old friends and renewing past relationships. With age we become more equal and the years mellow attitudes. Going back brings sadness as well as joy of course, discovering that a close school friend is no longer with us or is not coping with life's problems makes you appreciate your own good fortune the more, whatever your age or your personal situation.

The Society is currently faced with its own financial problems due to declining financial reserves from supporting the St Bees Charitable Trust over an extended period, while in receipt of a declining income stream. It is hoped that the sale of properties on Lonsdale Terrace, owned by the OSBs within the Guaranteed Trust Fund, will rectify this position in due course.

If not there may be a need to raise Society funds through the membership. My father had a great affinity with St Bees. He loved being in the village while my brother and I were at school, so much so that he bought a house there. Perhaps this was the reason I came back to school after fifty years to ensure that I fulfilled his dream.

However I do feel that in my roles as President of the OSBS, a Trustee of the school and a Director of the Joint Venture Company I have put something back into the school, which despite my misgivings at being there as a boy, significantly shaped my life!

I wish to thank all OSBs, the OSB Committee, the OSB office and OSB regional Secretaries for the support that they have given me over the past two years and particularly to Dacre Watson, my predecessor in this office, who has looked after me like a son!

## 2019/20 Calendar of Events:

<b>2019</b>		
<b>September</b>	Sunday 8th	Yorkshire Gathering
	Saturday 28th	St Beghians' Day, OSB AGM & Committee Meeting
<b>October</b>	Friday 11th	London Informal Social
<b>November</b>	Wednesday 6th	North East Dinner
<b>December</b>	Saturday 28th	Thomas Froggatt Rugby Match
<b>2020</b>		
<b>January</b>		
<b>February</b>		
<b>March</b>	Saturday (tbc)	St Beghian Society Committee Meeting
<b>April</b>	Saturday 4th	Singapore Lunch
<b>May</b>	Friday 1st	Cumbria Dinner
	tbc	London Dinner
<b>June</b>		

## OSB NOTES

### **From Sir Peter Graham (SH 47-52).**

“In the 67 years since I left St Bees I think I have made only one contribution to the Bulletin and that was an obituary for my very old friend Chris Mason (who died some years ago in Australia). I was stirred to write by the contribution of Sam Ashton in the last Bulletin and by the references to Bill Frankland and by the piece from Duncan Merrin, who was a contemporary of mine in Grindal, whom I never knew but whose experience seems to have been very different from mine; and finally by the passing of my 85th birthday.

I was very fortunate to go to St Bees. As a result of the bankruptcy of my grandfather, my father set about digging the family out of relative poverty. During the war I went to our very good local elementary school. My birthday is in January and I was in a class where everyone but myself would be 11 before the end of the calendar year. As a result I could not take the entrance examination for the grammar school and my father was told I would have to stay and do ‘the same year’ again. He was not having that. In addition to his job as an industrial chemist, he had already been teaching at night school and occasionally singing humorous songs in Music Halls. He went to see the Headmaster of the main preparatory school in our home town and decided he could just about afford the fees for my three years from 11, 12 and 13. As an amusing side line to this, the Headmaster contacted my father’s employer to ask if he felt my father could afford the fees. His employer replied ‘yes, and one day Douglas Graham will run this town’. This was almost true, as he subsequently became Mayor, Alderman and eventually was given the freedom of the Borough. Returning to my own life, the prep. school, St David’s, gave me an excellent education and entered me for the scholarship examination to St Bees and another, ‘rather inferior’, boarding school. My father threatened me with the latter if I did not get some kind of scholarship to St Bees. So, no pressure then. As it turned out I won the main scholarship to St Bees which, in the year of my entry, paid half the fees. Really, I had Mr. Reekie, the then Headmaster, to thank for that because he decided that he wanted to raise the academic standards of St Bees (which was of course already well known and feared for its prowess at rugby).

I was put straight into 5A and I fagged for a brilliant rugby player and senior prefect (M.T). He treated me extremely well and I certainly learned how to wash football shorts. The intention was that I would take school certificate at the end of my first year. I had never done chemistry or physics at my prep. school so had to pack three years’ work into one but, on the other hand, I had very good standards of French, Latin, English Language and Arithmetic from St David’s. In the end I

got two distinctions and seven credits and moved into the lower sixth arts. I could never have achieved those results but for the excellent teaching I received in that first year. This no doubt gives the impression of my being a complete 'swot' but I had begun playing, and enjoying playing, rugby, also cricket, fives and badminton.

During the next three and half years at St Bees, I moved to the upper sixth arts – just four of us. Here we were again very well taught. I recall that, each week, I had to translate the fourth leader in The Times into Latin. Mr Wykes was now Headmaster and he thought I should try in the Spring for a 'Hastings scholarship' to a group of Oxford colleges. It was also decided that I should, for a trial run, try for a scholarship to St John's Cambridge, because their exam was in November. To my surprise, after the written exam, I was called back to Cambridge for one of the most incisive oral interviews I have ever faced. Two days before Christmas 1951 and a fortnight before my 18th birthday I received a letter offering me an Open Exhibition to St John's. Much rejoicing in the Graham household. But this was not the end of what St Bees did for me.

Shortly after my birthday I received my 'call-up' papers, but I wanted to stay at school to the end of the school year to play rugby and cricket, for both of which I had second team colours. The school agreed that I could work by correspondence course for what was now Russian GCE. The oral part of the examination was given me by a lecturer from Leeds University, who had to make the long train journey to St Bees. Fortunately I passed. During this time I also decided that I wanted something more interesting than the army and replied to an advertisement for alternative service as a pilot or observer in the Fleet Air Arm. After lots of tests, physical and mental and reaction time etc, I was accepted for pilot training and at the same time I was appointed captain of the school 2nd XV. In the navy, I had the enormous pleasure of flying many hours behind the famous R.R. Griffon engine and doing deck landings (and take-offs!). I finally 'retired' from the navy as a lieutenant and returned to the cocoon of Cambridge.

The rest of the story has little to do with St Bees except that it was the school which gave me the springboard to a 1st Class Hons. degree in Law, fifth place in the Bar exam, superb Chambers in Lincoln's Inn, a Counsel, a KCB and, above all, the invitation to present the prizes one Speech Day long ago. Oh yes, and final retirement at the age of 80. Thank you, St Bees.

Yes, and Dr Frankland? My first wife was a senior nurse at St Mary's Paddington and, as I had always suffered from hayfever, she arranged for me to be seen by Dr Frankland as a 'staff patient'. The first time I saw him he was wearing the OSB tie; so, for my next visit, was I."

## **Memories from Ivor Nicholas (SH 44-48).**

“As an Old Boy of 87, and one who spent nearly five formative years on School House, I cannot express appreciation enough to the lads of Foundation and Grindal, who made me so ‘at home’ on their table at the Armathwaite Hall, Cumbria dinner on May 3rd 2019, not least because of the contributions made by the ladies present to the general conversation and reminiscences.

For health reasons and having voluntarily packed in driving a car, I hadn't planned attending the reunion, when our wonderful lady secretary, Pam Rumney, emailed to say Joe Fecitt (SH 44-48) would be there and was keen to meet me again. The first time we met was at entrance to school tests in February 1944; we both started that summer term (our D Day) that eventful war time year! Darryl Davies kindly arranged a late booking and Pam offered to drive me there and back. Regretfully, at the last minute, Joe was not well enough to attend. I kept the date and couldn't have enjoyed an evening more. I returned safely home at midnight.

On the following Saturday I met with Joe and his daughter and son in law at the school for a tour of some of the buildings. Joe and I with Tim and Vicky Hope thoroughly enjoyed our chinwag as Tony Reeve showed us relevant school records before escorting us round the buildings. Thanks a million to all involved for setting this up.

For more than sixty years, Cumbria and the Lake District has been my life, a record I claim for having no other job other than that as a full time freelance photographer for industry, newspapers, house magazines, television filming, mining, farming, tourism, or whatever or wherever requested. I chose not to move from this county. I always stayed here apart from two years National Service as a General Service photographer with the Royal Air Force in Gibraltar (1953-55).

No greater inspiration or reviver if I needed one, however, was the opportunity to wander round my Shangrilla - St Bees School followed by a headland or beach walk. A major recollection from my schooldays was seeing the school 1st XV engage other schools at rugger in the cold winter months. My hero was Richard Postlethwaite (AC 88-92), a name imprinted in my memory, as the St Bees player who was loudly cheered as he kicked the winning goal to beat Sedbergh by a point in a low scoring encounter on the crease, sometime in the late 80s or 90s. I met Richard in May at the Cumbria dinner at Armathwaite Hall for the first time. His mother I knew as a receptionist at Sellafield Nuclear Visitor Centre. She heard I was educated at St Bees and let me know her son was there. I introduced her to others at the centre as ‘Marianne Postlethwaite, mother of the St Bees star who kicked the goal to beat Sedbergh’. Rarely defeated in those days, the rivalry with St Bees was maintained over many, many years. Even in the difficult times

of survival for St Bees in the late 1930s, the Cumberland school held its own against its rivals, and produced international players.”

### **Reminiscences from Dorothy Shackley:**

Dorothy (Dot) Shackley was 14 when she reluctantly left school to work at St Bees public school for 12 shillings and 6 pence a week (52.5p). The eldest of nine children, she was required to work. In the summer of 1947 she remembers walking to St Bees School in a new blue dress and white ankle socks. Jean McAllister, a colleague, sat her on her knee and said, ‘tha’s gonna be a la’l killer’. That is of course Cumbrian for ‘you’re beautiful’!

Mary Waring was the secretary of Mr Reekie, the Headmaster; she also ran the Girl Guides in the village and got Dorothy the job at the school. Dorothy worked and lived in School House as did the Headmaster and his family. The head and his wife had three children: Andrew, Jane and Susan, who were around eight, four and two respectively. Dorothy remembers them fondly.

Although Dorothy lived in the village, she was allocated a bedroom at school. She was pleased with the room, but being able to run a bath in her bathroom was a delight. (At home she used a tin bath in front of the fire!)

She worked from early in the morning until late in the evening with two hours off in the afternoon and had varied domestic duties, from cleaning the Headmaster’s accommodation to waiting on the boys in the dining room. Going into the dining room was daunting, although on her first day she was happy to receive her first compliment when an older boy at the top table said she had a nice figure! The boys on the bottom table were around her age, as she collected their plates they would tease her and pull them back.

Two Danish girls named Analisa and Kirsten came to work at the school. They were opposites in character. Analisa cried before she had to go in the dining room, she said, ‘I’ve got the inferiority complex’. Kirsten on the other hand enjoyed distracting the boys. In the evening, from the dining room window, she could see some of the boys doing their prep. She would dance and ask them if they liked her skirt. Dorothy remembers one boy with whom she was friends and who was a real gentleman. After she had lost her gloves, he found them and returned them to the kitchen the following day. Mrs Breton, who was in charge there, laughingly said, ‘your gloves, madam’ as she handed them back.

In 1949 Dorothy’s sister, Martha, started work as a private maid to the housemaster, Mr Parkinson. He was a very nice calm man but was always looking for Martha as she was easy-going and not at all conscientious. When she took him a breakfast tray there was usually something missing. For example, quite often there was water but no tea in the teapot!

Lily, another sister, worked in Mrs Hale's tuck shop and also in Mrs Lamb's wool/baby clothes shop at the bottom of Outrigg hill. The boys often needed to buy wool!

Dorothy's best friend was June Parker, who lived in the village. When one of the boys in particular on Grindal had the duty to play the 10pm bugle roll call, he would, it was said, play it especially for June.

Dorothy worked at the school for three years; she remembers it as a happy time working for nice people. She worked hard but had fun and made friends.

**A painting of Dorothy by John Dalzell Kenworthy (1858-1954), painted in 1944 when she was 12, may be seen at:**

**<http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july19bulletin>.**

**Mr Kenworthy, as well as being a celebrated painter, was a village resident.**

**J.J.H. (John) Swinglehurst (SH 45-49) recently visited the school:**

"I have just paid a visit to our school at St Bees, which I have not done for many years, and which has brought back so many memories of my time there.

Pam very kindly arranged it for me with my two eldest sons on May 16<sup>th</sup>, and with a few exceptions nothing very much had changed as far as buildings and layout were concerned, which was lovely to see albeit so many changes of course to our school have occurred since I last visited some thirty years ago.

I have been fortunate that my career afforded me the opportunity to travel all over the world seeing some spectacular sights, however there is nowhere that lifts my heart quite like the Lake District.

As a boy at school my friends and I spent many happy hours exploring the beautiful countryside that surrounds St Bees, walking, cycling and climbing.

During our recent stay, based at Bassenthwaite, my sons and I visited St Bees Head, Wastwater (with my favourite mountain Great Gable as a backdrop), Wrynose and Hardnott passes, Tarn Hows and many other inspirational lakes and places that brought so many distant memories back to life.

It truly was a luxury to be educated in such a unique location, which remains largely unspoilt to this day.

I owe the school so much for those early years of my life, which taught me not only academically but also gave me opportunities, relationships and so much more; living with others and enjoying so many aspects of life as well as hopefully learning how to behave!

I was privileged to have been educated at St Bees. They were the happiest years of my life."

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july19bulletin>.**



**Peter D.G. Thomas (G 43-47) sent in the following historical notes regarding St Bees in the 1940s.**

“Daily Routine:

7.10 Wake-up Bell.

7.20 Get-up Bell.

7.45 Short run: Grindal to Barony and back.

7.50 Breakfast: thick porridge and toast.

8.45 School Chapel.

9.00 – 12.30 Lessons, with a break for tea and bread soaked in treacle.

1.00 Lunch.

2.30 Games. A cross-country run for all not playing. The run was excused on days ‘officially hot’ at 70F. On Wednesdays the Junior Training Corps, in khaki, replaced sport. A cold shower was compulsory after sport, even if there was also a hot bath.

4.15 – 6.00 Afternoon school on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

6.15 – 9.00 Two prep periods for ‘homework’, broken by supper at 7.30.

9.00 House Prayers. About ten minutes.

10.00 Lights Out, signified by Grindal bugle. The dormitory windows were left open all night.

Sunday. No lessons or sport. Church services at 10.45 and 6.45, about half an hour each. Sunday was also the day for changing bed-linen. Rationing restricted each boy to three sheets. So the top sheet became the bottom sheet, which in turn went to the wash.

The emphasis on exercise was reflected even in some school punishments.

Mistakes in class work or prep might incur the pronouncement ‘Take two PDs’.

The Punishment Drill was a ten minute physical drill that left every boy shattered – ‘The Triangle’ was not a medieval-type torture, but a punishment run of about a mile that had to take place after a day’s sport, and be completed in eight minutes or it did not count. A decade after leaving school I remember reading in The Times a reference to the renown of St Bees boys’ fitness.

Finally: The school uniform comprised a navy blazer, navy shorts, and long pale blue socks. Which and how many blazer buttons could be left open constituted signs of privilege, as did who could use certain stairs and doorways. It all seems rather petty now, but was strictly observed then.”

**(Should other OSBs from this or other vintages care to record similar routines, we would be happy to print them. Ed.)**

# Mischief and Mystery at St Bees School

How many times of late have we heard that St Bees School will never be the same again? This is a fact I think we can all accept. Therefore, as the school begins a new phase in its history, what lies ahead will be in stark contrast to what has gone before.

When I was a pupil in the middle of the last century there was a mind-set in the school that encouraged more than just a few lads of a rebellious nature to plan misdeeds. For whatever reason their actions appeared to manifest themselves in striking back at targets chosen indiscriminately. Staff, prefects, fellow pupils and even the fabric of the school were all chosen at some time or other. All transgressions were followed by 'Questions in the House' but usually to no avail. Shrouds of secrecy remained and these 'whodunnit' mysteries were left unsolved.

## **The Case of Something Fishy in Big School**

Situated in Foundation adjacent to the quadrangle entrance corridor, Big School (later known as the Salad Room) was used as a classroom where iron framed Victorian desks were arranged on tiers above the master's own teaching desk. During much of my time an English teacher called Farrant taught here. Known as '*The Blade*', or as an alternative '*Gillette*', he was always well groomed to the point of being razor sharp.

One day we noticed an uncharacteristic foul odour in Big School. So foul that '*The Blade*' left the window open next to his desk. Day after day this rotten smell not only remained but got progressively worse. An investigation led to the discovery of a recalcitrant boy's actions – a putrid, ripe kipper carefully nailed to the underside of '*The Blade's*' desk.

No-one ever discovered the culprit – a 'whodunnit' par excellence!

## **Who Itched the Big Dorm Bed?**

A member of Foundation's domestic staff arrived one morning with a packet of itching powder purchased from a newly opened joke shop in Whitehaven. She entrusted the packet to a boy, inviting him to 'do his worst'!

Judging by the events that followed we can assume the conspirator chose an opportune time to sneak into Big Dorm to empty the powder into his target's bed and pyjamas. Why this particular victim was chosen no-one ever knew (his identity is remembered but perhaps better left unnamed here). It can be said that the victim was recalled as a keen and talented golfer, an excellent guitar player and was generally a good sort. So why this fellow was chosen as the target is even now a mystery.

However, the scene was set. It was the winter term, the nights were dark, and it was not long until lights out after which all were settled in their beds. But not for long! Suddenly, one poor fellow leapt out of bed and danced around like a red indian doing a war dance. As the itching powder had also been shaken into his pyjamas, he rapidly divested himself of these. Before long Matron, Sheila Appleyard, was on the scene and deemed the situation so serious that, late though it was, Doctor ‘Snake’ Chalmers needed to be summoned from Whitehaven. During the small hours, after having a cold bath and once cooling creams were applied all over the poor fellow’s body, eventually this brought relief. As soon as his bedsheets were changed, he was finally able to settle down. A special assembly was called for next morning after breakfast. During this assembly Housemaster ‘Shuff’ Hall appealed to the better nature of his charges, asking the culprit to step forward, but no-one moved and the question of who did it remains another unsolved mystery.

### **The Chapel Organ Confetti**

It was a regular morning service in the chapel. Music Master, Donald Leggatt, attired in his gown, strode in to take his position on the organ stool. He flicked on the switch to fill the organ pipes with air. But what happened next was truly majestic. At the same time as the organ motor rumbled into action, and to the amazement of all present, clouds of tiny pieces of paper were flung from the top of the pipes to float down in the air above all those present. Hilarity from the boys – consternation from Donald Leggatt and his colleagues! It seems that someone (or some group) had for some weeks been emptying paper punches and secretly storing the contents to use as the organ pipe ammunition in their devilish scheme. Rather than proceed with the planned service, the Headmaster made comments appropriate to the occasion and appealed for anyone responsible to come forward. However, and already you will have guessed it, this ended as another unsolved ‘whodunnit’.

If anyone can remember more memorable stories I would be fascinated to hear them so that a future article can be written.

**Don H Williams (F 61-64).**

**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)

# St Bees School Recipe Book

**In 1979, to coincide with the St Bees School Fete, a number of masters' wives and others associated with the school published a forty-seven page booklet of recipes. We have copies of this in the archives, but an OSB recently acquired a copy and sent in the following reminiscences regarding some of the contributors he remembered from his own time.**

**Gillian Lamping:** was my Housemaster Martin Lamping's wife and as a pretty green and unworldly wise thirteen year old she was, I suppose, the nearest thing to a surrogate mother for a lot of boys and I suppose myself! She once confided to me that she started life in Birmingham as a child minder in the 1960s, so her experience must have put her in good stead. I could never understand how Martin Lamping once caned me for talking after lights out and then made me head of house three years later!

**Lady Corley:** was I believe the wife of Sir Kenneth Corley, who was the chairman of the Governors of the school and an Old Boy and Chairman no less of Lucas Industries, the large car and vehicle and battery manufacturing group.

**Maureen Francis:** was I understand the wife of Major Francis, who taught us Maths. He was very much like 'Marmite', you either liked him or loathed him!

**Miss S Appleyard:** was the Matron of Foundation when I was on Foundation North and had been there since the 1940s.

**Jean Lyall:** was David Lyall's wife and I guess was again a surrogate mother to all the very young boys, who started at Eaglesfield aged nine onwards! Once when I was a junior prefect on Eaglesfield House, she forced me to have a 'freezing cold bath' to reduce a high temperature I had!

**Elizabeth Cotes:** was Tony Cotes' wife. I always remember doing first aid with her on a rubber dummy and she asked me whether I was feeling a bit queasy after I had been trying to do CPR on such a thing!

**Joan Edgar:** must be Jeff Edgar's wife. Again Jeff Edgar was another master who caned me during gym, but I cannot remember why!

**Lois Howard:** was Brian Howard's wife, the choir master. I remember Adrian Hope and myself were trebles in the choir before 'certain things dropped' and our voices got deeper and Adrian used to do a treble solo in certain choral works! How he reached those high notes I will never know!

**Rosemary Hutt:** was the wife of Mr Hutt our physics teacher, who whilst he did not cane me erroneously, did send me out of class when he believed I was misbehaving when it was actually someone else!

**Yvonne Wilson:** was Keith Wilson's wife. He was my cricket coach when I was thirteen. He also taught me geography in the upper sixth.

**Jenni Payne:** is I guess Anthony Payne's wife. He taught me German. I must have been a huge disappointment to Anthony Payne and my Germanic loving father, having failed my German O Level twice!

**David Marshall:** It astounds me that a batchelor like David Marshall would know so much about cooking!

**Charmain Robson:** is of course Chris Robson's wife.

**Joan Lees:** was the wife of the Headmaster, Geoff Lees.

**Ann Rice:** is T.A.P Rice's wife.

**Mary Broadhurst:** was Peter Broadhurst's wife. He was our Abbots Court Housemaster.

**Mrs W Fox:** must have been our Bursar Bill Fox's wife.

Scans from the pages of the Recipe Book may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july19bulletin>.

## 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.

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.**

## Last Post Buglers – Grindal House

Following the recent decision of the school Trustees to offer Grindal House for sale, it seemed a good idea to ask OSBs for information about the former tradition of sounding the Last Post from the house every evening during term time. Pam Rumney received a number of replies to a request in an earlier issue of the Bulletin asking if anyone remembered the names of people who were involved in this, and from the responses she has been able to compile an initial list covering the years from the late 1940s to about 1980.

<b>1943-1947?</b>	<b>THORNBORROW, J.D. (John) (G 43-49)</b>
<b>1945-1947?</b>	<b>BUCKERIDGE, W. (Bill) (F 44-47)</b>
<b>1948-1950</b>	<b>BARR, R.F. (Ron) (G 47-52)</b>
<b>Early 1950s?</b>	<b>RICHARDSON, D.M. (David) (G 51-54)</b>
<b>1951-1956?</b>	<b>BALDWIN, C.P.P. (Peter) (G 51-56)</b>
<b>1955-1956?</b>	<b>GREETHAM, W. F. (Bill) (G 53-58)</b>
<b>1958-1960?</b>	<b>WARD, C.J. (Chris) (G 55-60)</b>
<b>1960-1961?</b>	<b>DODD, G.P.C. (Gervase) (F 56-61)</b>
<b>1956-1961?</b>	<b>LEES, S.C. (Steve) (G 56-62)</b>
<b>1961-1966</b>	<b>DE GRUYTHER, T. (Tim) (G 61-66)</b>
<b>1969-1971?</b>	<b>ISAAC, P.E.W (Paul) (G 67-71)</b>
<b>1968-1971?</b>	<b>INGALL, W.P.H. (Peter) (G 68-71)</b>
<b>1974-1977?</b>	<b>KNIGHT, B.R. (Ben) (G/FS 73-80)</b>
<b>1980</b>	<b>TATTERSALL, L. (Luke) (SH 74-80)</b>

**A full detailed list with descriptions and comments may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july19bulletin>.**

In reading some of the comments which accompanied the letters of those who replied, it seems that instruments which regaled the village included CCF bugles, a cornet, a French horn, a silver bugle, and a trumpet. Locations for the performance ranged from the Grindal fire escape, the top floor dormitory, a study window, the Grindal dayroom, the dining room window, and the ‘bedsit at the top of School House’.

The time of playing seems to have remained constant at 10pm, whatever the weather conditions, with ‘official consequences’ if the call was late.

One thing we would like to know is when this tradition actually started.

Thank you to all who responded to this enquiry. Given the intention to sell Grindal, it would be appropriate if any former members of the house felt they could contribute their own reminiscences of the years they spent there so that we may have a permanent record of its social history for posterity.

**AJHR.**

## Then and Now

An OSB recently sent in a series of scans of three school prospectuses he had acquired: one from 1914 and the other two from the 1960s and 1970s. To those with access to the internet, they can be viewed on the following link <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july19bulletin>, but what follows are some of the comments on aspects of them which struck him at a first reading.

“The 1914 brochure is a real work of art, beautifully ornate and coloured, on embossed thick paper and the red finery around the edges is very impressive. It also has a stylish bow or thread to hold it together. Someone has obviously ‘pushed the boat out’ in designing and producing this brochure. I think if I had received something like that in the 1900s, I would have sent my son to the school, though I would probably not have been able to afford it! The 1960s brochure is slightly plainer but still impressive. (The basic fees in 1914 for Cumberland and Westmorland residents were £15 p.a. plus £25/40 extra for boarding etc and for others £21 p.a. with extras again. By the time of the later brochure these had become £432 p.a. for boarding with tuition fees etc. and £210 p.a. for day boys. Ed.)

There are references (to the clothing list in 1914) to ‘drawers if worn’, knickerbockers, nightshirts, and Eton collars. I had not realised that boys in the 1900s did not wear any underwear if they chose! The prospectus also states that ‘Boys are expected to write home at least once a week’ and if the letters are ‘badly spelt or slovenly written’, parents are requested to communicate this fact to the school!”

In addition to the above remarks, your Editor, following a brief glance through, noted that in 1914 the general object of the school (‘mission statement’ in today’s jargon) was ‘to provide a Public School education for those who wish for a smaller or cheaper School than eg Rugby or Clifton’; also that boys were accepted from eight years of age onwards. OSBs will smile at the statement that, in 1914, the ‘Climate is specially suited for delicate boys’, though by the 1960s this had changed to ‘the climate is temperate but bracing’. Interestingly, the major change in the curriculum was a greater emphasis on the sciences by the 1960s.

## OBITUARIES

**Christopher (Chris) Bradshaw Harrison-Beck (SH 68-73).**

**Paul Boughton (SH 68-74) has kindly submitted the following:**

**‘Gentleman, Rockstar and Legend.’**

“Chris was born in Kendal on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 1954 and began his time at St Bees in September 1968 where I first met this amazing man. Chris lost his mother nine days after he was born and he was brought up by his father Harry and his step mother Helen. Neither Chris nor I had siblings and I always thought of him as my surrogate brother. I am very honoured and proud to have known him, and to have shared some wonderful times together as schoolboys at St Bees and afterwards as older chums, but still naughty schoolboys at heart.

During Chris’s time at St Bees, it soon became clear that as well as many other things he was a talented musician; he used to spend hours on his guitar in our study strumming away to Hendrix or Gallagher among many other infamous sounds of the era. He had all the Rockstar looks, including crazy hair, so he and I would go to great pains to avoid being caught by the weekly hair inspection during prep, which was either by wetting our hair with oil or by placing an elastic band strategically behind our ears to pull the hair up off the collar. On many occasions, when our very cunning method had failed and we had been scalped by ‘Sweeny Todd’, our local Whitehaven barber, Chris and I would persuade the local chicken farmer to part with some newly laid chicken droppings, which we would smear on our hair and scalp to assist the growth; we also used Baby Bio, which never seemed to have the same effect.

Chris and I shared a study with Andrew Johnston, whom we loved dearly, despite teasing him from time to time over his obsession with becoming a Thespian.

The Oddfellows Arms (Oddies) at the top of the village provided Chris and I with a local hostelry which was not too bothered about under-age drinkers as long as they could pay for their beer and could hide amongst the regulars in the back room. I do recall one Friday evening, when we had been to collect some crabs from a local fisherman called Jack, that we caused havoc in the Oddies as the top of the bag must not have been tied properly; most of the crabs escaped and buried themselves beneath the large metal heating pipe under the seats around the room. We never did retrieve any of the escapees and suffice to say did not venture into the pub ever again without a suitable disguise.

Chris disliked cricket nearly as much as I did. We could never understand why anyone would wish to stand around for hours waiting for someone to knock a ball towards you; it was like watching paint dry. This view of the sport led Chris and I to volunteer for the local community service volunteers, to ensure we were



otherwise engaged (on good causes) when cricket was being played. We helped less fortunate families in Egremont with tasks such as painting and decorating their homes; our best gig however was to look after some elderly residents in a local care home in Whitehaven. The residents soon came to look forward to our visits and we made many good friends among the old folk and would bring them the odd cigarette and beer if we could.

Another memory of Chris which I will treasure for ever concerns Richard Branson, when he was a young budding entrepreneur and just starting his Virgin Records empire from his school study. Chris would liaise with him by Royal Mail and 'Richard' as we knew him, would send us handwritten sheets of second hand records, most of which we could buy for a few pennies. Richard later invested in a very cheap typewriter and would send the same information in typed form but punctuated by lots of Tippex (if that existed then) or corrections and the like. Shame we didn't hang on to those early sheets of Branstonobilia.

There are housemasters and housemasters and we had two good ones during our time at St Bees. We were lucky to have Sam (LEM) Parkinson in the early days, who was a very kind man (his wife Mrs P was even kinder and let us get away with murder). Lem taught us French and always told anecdotes during his lessons about the many places he had visited or lived in during his rich life. He drove a Saab, which was a very cool car indeed. I think he also taught us something else but conveniently I think I've forgotten what that was! We all had a crush on his daughter Elizabeth, who later became a client of mine at Lazards and latterly Flemings in London.

On Lem's retirement, David Marshall took the reins. In our sixth form years his sensible attitude was often reflected in his conversations with us. Chris and I loved these chats as he was a very pleasant and interesting man.

Despite his background and obvious status, Chris was one of the most genteel, understated, humble and grounded individuals I have ever met. He was generous, kind and honest, which are rare qualities in a human being. Everyone who knew him loved and respected him dearly.

Chris owned one of the finest and largest estates in the UK, the Middleton Estate in Westmorland and lived at Elm Lodge Ravenstonedale with his fiancée Viv and her two children. He retired in 2001 from Gilkes Engineering in Kendal where he had followed in his father's footsteps (Harry was Gilkes' Sales Director) and became their most valued field engineer, Chris remained a non-executive director until 2017 and then retired to spend more time with his family and to renovate his beautiful ancestral home.

Chris has two brilliant children in Harry and Charlotte and also two wonderful grandchildren, Franky and Lily Grace.

Christopher Bradshaw Harrison-Beck August 25<sup>th</sup> 1954 - 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019 was laid to rest on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2019 at St Oswald's Church in Ravenstonedale. Charles Scott (SH 68-72), Roger Webster and Paul Boughton (SH 68-74) attended the service to pay their respects and the following Old St Beghians and Chris's peers have all sent their sincere condolences to the family: David Storey (SH 67-72), Tim Penrice (SH 67-72), John Dias (SH 68-71), Andy Crummey (FS 67-74), Clive Mendus (FN 68-73) and Steve Brown. Donations in Chris's memory on behalf of the Great North Air Ambulance (GNAAS) may be sent to Hayes and Parkinson Ltd., Captain French Lane, Kendal LA9 4HS."

**Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july19bulletin>.**

### **David Anthony Steele (F 40-45)**

**The following is from David's wife, Joan.**

"David Anthony Steele, died on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

He was a pupil at St Bees from 1940-1945. He was following a family tradition in that his father had also attended St Bees, and the family were residents when his grandfather was the local vicar at one point. They also had farming interests in the area.

David was very pleased to learn that the school was going to continue following its closure in 2015, and I know he subsequently made a donation to help with that. While at St Bees he also learned to play the organ and was playing for services before he left, both at school and the village church. It became a constant thread throughout his life, always playing for churches (organist and choirmaster in Broadway St Michael's Church) and in our local Queen Thorne Benefice here when we retired in 1989. He only gave up after 60 years' service because of ill health.

David loved the school, and I wish everyone concerned with the re-opening the best of luck."

## **Notification of Deaths**

(Since the January 2019 Bulletin)

<b>GREEN, C.W.R. (Christopher)</b>	Died 01.11.18	F 58-61
<b>HARRISON-BECK, C.B. (Chris)</b>	Died 11.04.19	SH 68-73
<b>LEDSON, J.M. (Michael)</b>	Died 21.12.16	FS 50-52
<b>STEELE, D.A. (David)</b>	Died 31.12.18	F 40-45
<b>VINYCOMB, R.K. (Rex)</b>	Died 20.08.17	SH 39-42

# Golfing Society (OSBGS)

## Old St Beghians' Golfing Society 2019

### The Halford Hewitt – Kent 2019

The St Bees HH team assembled at our usual accommodation at the Knowlton Court estate, conveniently located between Sandwich and Deal golf courses, in good time to enjoy two and in some cases three days of practice at Royal St. Georges. Indeed, Messrs. Stamper and Crummey also took in the pleasures of a round at Rye.

We were drawn in the first round against Repton at Royal St. Georges, a team we had played relatively recently in the Hewitt and also at the Queen Elizabeth tournament in Edinburgh, where we enjoyed some success.

Repton have a strong golf team so to meet this challenge we set a strategy of pairings and order of play to win the day. The plan started well with Jeff Ellis and Stephen Moss leading in the top match and John Berry and Tom Wright starting well in match two. We were down early on in all the remaining matches, but if one of the matches could be turned around, we would be able to put pressure on Repton.

The top pair continued to battle and was ahead going into the last few holes, John and Tom were well set to win their game. Adrian Peckitt and Andrew Deall were not at the top of their game and were struggling to change the course of their match, finally losing 4 and 3. Behind them Andrew Goodwin and John Currie were well beaten by a strong pair of brothers playing off 1 and +3. In the last match Ben Wilson and Gareth Edgar showed some resolve to try and get back into their match but lost in the closing stretch.

John and Tom won their match 2 and 1, secured with a spectacular birdie at the 14<sup>th</sup> hole. Jeff and Stephen, having led their match from the start, lost the last hole for a half. Final score Repton 3 ½ St Bees 1 ½.

All first-round losers enter the plate tournament, which is played at the adjacent Princes course. We would be playing against Wellington, who had surprisingly lost to St. Pauls. We had recently played against Wellington in the plate and the main tournament and knew they had a very good team.

There are only three pairs per team for matches in the plate, so a team shuffle was required. Wellington proved to be a strong side and whilst Andrew Deall and John Currie agreed a half in their match, Tom Wright and John Berry, who played together again following their success the previous day, could not reach the same heights and were well beaten. Similarly, Gareth and Ben also came up against a pair playing some exceptional golf.

It was another great week at the Hewitt, some very good golf on great golf courses, exceptional off-course entertainment and many good memories.

## **The Cyril Gray – Surrey 2019**

Our Cyril Gray team of Stephen Moss, Andy Crummey, Charlie Crummey, Mike Stamper, Jeff Ellis and Michael Coffey is not quite so young as it used to be!

However, in the heat of Worplesdon in June they acquitted themselves very well and continue to fly the flag of St Bees in another public school event.

As usual we enjoyed a delightful ‘Dinner Match’ against our long term opponents Glenalmond, whose side seems to get younger! We contrived a half and adjourned for an excellent evening at The Cricketers at Horsell with our opposition.

John Gordon of Glenalmond is the current President of the Cyril Gray and whilst there is no suggestion that the draw is rigged, we found that we were up against Glenalmond again in the first round. The result was a 3/0 loss for St Bees. The format of the competition is that there is an automatic Plate and so we were off again in the afternoon to play Eastbourne (a repeat of a match in 2018). We were once again successful and thus proceeded to Friday and a match against St Pauls. St Pauls failed to raise a team for the match and so we were left without a game (and also without accommodation). What followed is already the stuff of OSBGS legend.

At the suggestion of Jeff Ellis we repaired to Huntercombe, a gem of a two-ball course designed by Willie Park Jnr, near Henley.

A match then took place, School House (aided by Jeff’s wife Tracey) triumphed over the others (naturally!). The entire team was then treated to a BBQ and a night’s rest at the wonderful chez Ellis, a cracking time was had by all and a small dent made in the Ellis’ cellars.

On Saturday morning we returned to Worplesdon, and a near empty car park, to play Canford in the semi-final of the Plate. Canford are a formidable outfit who live near enough to commute and thus have little of the distractions on offer to those who are playing away. They were too good for us and by common consent should have won the Tournament proper, let alone the Plate, in which they were successful.

The Society is indebted to all who took part, particularly those travelling a good distance, and of course the Ellis family for their very generous hospitality. Beware, we shall return!

## **The QE Coronation Schools Tournament – Edinburgh 2019**

The Queen Elizabeth Edinburgh competition will take place on the weekend commencing **Saturday 28th September**. Those OSB members interested in attending are encouraged to contact Andrew Goodwin (our Edinburgh captain) at [andrew@trulyonline.co.uk](mailto:andrew@trulyonline.co.uk), so that an idea of numbers for this event can be obtained.

St Bees Golf Course is in good order once again and the committed volunteers are ready for the summer season. Once again, all are thankful for the support given by the OSBs.

### Contact Details:

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

Tom Wright, Secretary – tomosbgolf@hotmail.com.

## St Bees Golf Club

### For further information:

Club number – (01946) 824300 (only available when the club is open)

Membership Secretary, Mr Ian Boak – (01946) 63002.

## 200 Club

The latest draw for the 200 club was made at the Committee Meeting on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019. The lucky winners are listed below:

Prize	No.	Winner	Prize	No.	Winner
£40	11	E.A.L. (Edward) Thompson	£20	67	C. (Chris) Metcalfe-Gibson
£40	14	G.C. (George) Robson	£20	21	M.N. (Mark) Roberts
£40	56	A.F. (Alastair) Hayward	£20	19	R.P. (Roy) Calvin
£40	3	C.J. (Charles) Graves	£20	61	D.F. (David) Lord

I should like to thank all those who subscribe to this worthwhile cause. For as little as £2.00 per month you will be entered into two draws per year and have a chance of winning the top prize which currently stands at £160.00.

**The more members we have, the bigger the prizes!** Not only that, you will be helping the St Beghian Society with much needed funds at this time.

Currently we have 54 members, but there is room for plenty more.  
The greater the number, the bigger the prizes!

We currently have **£3,398.70** in our account.

Prizes for September amount to **£320.00**.

Expenses for DWD for postage etc amount to **£5.20**.

This means the amount available is **£3,073.50**.

Please contact me on Darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com for further information and an entry form. **Darryl Davies.**

# **St Beghians' Day 2019**

## **Saturday 28th September**

### **Timetable for Day**

- 09.45am**     **St Beghian Society Committee Meeting**  
In the Business Management Centre
- 11.00am**     **St Beghian Society AGM**  
In the Business Management Centre
- 12.15pm**     **Chapel Service**
- 1.00pm**     **Lunch** – In Foundation Dining Room (£17 pp)  
\* Pre booking essential – See below re booking form \*
- 2.15pm – 4.00pm**     **Afternoon Drinks Reception with the Headmaster**  
An invitation to join the Headmaster for Drinks and Conversation in the Headmaster's Garden (inside if wet!)  
(Coffee/Tea and Alcoholic Drinks will be available)
- 2.45pm**     **Tour of the School**  
Meet at School House Gates
- 3.15pm**     **St Bees Village Guided Walking Tour**  
Meet at School House Gates – Tour by local historian  
(If you wish to take part in this, please indicate attendance on form)

**\* Please complete the enclosed OSB Day booking form \*  
and return by 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2019  
together, if applicable, with your cheque for lunch.**

Further updates regarding the day will be posted on the Society website nearer the time ([www.st-beghian-society.co.uk](http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk)) or telephone for information (01946) 828093.

## St Beghians' Day 2019

### Saturday 28th September - Continued

#### OSB Day - Accommodation on School House

This year, we are pleased to be able to offer accommodation on School House for the nights of Friday 27<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

The cost for Bed and Breakfast (Continental Breakfast served on School House) will be £50 for single occupancy, £80 for double occupancy and £100 for triple occupancy. There is a small number of en-suite rooms, but most is on a shared bathroom/toilet basis.

All rooms have locks and keys. Sheets, towels, soap etc are included. Arrival will be possible from 5pm on Friday evening and check out must be by 12 noon on Sunday.

**Please contact Ann Stott, Commercial Manager** for bookings and more information: [ann.stott@stbeesschool.co.uk](mailto:ann.stott@stbeesschool.co.uk) or (01946) 828094.

#### OSB Day - Lunch

A three course lunch, including wine, is to be offered by the school and served in the Foundation Dining Room on OSB Day. There will be a choice of main course, which will need to be pre-ordered (on the enclosed OSB Day Booking Form). Coffee/Tea will be available afterwards at the Headmaster's Drinks Reception.

The cost of the lunch is £17 pp and **PRE-BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL.**

**Please complete the enclosed OSB Day Booking Form to reserve your place.**

#### 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 website ([www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/School Shop.htm](http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/School%20Shop.htm)).

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

## BRANCH NOTES & EVENTS

### Branch Activities:

#### **Cumbria Dinner**

The Cumbria Dinner took place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 at Armathwaite Hall, Bassenthwaite Lake, near Keswick.

Armathwaite Hall is an impressive venue to hold a dinner. The architecture is grand and the decor inside is comfortable but opulent.

The evening began with a champagne reception prior to the meal and we were met at the door by Simon Steele, the Manager of Armathwaite. Simon is an OSB and we were delighted that he was also able to attend the dinner.

After the reception we moved to the Lime Trees Suite, our private room for the evening, where dinner was served. The meal was of excellent quality and great value for money and included wine. We were given a good choice of starter, main course and sweet with a vegetarian option and the presentation was lovely. Even the fussy/plain eaters amongst the guests found something to their liking. We all really enjoyed the whole experience. The excellent staff and service made it the most memorable meal I have organised since taking over as Secretary of the West Coast Branch. We enjoyed it so much we have booked again for next year! Many thanks to Simon Steele (FS 85-89), the Manager at Armathwaite Hall, for coming up with the idea and making it possible and also to Leeann Lennox-Burrough, Sales and Marketing Executive, for all her hard work so that the evening ran smoothly.

#### **Those who were present:**

**Guests** - Roger Sinnett (Headmaster).

**Officials of the Society** - Peter Lever (G 62-66)(President of the Society) and Mrs Jane Lever; David Lord (SH 60-65)(Treasurer of the Society) and Mrs Fiona Lord (Staff 93-07); Darryl Davies (FS 62-68)(Secretary of West Cumbria Branch) and Mrs Pat Davies (Staff 91-01); Mrs Pam Rumney (Secretary of the Society).

**Alumni** - Mrs Lucy Aspinall (nee Towill)(G 90-97); John Boag (FS 74-81); John Braithwaite (G 65-69) and Mrs Priscille Braithwaite; Tim Brown (G 53-59); John Colver (SH 60-64); Joe Croasdale (FS 70-75); Anthony Dearden (FS 62-65); Stephen Downham (G 61-65); Laurence Gribble (SH 02-09); Peter Harper (FS 78-82); Mrs Anne-Louise Johnston (nee Crookdake)(L 86-93); Chris Johnston (SH 85-92); Ivor Nicholas (SH 44-48); Richard Postlethwaite (AC 87-92) and Mrs Negin Postlethwaite; David Rowlands (G 62-68); Simon Steele (FS 85-89); Roger Swales (FN 64-67) and Mrs Marjorie Swales; Don Williams (FN 61-64) and Mrs Linda Williams.

**Apologies** were received from Joe Fecitt (SH 44-48), Nigel Halfpenny



(FN 62-67), Richard Shaw (FS 61-64); Mike Brandwood (FS 61-66) and Kate, Mark and Sarah George (L/G 77-85), Stuart Lancaster (FN/AC 80-88), Rowan Atkinson (FN 68-72) and Alan Crowther (FN 55-60).

### **Formalities:**

Welcome and Introduction - Mr Darryl Davies, Branch Secretary.

Update on St Bees School - Mr Roger Sinnett, Headmaster and Laurence Gribble.

Toast to the St Beghian Society - Mr Peter Lever, President of the Society.

We then retired to the bar where some of our company managed to last until 3.00am!

Many of those who attended the dinner stayed over-night at a reduced rate which included breakfast and full use of the facilities.

Bookings are now being taken for next year. Anyone interested should contact me at [darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com](mailto:darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com).

Further information about the 2020 dinner can be seen in the next section 'Annual Dinner & Other Dates'.

**Darryl W Davies (Branch Secretary).**

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july19bulletin>.**

### **London Dinner**

The RAF Club once again played host to the London OSBs' annual dinner, which took place on 31st May 2019. Thirty-two members and guests enjoyed an excellent evening, and were delighted to welcome the Headmaster Roger Sinnett, and Lawrence Gribble, both of Full Circle, as our special guests, as well as our President, Peter Lever. The Headmaster brought us up to date with current developments at the school and the educational goals of Full Circle, and left us with a strong feeling of optimism about the future of the school. We were grateful also to Peter Lever for his account of the Society and the School Trust. The event attracted OSBs from a wide range of school years (from 1952 to 2009) and memories were shared long into the night.

**Attendees:** Roger Sinnett (Headmaster), Graeme Bagnall (SH 85-91), Tim Crossley-Smith (SH 73-78) & Trish Crossley-Smith, Richard Duffus (SH 76-83), Ewan Frost-Pennington (SH 01-08), Laurence Gribble (SH 02-09), John Hewitson (SH 52-57), Donald Jackson (SH 75-80), Einar Jorstad (SH 77-78) & Monica Jorstad, Peter Lever (President)(G 62-66) & Jane Lever, Vicky Lin (L 06-09), Rod Macleod (FN 73-79), Stephen Murray (SH 63-68) & Jill Murray, David Paul (FN 71-76) & Nadia Khan and Sonia Duggal, Gordon Peel (FN 55-59) & Yvonne Peel, Michael Pemberton (SH 57-62), Jonathan Pollock (SH 73-78), Paul Rew (FS 61-66), Nicola Shannon (G 78-85), Mark Spencer-Ellis (SH 62-66), David Stark (FN 52-57) & Pam Stark, Alan Stewart (SH 82-89), Trent Wallace (FN 73-78) & Tracey Wallace and Dacre Watson (SH 56-62).

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july19bulletin>.**

A more informal event is planned for Friday 11th October at the Samuel Pepys (Stew Lane, London EC4V 3PT) and for details of this and future OSB events in London, please contact Tim Crossley-Smith (tim.crossleysmith@gmail.com) or Nicola Shannon (nicmetcalfeshannon@gmail.com). Further information may also be seen in the next section 'Annual Dinner & Other Dates'.

## **Singapore Lunch**

The OSB Singapore lunch 2019 took place at the Singapore Cricket Club on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March.

The attendance this year was well down on the previous two years as six or seven OSBs could not attend due to work and travel commitments – however, three ex-Grindal boys were there to carry the flag: Peter Wharton, who flew in from Indonesia, Ken Davis and Duncan Merrin. An email from Peter Lever, the President of the OSBs, was circulated in which the current situation at St Bees was outlined and those present were pleased to note that the email reflected a positive outcome for the school.

As the attendees were all ex-Grindal, we were able recount tales of days gone by when we, from the other side of the tracks, beat all other houses at cricket, rugby and fives and had the honour of always providing the boy who played the Last Post - stand up Ken Davis.

We were joined by Mrs Merrin and Mrs Davis, who turned a deaf ear to our school days' tales.

All those present made a contribution towards the meal and drinks and, as planned, any excess over the meal costs was kindly sent as a donation to The St Beghian Society - this amounted to 45 pounds.

Next year it is hoped that lunch will be slightly later and is tentatively booked for **Saturday 4th April 2020.**

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july19bulletin>.**

## **Singapore – Additional Informal Evening**

A small and very informal meal took place at Fattys restaurant in Singapore on 9th May when past Society President, Dacre Watson (SH 56-62), was visiting Singapore on holiday.

Those in attendance were: Dickon Smart-Gill (SH 85-92), Philip Yuen (FS 78-82), Dacre and his wife, Ann.

The weather was hot, the Tsing-Tao beer was cold and we covered a lot of ground in discussing the school and its future.

We hope this informal supper can be repeated at about the same time in 2020 when Dacre and Ann will, once again, be in Singapore.

**Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july19bulletin>.**

## **Wasps Rugby Event - OSBs at the Ricoh Arena**

### **Saturday 9th March 2019 - Wasps v Newcastle Falcons**

I have to say that I expected to be the oldest OSB attending the social get-together of OSBs at the Ricoh Arena on 9th March and it was very gratifying to find two others there who beat me by a generation.

It was a good occasion and I would just like to thank Mark Spencer Ellis for going to the trouble of organising such a splendid day for us by extending an invitation to all OSBs to join him and his daughter, Julia, for lunch at the home of Wasps RUFC in Coventry followed by a match between Wasps and Newcastle Falcons.

As always seems to happen at such events, and even though we were to a large extent from different eras at St Bees, it was a real pleasure to see how easily everyone mingled; a common experience of education, a love of rugby and a chance to chat about times gone by and perhaps the future.

I hope there will be other such occasions organised from time to time by other Old St Beghians; having been to two now over the last six months, I can assure everyone that they are great fun and well worth attending.

Incidentally, it was a fine game and Newcastle Falcons won in the last minute by 20-19. A pleasure to watch and in such good company.

#### **A list of attendees in 'seniority':**

Steve Crossley-Smith (SH 47-52) and Pat, Robert Middleton (F 50-54) and Mary, Dacre Watson (SH 56-62), David Lord (SH 60-65), Peter Lever (G 62-66) (Current OSB President) and his son Sam, Mark Spencer Ellis (SH 62-66) and his daughter Julia, Paul Isaac (G 67-71), Paul Spencer Ellis (SH 68-73) and Jan, Joe Croasdale (FS 70-75), Tim Crossley-Smith (SH 73-78) and Trish (plus their tribe), Mark Albion (FN 77-82) and Janet.

#### **Dacre Watson (SH 56-62).**

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july19bulletin>.**

#### **Mike Clarke adds:**

Well fancy that..... a pupil from Durham School being allowed to attend an Old St Beghian reunion! I was delighted to be invited and many thanks to Mark Spencer Ellis for that and to you all for making me very welcome. What a great day and being a Wasps fan (despite coming from the North East), only slightly spoilt by the last kick of the game, although the cheers of others nearby suggest that they were well pleased with the result.

I thought the whole occasion was terrific and I have only recently recovered, having stayed-on in our excellent hospitality suite to enjoy the England game (not the last one) with Old St Beghians of my era followed by a night out for myself in Coventry (bad idea!).

When I was at Durham (1977-84), having been taught by Nigel Halfpenny OSB

when he could only have been a teenager himself, I once visited St Bees with the First XV. Although being of remarkably modest playing ability I was brought along as the mascot. I do remember the occasion well although I have no idea what the result was. Best wishes to all of you and never trust an Old Dunelmian with your tablet!

## **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, 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

WhatsApp: +44 7930 258791(Laurence Gribble).

### **Cumbria**

Following a tremendously successful Cumbria Dinner at Armathwaite Hall in May, we have decided to re-book the same time, same place next year! Hence the Cumbria Dinner will take place on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020**, at Armathwaite Hall on the shores of Bassenthwaite Lake near Keswick in the heart of the Lake District.

The cost of the dinner will be £30.00 per person - the same as last year!!

Please let your friends know, or better still, get a table of 10.

Provisional bookings (no commitment) being taken now by Darryl Davies - Darryl.davies1@bopenworld.com.

Reduced room rates for 2020 will be £150.00 per room per night for the evening of Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020, inclusive of bed and breakfast and use of facilities based on two people sharing a Club double or twin room. Room upgrades may be available but are subject to increase. Please note rooms are subject to availability.

A non-refundable deposit of £50.00 per person is required to secure a room booking, the balance settled on departure. Please contact Leeann Lennox at Armathwaite Hall directly to reserve accommodation at [leeann.lennox@armathwaite-hall.com](mailto:leeann.lennox@armathwaite-hall.com) or 017687 88909.

### **London (Informal Gathering)**

Come along to The Pepys pub/restaurant (Stew Lane, EC4V 3PT) on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019**, 6pm onwards for an informal social evening. If you fancy eating and/or drinking or even just catching up, please do call in and join us. Nicola Shannon (nee Metcalfe-Gibson)(L/G 78-85) would love to hear from you if you are interested in attending - [nicmetcalfeshannon@gmail.com](mailto:nicmetcalfeshannon@gmail.com).

## **North East**

The 2019 Dinner will be on **Wednesday 6th November 2019**, at the Northumberland Golf Club, High Gosforth Park, Newcastle, NE3 5HT. For further information please contact Bill Dove on (01274) 585147 or williamdove15@yahoo.co.uk.

## **Scotland**

If anyone is interested in a get-together in Scotland, please contact either Jerry Tsang: drjerrytsang@gmail.com or (0131) 5389703 or 0789 895 8123 or the OSB Office.

## **Singapore**

The 2020 Singapore lunch is tentatively booked for **4th April 2020**, and I would be very grateful if any OSBs in the area (or elsewhere) wishing to attend would let me know. The venue is yet to be decided but most likely the Singapore Cricket Club as in previous years. Please contact Duncan Merrin on duncan.merrin@fullcircle.biz if you are interested in attending.

## **Yorkshire**

The next 'Yorkshire Gathering' will be lunch on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>, September 2019**, at The Old Deanery Ripon. More details to follow from the Branch Secretary: Steve Crossley-Smith, Garth Cottage, Moor Park Way, Addingham, West Yorkshire, LS29 0PZ on (01943) 830640 or crossleysmith@btinternet.com.

## **The Fifth Annual Thomas Froggatt Memorial Match**

### **Egremont RUFC: Saturday 28th December 2019**

This will take place as usual at the Egremont Rugby Club and will be held on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> December, kick off 1.30 pm.

It is also hoped to have a women's Touch Rugby match starting at 12.00 on the same day.

**Please contact** Jonathon Garrod (jonathangarrod@hotmail.com) and Katherine Donaldson (kld0482@btinternet.com) respectively if you would like to play or require more information.

## **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:

Facebook Group: "Old St Beghians in Asia"

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

E-mail: OSBinAsia@gmail.com

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

### **Bristol & West:**

Dr W.S. Affleck (Bill),

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

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

### **Cumbria (South):**

N.J.V. Curry (Nick),

95 Appleby Road, Kendal, Cumbria. LA9 6HE.

Tel: (01539) 728808.

### **Cumbria (West):**

D.W. Davies (Darryl),

5 Marlborough Avenue, High Harrington, Workington,

Cumbria. CA14 4NW.

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

### **Liverpool:**

I.J. Braithwaite (Ian),

Bramble Grange, Belle Vue Lane, Guilden Sutton, Chester. CH3 7EJ.

Tel: (01244) 300565. Email: [ijb.1@virgin.net](mailto:ijb.1@virgin.net)

### **London:**

T.M. Crossley-Smith (Tim)

Tel: 0207 911 2291 or 07983 585799. Email: [tim.crossleysmith@gmail.com](mailto:tim.crossleysmith@gmail.com)

**Manchester:**

R.P. Calvin (Roy),

The Lymes, Priory Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire. WA14 3BS.

Tel: (0161) 928 9812. Email: rcalvin1@googlemail.com

**North-East:**

W.E. Dove (Bill),

3 the Rowans, Baildon, West Yorkshire. BD17 5DB.

Tel: (01274) 585147. Email: williamdove15@yahoo.co.uk

**Yorkshire:**

S. Crossley-Smith (Steve),

Garth Cottage, Moor Park Way, Addingham, West Yorks. LS29 0PZ.

Tel: (01943) 830640. Email: crossleysmith@btinternet.com

**Scotland:**

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

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

Tel: (0131) 5389703 or 07898958123. Email: drjerrytsang@gmail.com

## **Wanted! - OSB Dinners and Events Photographs**

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

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

**Please remember to take your camera and capture the memories!**

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

**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>**

## SOCIETY OFFICERS:

### President:

P. G. Lever (Peter)  
(G 62-66)

### President-Elect:

Currently Vacant

### Treasurer:

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

### Secretary:

Mrs P.J. Rumney (Pam)

### Committee:

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

### Trustees:

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

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

**The next St Beghian Society Committee Meeting - Sat 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2019**  
**The AGM and St Beghians' Day, 2019 - Saturday 28th September, 2019.**

**Copy Deadline:** As the target month for the next issue of 'The Old St Beghian' is **Jan 2020**, the Editor would be most grateful if Branch Secretaries and other contributors would let him have their notices and reports by **30<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2019**.

**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>**