



# *The Old St Beghian*

July 2024

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## **From Our Previous President Carter Croft (FN 60-65)**

My two years in office have flown by and what a privilege it has been to serve the Society, a role I never expected. I was a dormant OSB member until I returned to live in the UK in 2017. I noted an OSB lunch organised by Steve Crossley Smith (SH 47-52), then Secretary of the Yorkshire Branch, and went to the Cumbria Dinner at Armathwaite Hall, where I was hooked by David Lord (SH 60-65).

During my tenure I have tried hard to kindle enthusiasm from the OSBs of my era. That seems to have worked, since I have reconnected with many old friends, which is what old school friends are, and the passage of time makes those friendships stronger.

I had an idea, or was it a dream, to create a South Lakeland and Furness Branch. The first meet was an informal social, attracting over forty guests; this year I am going to repeat it at the Grange over Sands Golf Club on the 27<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00pm - an OSB Paul Haywood (SH 60-65) is the Chairman of the Golf Club.

I wish to thank all the Branch Secretaries for the hard work they put in to keep the regions going; you all do a great job, trying to persuade members of the benefits of school friendships and keeping in touch. One of those Secretaries was Bill Dove (FN 57-60), he was with the North East Branch for 49 years, what a brilliant job he did, unfortunately we lost him in May this year.

A host of OSBs attended the funeral of Peter John Dixon (FS 56-63) held in Embleton, along with a large number of former international rugby players; a wonderful eulogy was given by Roger Uttley.

There have been highs; firstly, the Dinners organised by Darryl Davies (FS 62-68) at Armathwaite Hall. He also runs the 200 Club raffle. Darryl has done a fantastic job, producing a meal of fine dining with wine at a minimal cost. Each year a hard core of supporters returns plus a different group which helps to increase the numbers. Indeed, our President-Elect is Darryl Davies. Over fish and chips on Flamborough Head I persuaded his wife Pat that he should be our next President and I am pleased to say he has accepted. As a former teacher at St Bees for some years, his contacts are enormous, which is so important as we need to find young people to become interested in their old school. Darryl also lives locally, which will be an advantage. I urge all OSBs to support him.

I lamented the demise of the Yorkshire Branch when Steve Crossley Smith decided to finish after so many years of service, and I asked Dick Lockwood (FS 59-64) if he would organise a small gathering at Huddersfield RUFC when they played against my old club Fylde. We were entertained to a reception, a wholesome lunch and a very good close match. He had booked two tables of six, including a number of guests that I had not seen for years as well as new friends. These small hubs are an excellent idea, I hope we can repeat this as well as adding another one of these at Sale Sharks, where I think David Cade (FS 59-64) is biting to organise one next season. I must also thank Tim McKay (FS 68-73) for organising a bespoke get together in Scotland, which David Lord attended. In addition, Cambridge sees John Braithwaite's (G 65-69) group of OSBs meeting every two months at various hostelryes.

There have also been a number of lows during my tenure, namely the cancellation of a dinner to be held at the school on St Beghians' Day 2023. We organised an interesting group of speakers from our aviators, Dacre Watson (SH 56-62) ex BA and Singapore Airlines Captain, Graeme Bagnall (SH 85-91) ex Red Arrows, Clive Milburn (F 58-63) ex private jet Pilot and Simon Curry (SH 95-01) ex RAF Tornado navigator and now BA Pilot, who were prepared to give their wisdom for nothing. But few tickets were sold, so unfortunately the function had to be cancelled.

Nicola Shannon Metcalfe (L/G 78-85) does a splendid job organising our London Social in October at the Samuel Pepys pub. We have been unlucky in that once, in 2023, this had to be postponed at short notice due to industrial action on the railways. I do hope it can go ahead this year in October. The London Branch Dinner had to be postponed, often it is a well-attended affair and I hope it can get off the ground this year.

We live in difficult times, there has been Covid as well as a cost of living crisis, but in spite of all this we must try to keep our proud Society going.

I asked David Paul (FN 71-76), a former solicitor, if he would help to produce a leaflet to explain the uses of legacies and how they could benefit the Society. Our office team has produced a leaflet, which I hope will interest former pupils who may wish to leave something to the St Beghian Society. Please do contact the office for more details.

As President I had the pleasure to work with our now ex-Headmaster, Robin Silk. He has worked hard to promote the school all over the world and has seen numbers rise. I wish him and Mrs Silk the very best and much success in his new venture in Cambodia.

I also welcome Andy Keep to the interim position of Headmaster, wishing him every success. With his extensive experience, the school will be in safe hands.

I now depart as President of the Society, and I wish to thank those who have supported me throughout my term of office. George Robson (FN 57-64) has been a particularly loyal OSB who gives his time and suggestions and ideas unstintingly, as shown by his organisation of the Priory walk and playing of the chapel organ.

And finally, the team of Pam Rumney, Tony Reeve, and of course my friend David Lord, who have all held my hand.

**Carter Croft (FN 60-65).**  
**cartertusm1946@icloud.com.**  
**07743 700 986.**

**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.

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

Calendar of Events 2024/25		
<b>2024</b>		
<b>July</b>		
<b>August</b>		
<b>September</b>	Fri 27th	South Lakes Social, Grange
<b>October</b>	Fri 18th	London Social Evening
<b>November</b>	Wed 6th	North East Lunch, Newcastle
<b>December</b>	28th TBC	Thomas Froggatt Rugby Match, Egremont RUFC, Cumbria
<b>2025</b>		
<b>January</b>		
<b>February</b>	Fri 28th	Cumbria Dinner, Nr Keswick
<b>March</b>		
<b>April</b>		
<b>May</b>	Thurs 8th	Scottish Lunch
	TBC	London Formal Dinner
<b>June</b>	Fri TBC	Founders' Day at St Bees (tbc)
	Sat TBC	St Beghians' Day at St Bees
<b>July</b>		
<b>August</b>		
<b>September</b>	TBC	South Lakes Social

<b>October</b>	TBC	London Social Evening
<b>November</b>	TBC	North East Lunch
<b>December</b>	28th TBC	Thomas Froggatt Rugby Match, Egremont RUFC, Cumbria
<b>TBC</b>	TBC	Asia - Hong Kong and Shenzhen
	TBC	Singapore Lunch

**All 2024/2025 Dinner/Event dates & information  
may be seen on the Society website  
at [www.st-beghian-society.co.uk](http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk).**

\*Please consider attending an OSB Event – We look forward to seeing you there\*

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

The next issue of ‘The Old St Beghian’ is due out in **January 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 will be interested, please do send it in.

We would love to hear from you!

The Editor would be most grateful if you would let him have your write-ups  
by the **30<sup>th</sup> November, 2024**.

## **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.

## SCHOOL NOTES

### **Robin Silk, our former Headmaster, writes:**

It is with considerable sadness that I say goodbye to St Bees. My three years at the school trying to lead the revival of this august institution have been challenging but, even more so, fulfilling. Best of all has been getting to know St Beghians, who are so obviously proud of their old school with all its idiosyncrasies and foibles. Every time I have met St Beghians I have been impressed by their camaraderie, good humour and spirit of ‘can do’.

The fascinating history behind the school, the beautiful location and the small size engendering its sense of close knit community, are some of its most endearing features, but conversely these features have made it all the more difficult to run. Its remoteness and beauty, nestled in the valley of the picturesque, friendly village of St Bees make it hugely attractive but yet so hard to recruit to, while the beautiful old buildings and exposed site means maintenance and upkeep take ingenuity and determination.

These are qualities that have fortunately been in plentiful supply and during my short stint as the Head, I was blessed with a superb leadership team of Laurence Gribble, Ceara Fisher, Vanessa Johnstone and especially Andrew Keep, who I am delighted to say has stepped seamlessly into the role as interim Headmaster before a new one is appointed for September 2025. This team, the governors (Local Advisory Committee and Trust led by Mark George) and Full Circle have ensured the school has expanded to 130 students over the last five years and will continue to grow into the future.

Sporting fixtures, trips, academic competitions and community events are up and running again, and importantly we are doing very well in all these areas, and increasingly so on the academic side that must be the school’s principal strength going forward. On that note we were delighted to receive our first Oxbridge place since reopening this year and a whole host of other excellent offers to the Russell Group and other great universities.

My highlights are manifold: most of all, just watching the students in our care develop into fine young people, who have empathy, resilience, creativity and a care for each other at their core. Personally, I enjoyed setting up and leading the Wainwright Club and doing over 60 Wainwrights with the students in the three years I led it and, most of all, organising and leading the Everest Base Camp

Expedition. The party of 24 staff, students, parents and one OSB (Richard Postlethwaite) had some considerable adventures. Not least because health and safety regulations meant it was so difficult to organise, and in true St Bees fashion and to make it financially viable, we organised the whole thing ourselves rather than going through some trekking company in the UK. Schools just don't do that anymore, but in the spirit of adventure that has always characterised St Bees School we did it despite all the challenges. My hope for everyone involved is that they will have lasting memories of this adventure that followed in the footsteps of another Old St Beghian, Tom Stobart, a renowned cameraman and filmmaker, who was the official photographer and film maker of the 1953 ascent of Everest. I am not sure whether he epitomises St Beghians, but according to Lord John Hunt's 'The Ascent of Everest', he was a great raconteur and waxed lyrical when given a moment on all his adventures, in Antarctica, India and the wider Himalaya, Australia and further afield.

As I exit stage left (or perhaps right, as I am heading so far East to set up a school in Cambodia), I would like to thank all the St Bees community for their support and good humour and I hope you all continue to support your alma mater into the future. I will be watching from afar and look forward to visiting St Bees soon- both the village and its wonderful people, and the school. I hope I will take the spirit of 'Ingredere ut proficias' with me wherever I go. Whether entering or exiting on our travels, I hope we all keep learning. All the best.

**Robin Silk**

## **St Bees School – The Hive Newsletter**

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

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

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

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

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

Please remember to take your camera and capture the memories!

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

## ST BEGHIAN SOCIETY NOTES

### St Beghian Society Annual Subscription 2023/24

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

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

**Sam Ashton (SH 47-53) wrote in with the following after the obituary in the January Bulletin.**

**William (Bill) Affleck.**

“So far, I’ve only read the obituary of Bill Affleck, always known as ‘Silas’. On School House he was the opposite of silent; He and his contemporary Eddie Holmes were frequently to be heard in animated conversation usually to do with the events of the day in the sixth form. In my book these two were the brightest guys I ever met, and very original thinkers. One quote: Eddie dashed up to Silas exclaiming ‘I’ve got the answer to that physics question set by Bog (sic) Wall: it’s a square centimetre over a square second!’

What a stroke of luck that those photos of Silas at school have survived; exactly as I remember him.”

**George Robson (FN 57-64) has contributed the following.**

**The bend in the river.**

“During the 1950s and 1960s each pupil had a decision to make: either choose to join the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) or the scout group, run single-handedly by Anthony 'Spiv' Dearle, who was known as Patrol Leader.

However, if one chose the scouts only two years maximum was allowed after which one had to transfer for the remaining years at school to the CCF. Those that chose this option therefore had little chance of being promoted within the CCF beyond at the most lance corporal.

On arrival at the school in 1957 I chose to join the scouts as the thought of being a soldier rankled me!

At the end of each summer term both the CCF and the scout troop travelled to set up camp for a full week. In 1958 the CCF went off to the HQ of the Durham Light Infantry at Brancepeth a few miles out of Durham City, whilst we scouts set forth for a field hired from a farmer at the small village of Prior Scales a few miles from Calder Bridge. There were about thirty of us.

A bus picked up our personal belongings and all the gear associated with scouts camping and of course ourselves before setting off for Prior Scales. It seemed odd that Spiv was not on the bus but chose to travel independently on his beloved motorbike. But in due course we found the reason for this!

We arrived at our destination to find Spiv already there waiting for us and the first thing we did after unloading the bus was to dig a latrine. Spiv explained how to do this and then delicately explained how to use it.

Five large tents were then erected and one smaller one for Spiv. Then duties were

allocated. Mine involved going to the nearby farm each morning for milk, eggs and the like following which I was to join the catering gang.

Each morning after breakfast we gathered around a flagpole that we had erected in the center of the camp for morning prayers, during which a union flag was unfurled. One morning when one of us stepped forward to pull the unfurling rope at this climax of the service nothing happened, for whoever had wrapped the flag had made a pig's ear of the task. All we heard from Spiv was a plaintive 'Oh!' and the unfurling was correctly achieved at the end of the service.

Spiv had produced a programme for the week which included the usual scouting activities of cross-country treks, knot tying, lighting fires, orienteering, climbing etc. One morning we all walked the mile or so to Calder Abbey where Spiv gave a talk. The facts that the abbey was founded by Ranulph de Gernon in 1142 and that it was Cistercian were completely lost on us. Our interest was more in the trout that proliferated in the section of the river that runs alongside the abbey.

One evening 'PL' Lever and his wife Molly drew up and presented us with a large box of goodies before wishing us well and returning to St Bees. Nice of them. But during that brief visit Spiv was absent for he had mysteriously driven off on his motor bike for a couple of hours as he did each evening. Much later we discovered he used these hours away from us visiting a hostelry, The Stanley Arms, in Calder Bridge because 'he liked his pint'. Maybe we should have guessed this for we already knew that Spiv habitually made the less than five minutes' walk from his room in Lonsdale Terrace to The Albert pub. And so, it eventually became clear why Spiv had travelled on his motorbike to Prior Scales independent of the rest of us!

But the highlight amongst the memories I have of the Prior Scales camping week centres around the river Calder and 'the bend in the river'. We were camped on a section of the river's bank where it curved sharply and - joy of joy - on the second day we learned that just around the corner a troop of girl guides had set up their own camp.

And less than quarter of a mile away!

This evoked our very intense interest and so Spiv's instructions to us to keep well away from the guides went straight in one ear and out of the other!

No doubt the guides' Patrol Leaders had done likewise to their charges.

We noticed that although the land between the two camps was open ground, on the opposite bank it was very different – thick bushes and dense foliage. And the river between the banks was shallow at this point in its course and easy to plodge across.

Therefore it was quite feasible for one to get across the river, move through the foliage and spy on the guides. Those of us who did this were in for a treat because apart from other intimacies the girls had put up a lengthy washing line to air-dry

their clothes and so we got an education in the styles and variety of, let's say, young ladies' undergarments!

There were rumours that some of us set up illicit one to one meetings with some of the guides but this I cannot verify. But what I can verify is that once or twice I saw suspicious movement in the bushes on the far bank which suggested the guides were as interested in us scouts as we were in them. As with the guides we too had a washing line displaying intimate apparel!

More than sixty years have passed since all of this happened and I have more than once thought about returning to the site to dwell on the memories. Maybe I will one day.

I am sure that there will be other Old Boys who have memories of CCF and Scout camps and whose recollections could feature in future editions of our Bulletins."

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july24bulletin>.**

**Peter R. D. Scott (FN 61-66) writes:**

**Video - St Bees in the 1960s.**

"I enjoyed watching Richard Taylor's 'video of St Bees in the 1960s' and can throw some light on one brief clip in the film. During the sequence covering the 1964 CCF Inspection, there is a two-second shot of a light aircraft flying overhead (at 17:54 mins in the Vimeo video).

Roger Andrews (G 61-66) was flying the plane, and I was accompanying him. Roger and I were both in the RAF section of the CCF. Roger was in training for a pilot's licence and somebody decided that he could do a fly-past during the CCF Annual Inspection. On the morning of the inspection, we took a train to Carlisle and my mother took us on to the airport, where a plane and instructor had been booked.

We flew from Carlisle to St Bees, with Roger and the instructor in the front seats and me in the back. We reached St Bees a bit later than planned, and as soon as we arrived a flare was fired from the crease which was the signal to commence the fly-past. I don't recall whether we flew round once or twice, but it was soon over and we flew back to Carlisle and returned to St Bees.

It's the only time I remember there being such a fly-past on CCF Day (not counting Gus Walker's arrival by helicopter a couple of years earlier).

'A Grand Day out'."

**David Williams (G 57-60) has written following the last Bulletin:**

"I don't think I have ever read a Bulletin with so many names I knew to one degree or another though sadly some in the obituary column. I was in the same form as Peter Dixon, and David Newlove and I think Bill Fisher was a year ahead though we were in the same dorm on Meadow. Others I remember, some of

whom I knew on Grindal are George Robson, Dacre Watson, Barry Lancaster, Chris Pellant, Tim Brown, Bill Dove, John McBryde and Hugh Redway through his brother Marcus.

Eric Middleton taught me chemistry and, with Mr Hall (physics), has given me a lifelong interest in science.

On leaving I went on to qualify as a chartered accountant working my way up the firm until we merged with BDO Binder Hamlyn, then becoming the senior partner of the Teesside offices. I stood down as a partner in 1990 to allow others to move up and I concentrated on client work with less hassle. I left them in 2003 to join the Yuill Group, which was mainly a large firm of housebuilders in the north-east, as a director. Their main housebuilding side was bought out three years later but I remain a director of the various companies left, and at the age of 80 I still find it most interesting. I have lived permanently in the Yorkshire Dales since 1982. I was a Governor of Barnard Castle School for many years and vice chair for some time.

I am always pleased to see anyone who may remember me if passing this way (Arkengarthdale)."

### **Dr F. A. (Tony) Winzor (M 84-09).**

#### **Memorial Bench Gathering at Muncaster.**

On Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> Will Winzor (SH 00-07) and his mother invited OSBs to join them for an informal get-together at Muncaster Castle to view a bench which they had commissioned in memory of Tony Winzor. The bench is located on the edge of Muncaster Castle grounds overlooking Waberthwaite and Corney Fell.

#### **Will Winzor (SH 00-07) has sent in the following:**

"I thought I'd write a quick note to express gratitude from both me and my mum for everyone who came to Muncaster last month, and to those who couldn't make it but sent such nice messages. Thanks to everyone who made the (rather precarious!) walk up to the bench – it's just up through the bluebell wood, and they were putting on a good show even in the damp. I've attached some photos of the day. Apologies for not being able to chat to everyone for as long as we wanted to – there were around fifty of us up there at one stage. It was fantastic to see so many old faces. Hopefully those who couldn't make it will be able to get up there at some stage – ideally when it's less muddy – the bench is along the Waberthwaite Crag's footpath. We must send our appreciation to Muncaster for getting it up there; it must have been a big job! Finally, thanks to all those who sent direct or indirect messages, they were very kind.

'There are only two types of science. Physics and stamp-collecting.'

The last bit is the quote we have on the bench." **Will and Catherine Winzor.**

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july24bulletin>.**

**Darryl Davies (FS 62-68/M 75-07) writes:**

"I went to Muncaster Castle to see the unveiling of a bench in memory of Tony Winzor. Short but dignified speeches were made by Katherine Winzor and Will Winzor followed by a champagne toast to FAW. It was good to see so many people in attendance from different areas of his life. Thanks to my grandson Oliver for taking the photos on a very wet but nonetheless beautiful and dignified day."

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july24bulletin>.**

**From R.J. (Rob) Lambert (F 85-91) to Will Winzor:**

"I'm so chuffed that you've commissioned a bench for your dad, and I would utterly love to be able to come to this, but I'm afraid family commitments mean that I just won't be able to make it.

However, I just wanted to get in touch to say what an amazing man your dad was. He taught me physics up to A-level at St Bees, together with excellent coaching in squash, rugby, and careers advice. I've no doubt you hear this a lot, but he was far and away the best teacher I ever had, and it's impossible to overstate the way in which he shaped my life. Due almost entirely to his teaching and encouragement I went on to study engineering and later medicine, and I - and my family - owe him an awful lot. I was very sorry to hear of his passing at the time, but hope you realise that his legacy lives on in the many hundreds of former pupils whose lives he made better.

I'm so sorry I can't make it to the get-together this weekend, but I shall make it my mission to visit the bench when I can."

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

**Nicola Shannon (nee Metcalfe-Gibson) (L/G 78-85), along with her sisters Louisa Gill (L/G 78-86), Jemma and parents, recently came back to visit the area, including St Bees and the school. Nicola writes:**

"What a special few days we had coming back to West Cumbria and going down memory lane! It was wonderful and so many memories came flooding back for all of us. We visited our old home and met up with school friends, and neighbours who were a big part of our lives. The weather was amazing. How lucky we were to grow up in such a special place. Cumbria was at its best. I can't believe my mother, who was a Governor for a while, abseiled down the chapel!" Nicola's mother Ann Metcalfe-Gibson, was a Governor at the school for around 20 years, retiring in 2008.

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july24bulletin>.**

## OBITUARIES

**Marc Peirs Adams (FN 69-75).**

**Marc's brother Nic (FN 68-71) has sent in the following.**

"During his illness last year Marc made notes about his life, and these have helped me to write the following obituary.

My brother Marc was born in 1957 in the British Military Hospital in Cyprus, during our father's posting there with the RAF. Ours was a typical forces childhood, moving between bases every two or three years, until we were both sent to Huyton Hill Prep. School, near Ambleside.

I then went on to St Bees, with Marc following me soon afterwards.

Of his time at St Bees, he writes that the main school, the rather austere red sandstone St Bees public school was altogether a different experience, from the beautiful shores of the English Lakes to the wild wind swept shores of West Cumberland and the Irish Sea. He thrived and survived with sport, fagging duties, and being canny with the system; academics were not high on his agenda. Albeit, he achieved the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award, venturing into the Lakeland fells unfettered by directing staff or masters and germinating his outdoor adventurous love of our northern fells.

He also mentions his love of sport, at which he excelled, particularly rugby, cricket, shooting, swimming and all forms of athletics.

On leaving St Bees Marc obtained a degree in zoology from the University of London. While studying there he was approached by army recruiting staff and decided to apply for a short service commission, attending the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst.

After commissioning, his first posting was as a platoon commander with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion the Kings Regiment in Osnabruck, Germany. As Marc says in his notes, 'probably the best job in the world for a young man'.

He was well suited to army life, and enjoyed the many off duty sporting pursuits, including skiing and sub-aqua diving. He also spent time in Canada and Norway. Having been promoted to captain, he left the army in 1984.

He then worked for a firm of surveyors in Yorkshire for five years but realised that he missed military life and so began a new career as an RAF officer. He had many postings, mainly in the UK, but also to Basra and the Falkland Islands. Although not an RAF pilot Marc had gained his helicopter pilot's licence privately in California.

On leaving the RAF at retirement age, Marc was able to spend some time enjoying his passion for nature and worked for the North Pennines AONB for a

while. He then joined the RAF reserve and was given a posting as a full-time member of staff in Edinburgh.

On finally retiring from the RAF, he lived with his wife Dee in Allendale, Northumberland and he describes this as being the most memorable part of his life. He was very involved in village life, being a member of the local Lions Club, and followed his many interests, from studying beetles to being a co-driver on a rally through Mongolia to raise money for charity. He enjoyed walking his two dogs in the beautiful countryside locally.

Sadly, Marc was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in late 2022 and his illness progressed very swiftly. Even so he kept up with his hobbies whenever he felt well enough and enjoyed seeing the many people who came to visit him.

He was very well known and liked in the village and there was a huge attendance at his funeral, not only from his friends locally but also many people from his years in the forces.

I read Marc's own notes on his life shortly before his funeral and I was amazed at all the things he had achieved, many of which I had not been aware of at the time. There are so many interesting anecdotes in his notes that they would probably fill several Old St Beghian Bulletins, so the above obituary is just a summary.

He had truly lived his life to the full and as he said to me, 'I have already done just about everything that I would have put on my bucket list'."

Nic has also sent in two photographs of Marc. The first is of the Foundation North shooting team. We are unsure of the date, but from the top clockwise, the pupils present are: Douglas Hamilton-Dick, Rowan Atkinson, Peter Gott and Marc Adams.

The second photograph Marc has captioned "Senior House Rugby Easter 1975" and Marc is seated in the centre, so we assume he is the captain.

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july24bulletin>.**

### **Thomas Paul Armstrong (FN 71-76).**

'Paul' died on February 24<sup>th</sup> 2024 aged 65 at his home in the USA. He was born in 1958 in Whitehaven and educated at St Bees School before going on to St Catharine's College, Cambridge, from where he graduated in 1980 with a degree in engineering.

In 1981 he went to America to join a company in Maryland called MICROS Systems and forged a career there of nearly thirty years, eventually becoming their Chief Technology Officer. During this period the company expanded massively, serving some of the largest restaurants and hotels throughout the world, and Paul's prestige was widely acknowledged as being instrumental in its success. When fifty he took a brief period of retirement and then co-founded a firm providing 'smartphone' solutions; this led in 2018 to his being recruited to

lead the product and development side of the food and beverage company, Oracle. In 2023 he was honoured by being inducted into the Retail Technology Industry's Hall of Fame. His career had been an outstanding success and a great adventure for him.

Paul was a devoted family man, fully involved with his children's activities, which included support for Liverpool football club. As an outdoor enthusiast, he loved cycling, golf, and especially anything fast-moving (especially Porches). Whatever he undertook he accomplished with verve and scrupulous attention to detail, always striving for excellence. He was also a very generous man, ever eager to help others.

In February 2023 he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, against which he fought bravely, and even spent time raising money for its charity. He died peacefully with his family around him in February 2024 after a very full life.

**David (Tilak) Paul (FN 71-76) has shared the following memories of Paul Armstrong:**

"Paul was certainly one of the 'good guys' at school. Whilst not known for any sporting achievements at St Bees, he achieved stellar success in the classroom. I vividly recall a maths lesson with David Lyall when he forewarned the class of an impending arrival next term of a pupil in our year who had achieved top marks in a scholarship exam... That was Paul Armstrong! So even before Paul had arrived at school he was heralded as someone very special.

He was incredibly bright and appeared to excel in all subjects especially the science ones. He was helpful and kind and would assist stupid and 'thicko' pupils like myself with our homework!

If there was a hifi, or plug, or speaker-system that needed to be connected, Paul was the 'go to' man for the occasion. I shared over a period of nearly five years various dormitories and studies with Paul and due to him I was introduced to 'Bryan Ferry', 'Roxy Music' and the 'Supertramp' pop group.

His father had a business importing Japanese electrical products and in the early 1970s he was the first boy I knew at school to have an electronic calculator, which resulted in Joe Croasdale from Foundation South making a foray into the hallowed and sacred Foundation North area to ask Paul for a sight of this new-fangled device.

I also remember Paul's mother speaking to my late mother on possibly a Speech Day and her driving one of those classic small BMWs with the registration plate 'ARM1'. Paul explained that the plate had been in the family for many years! The last time I saw Paul was in 1978, January I think, when he visited my room in the halls of residence in London with Howie Muir, who was an ESU student, who was at school I think in 75/76, when he was visiting another old OSB, E. Paul Tattersall (FN 71-76) who was in the same hall.

My deepest condolences to his family and friends.”

**The Abbots Court House photograph of 1976 shows Paul first left, on the back row and can be seen at <https://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/Pic%20Abbots%20Court%20House%20Photo%201976.html>.**

**William (‘Bill’) Ernest Dove (FN 57-60).**

**The following appreciation has been sent in by Amanda, Bill’s daughter, on behalf of the family, and Don Williams (F 61-64), Chairman of the OSB North East Branch.**

“We are sorry to report that our long serving Secretary to the OSB North East Branch died on 30 April 2024 in Calderdale Hospital, Halifax at the age of 80 following a short illness. He had a happy and fulfilled life, with a distinguished career in banking and financial services and made a significant contribution to the world of cricket through coaching and umpiring.

Bill was born on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1943 in Hebburn along with his twin brother Godfrey. Following time at Newcastle Preparatory School, he entered St Bees School with his brother in 1957 and left in 1960 to begin a long-serving career in banking at St Martin’s Bank (which became Barclays following a takeover in 1969). He thoroughly enjoyed his time at St Bees and left behind him a distinguished cricketing record. He played for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI team from his arrival, which was unheard of at the time, and was the regular wicket keeper for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI throughout his years at St Bees. It was a team which took many notable scalps. Bill maintained a great fondness for St Bees throughout his life. The N.E. Branch reunion meeting of the St Beghian Society in November 2024 would have seen him celebrating 50 Years Service as Secretary. In the Society this record is unique and quite special. He has looked after reunions in many different venues and with guests from St Bees School going back to Bill Fox’s time as OSB Secretary. In addition, whilst he was President of the Society, he supported meetings and annual events. Bill also assisted with the organisation of special North East Sporting Club Events, including ones at Durham County Cricket Club. All of his secretarial work contributed to the North East Branch being recognised as the most successful Members’ Branch in the Society.

In 1968 he married Marjorie and not long after he settled in Morpeth, Northumberland where he raised his son and daughter. Having climbed the career ladder at the bank he made a change and became a financial advisor for General Accident. Bill excelled at his new career and because of his friendly and helpful personality he was consistently named by General Accident as their number one mortgage advisor in the country.

A major road accident in 1997 led to his having to take early retirement. His

injury did not however hold him back and he discovered a newfound gift for painting, a talent which had lain undetected before the accident.

Bill's most impressive achievement lay in the world of cricket. Up until his accident he had continued to play cricket. On leaving school he played for Sunderland County Cricket Club, which won the Durham Senior League four years' running. He then moved to Gateshead Fell. Following his move to Northumberland, he joined Blagdon Cricket Club where he served as player, captain, coach, committee member and chairman.

But Bill wasn't just passionate about playing cricket he also wanted to instil that passion in others, and so he became a coach with the Northumberland Schools Cricket Association. Whilst he predominantly worked with young wicket keepers, he also spent time helping youngsters on the county squads. Several England internationals were beneficiaries of such help. When Bill had to give up playing following his accident such was his love for the game he qualified as an umpire so that he could still be involved. He soon progressed to umpiring for the North East Premier League, and following his move to Yorkshire, he umpired in the Bradford Premier League; only 'hanging his white coat up' for the last time just seven months before his death. He was recognised by the Northumberland Cricket Board for his services receiving an 'Outstanding Services to Cricket Award'.

As befitted his experience Bill also became an umpire trainer; actively mentoring and tutoring young umpires, some of whom went on to umpire international games. He was also involved in assessing up and coming umpires in the region and was the County Development Officer for officials for Yorkshire. Each of these roles he was still performing up until the day he died.

Bill Dove is survived by his wife, son and daughter."

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july24bulletin>.**

### **OSB Memories of Bill.**

#### **From J.D.S. (Tim) Brown (G 53-59):**

"It was very sad to hear about Bill Dove. I well remember his cricketing prowess and that of his twin brother who died at a very young age.

He has been a pillar of the North East OB organisation and will be sadly missed."

#### **From M.H. (Mark) Pearson (SH 56-61):**

"I remember him well. Often after sixty years it's difficult to recall our past school chums, but he stands out.

A great character and a credit to the North East, from whence my family came. We both played cricket together in a very successful St Bees team captained by Laxton. For my part I have just retired as President of Oxton Cricket Club (Cheshire County Cricket League) after six years."

**Richard Elgood (M 68-72).**

**David Marshall (M 66-88) has kindly submitted the following.**

“It is with great sadness, that I heard in March of the death, from leukaemia, of Richard Elgood, an exemplary teacher of English and producer of plays at the school from 1968 to 1972; and a great personal friend. This tenure may seem a brief one at a place then known for its long-stayers, but Richard’s impact was, nevertheless, enormous.

He joined the school in the January term, 1968, as a student teacher to complete the practical component of his university Diploma of Education course; then became full-time in September that same year. He and I were housed at No.11, Lonsdale Terrace - Stag Hall. So, there was the English Dept, both teachers in their giddy, mid-20s, and each with a deep love for our chosen subject. His interest in Swift and Coleridge complemented mine for Chaucer and Donne and led to much midnight oiling (and beer), and argument (and to the annoyance of the third resident of No 11).

But Richard’s main interest was the theatre and the production of plays. Born and bred in Birmingham, he had Stratford-on-Avon on his doorstep and took full advantage of that. Then, by the time he came to St Bees, modern drama and the plays of Harold Pinter dominated his attention. He would talk passionately about his works; when asked why he was not considering producing one of Pinter’s plays at the school, ‘I wouldn’t dare’ was his reply, such was his awe of the man. But glance down the list of Richard’s productions - and what followed him - and along with ‘Dr Faustus’, we had Max Frisch’s “Fire Raisers” and Heller’s “We Bombed in Newhaven”; both striking productions that helped sire an impressive number of pupils to opt for the theatrical life for their future professions. Then, Peter Broadhurst following Richard as producer, gave us “Godot”, Becket, “Black Comedy”, Schaffer P, “Ghost Sonata”, Strindberg and “R&G are Dead”, and Stoppard.

Through these, Beghian drama was in the making of a ‘Great Tradition’ of its own.

Along with his sharp intellect, Richard was a deeply emotional man. Just about everything he put his hand to, he gave a full commitment; once a production was over, then came the dismantling of the set, a job for all involved in the production. To him, this was a most depressing time, like dismantling a life, he once said. I know there were tears from a number involved, such had been the all-round commitment. I also know that his teaching did, at times, suffer, so preoccupied had he become in the play!

Richard’s extra-curricular involvement also reflected his interests and talents. Brian Howard had much to say of his tennis - if not of his singing; then, he readily took to the golf course, and was totally at home in the fells, for long

tramps and rock climbing. His opening the staff batting also had its moments. Indeed, he took to most sports and readily gave of his time for the pupils' involvement. It was hardly surprising, then, that he became a keen skier; holiday times had the two of us taking to the Alps in that lovely fast car of his; and once, rather against his will, we even made it to Venice - my turn at the wheel - on our way back from the Dolomites.

Richard was a shy man, an introvert, and this sensitivity made for a teacher who could be aware and responsive to the needs of the individual, but it did take its toll on his own emotional well-being. It was after the long summer holiday that he returned to the school, and into immediate need of medical care and a period of recuperation. He then felt obliged to submit his resignation.

It is now 52 years since Richard left St Bees, I am shocked to realise. To those who had a foot in those times, please forgive any error you may find in the above; but my grateful thanks to Chris Whitby (SH 66-70), James Mansfield (SH 71-78), Rob Mason (G 68-72) and Clive Mendus (FN 68-73), who contributed mightily. To Thomas, Richard's son and his family go our sincere condolences at this, a time of sadness and of celebration."

**Photos of Richard may be seen at the Foundation South Reunion Dinner in 2015 at <https://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/osb%20picture%20gallery/2010-19/2015/FS%20Dinner.html>.**

**Ronald Johnson (M 59-65).**

**Ronald's wife, Diane, has kindly sent in the following.**

"Ron died aged 92 on 3<sup>rd</sup> January this year in Sydney, his home for the last 56 years.

He was born in London and grew up in Reading.

Ron had a love of learning, especially modern history, in which he graduated from Oxford in 1953, following which he completed an M. Ed. at Sydney University.

He loved his job as a housemaster at St Bees, and among his activities, he took, along with other teachers, a party of students on a climbing expedition in the High Atlas mountains in Morocco.

He met his wife Diane in Paddington Sydney, an inner city heritage area fifty years ago after he had emigrated from England.

Ron wrote local history books on Paddington and helped save it as a heritage suburb (thereby helping to save it from being knocked down for high-rise buildings).

Our family grew up in Paddington and still live in the area which is now inner city.

Together we visited many countries, loved his English sense of humour, and all in all had a wonderful life!"

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july24bulletin>.**

**Darrell Farrant (M 62-65), who was a master at school at the same time as Ronald, has contributed the following.**

"Ron was a special friend among a number of delightful colleagues at St Bees and we spent quite a lot of time together as we shared a number of common interests. The special environment in Cumberland contributed to this as we would frequently spend time in the Lake District mountains in both summer and winter conditions. We were only about half an hour from many of the most splendid areas and shared a number of excellent expeditions together. We also had a common interest in music and frequently sang with the school choir, including performances with professional performers in the annual St Bees Festival. I was privileged to be asked to be an usher at Ron's first marriage and was glad that he was able to be a guest at my own wedding in Edinburgh a couple of years later. Another very special time was when Ron, Peter Croft and I drove Ron's splendid Rover 90 all the way to Greece for a three week holiday in 1964. The Rover was not always in the best of health but somehow we nursed it between us to many of the most wonderful classical locations.

We all left St Bees at the same time in 1965 and went on to different schools and universities but managed to keep regularly in touch. Peter went to be Deputy Head at St Peter's, York where he had a distinguished career, but sadly died of cancer only a year after his retirement.

Even after all these years I retain a warm affection for St Bees and have visited it several times over the years."

**Ian Nimmo (F 52-57).**

**Jonathan Nimmo, Ian's son, has sent in the following:**

"Ian Nimmo was born in Middlesbrough in 1939 and passed away on March 21, 2024, at the age of 84, surrounded by his loving family. His life was marked by warmth, generosity, and a deep love for his family.

Ian attended St Bees School from 1953 to 1957 where he was in Foundation North. Whilst there he made lifelong friends, was in touch with many and with whom he met up regularly throughout his life. It was at St Bees that he first developed a passion for the Lake District. He loved cycling to Keswick and the surrounding areas on his free days, and often talked of those adventures in later life. His love of the Lakes was passed on to his sons, Andrew and Jonathan, who both continue to visit the area frequently.

After St Bees Ian studied pharmacy in Sunderland, following in his father's

footsteps. He worked in various pharmacies before opening his own shop in Acklam, serving the community for almost forty years. He was well-loved for his kindness and willingness to help anyone in need. It was at his pharmacy that he met Audrey, who worked as a dispenser. They married and spent over forty happy years together. Ian was a devoted husband and father, proud of his two sons and adored his three grandchildren, Lexie, Mitch, and Tom. He especially enjoyed playing chess with them. A dedicated supporter of Middlesbrough FC, he loved discussing the matches with his sons and later with his grandchildren.

During his time at St Bees, Ian forged enduring bonds that lasted a lifetime. He remained close friends with many of his fellow pupils, cherishing the camaraderie and shared experiences they had cultivated together. Beyond the school walls, he continued to nurture these friendships, attending reunion dinners with unwavering enthusiasm and seizing every opportunity to reconnect with his former classmates. Gatherings with fellow alumni were not just occasions for reminiscence; they were vibrant celebrations of precious memories, enriching Ian's life with the warmth of cherished friendships that stood the test of time. Above all, Ian was known for his caring nature, always putting others before himself. He was generous with his time and gifts, and when asked what he wanted, he always said he had everything he needed. His legacy of love and kindness will live on in the hearts of all who knew him."

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july24bulletin>.**

### **T. F. (Tom) Sharp (G 44-47).**

#### **Tom's daughter Claire has kindly sent the following:**

"Tom Sharp was born on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1929 in Davyhulme, Manchester to Harold and Jenny Sharp.

At the age of thirteen his parents decided to better his prospects by Tom attending boarding school at St Bees in Cumbria. Already a keen golfer, Tom thought this was an excellent decision as, in addition to providing a solid education, St Bees School had its own golf course, where he began to perfect his game, especially his match play through various school fixtures.

On leaving St Bees, He took articles in his father, Harold's, accountancy firm and soon qualified as a chartered accountant. Tom also brought his rugby skills back to Manchester, where he played rugby at Kersal Rugby Club, and was quickly selected for the first team. The club history records that Sharp was a versatile player, fit and fast. He was later to be Captain of Kersal.

Despite his now being a chartered accountant and clearly enjoying life, he had at the back of his mind, that he would like to pursue his interest in the church and theology. He had stayed in close touch with one of the masters at St Bees who was a good golfer and who was also friendly with the President of Corpus Christi

College in Oxford, who was himself a very enthusiastic and talented golfer. The story goes that the President of Corpus was very keen to beat Cambridge in the varsity golf matches and really needed some better golf talent in his undergraduates. Tom was hence encouraged to apply to read Theology at Corpus and went to Oxford immediately on finishing his National Service in October 1954.

The President of Corpus regularly played golf with Tom, then inviting him to dine at high table to recount every shot, much to the consternation of his fellow undergraduates. Tom was a golfing Blue, played in the varsity matches and also won an oar rowing for Corpus.

He returned from Oxford to Manchester and his father's business in 1957. It was also that year that he met Shirley and they married at St Mary's Church, Davyhulme in 1959. For the first two years of their marriage, Tom studied towards ordination at Westcott House, Cambridge, however, in 1961 his father became seriously ill. Tom made the fundamental choice to come back to Manchester effectively to save the family business. He became a lay reader at St Mary's, but his career was now firmly accountancy.

Tom's was a multi-faceted approach, after all his background was not just accounting and tax but also counselling, and he just loved talking to people and finding out everything about a person. And his motivation was to help. This was his approach to life too, never judgemental and, through his true interest in people and his kindness, as well as a real sense of fun, he was an inspiration to many both personally and professionally.

From a family perspective, Tom was generous in kind and spirit and created a house full of fun, laughter and music. His three daughters, Heather, Claire and Kate, woke up every morning of their school lives with a cup of tea in bed and grew up singing along to the latest ABBA album, played on full blast on the record player. The joys he gave to his daughters were put into play again when his grandchildren, Kate, Tom, Jack and Freya arrived.

He was an advocate of education both for his daughters and his grandchildren. In the 1970s, many wouldn't have paid such credence as Tom did on educating his daughters, but he always said, 'you educate a person; you educate a generation.' Golf played such a huge role in Tom's life. He was a member of Davyhulme Park Golf Club for 76 years, where he was Senior Past Captain, Senior Past President and held the course record of 67 for forty years. Tom was a member of the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society, where he gained his first blue at Formby in 1956, winning his match 4 and 3. He captained the Hittite Golfing Society in 1978 and the Senior Golfing Society in 2003 and was a member of the Royal and Ancient Golf Society from 1981. He and Shirley played golf on senior tours throughout the world in countries such as Australia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and

many more. In his later years, he particularly enjoyed accompanying Shirley on the Jamborees when she was President of the North. At the age of 91, whilst on a family holiday in Wales, his grandsons played a round at Aberdovey Golf Club and took Tom along in a buggy. Tom wasn't the best on his feet but picked up a putter and effortlessly hit the ball a couple of inches away from the hole. Sadly, Tom's wife Shirley died unexpectedly just five weeks on from Tom's death. They are survived by their daughters Heather, Claire and Kate and grandchildren, Kate, Tom, Jack and Freya. They are all immensely proud Tom and Shirley's generosity of spirit, ready smiles, kindness, sense of fun and happiness, and that they both were such a positive impact to so many."

**Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july24bulletin>.**

**T. F. (Tom) Sharp (G 44-47).**

**From Michael Coffey (SH 59-62) (President of the OSBGS).**

"Tom Sharp was the core and essence of the Old St Beghians' Golfing Society. A gentleman in every sense of the word, he was our last link with the golden age of the Hewitt.

Having gained a 'blue' at Oxford after the war, he and Alec MacCaig were selected by the Society's founder, Brigadier General Critchley, to play in his team to represent St Bees in the Halford Hewitt. It must have been such a culture shock for Tom and Alec, fresh out of St Bees, to experience the meeting with Critch (and his batman/driver Titch!); the journey down in the fully stocked motorised caravan to the famed Guildford Hotel for the black-tie dinners; rubbing shoulders with the likes of Micklem, Longhurst, Crawley etc. He always said the memories stayed with him and showed him there was so much more to golf than the game itself.

He was a wonderful captain of all OSBGS sides. Always keen to encourage, whilst standing over a putt after putt on the practice green, he would say, 'make a four at the first'. His greatest success on the course came in 1983 when he led the St Bees side of six to victory over Wrekin in the Cyril Gray tournament.

Tom, together with Alec, was joint Secretary of the Society and later President on the death of Dick Harrison."

**Richard Hyde Taylor (FS 58-64).**

**Chris Taylor (FS 57-62) has kindly sent the following notice about his brother Richard.**

"After leaving St Bees in 1964 he studied at Manchester University contributing to student publications, where he managed to get an interview with Diana Rigg, who was appearing in Manchester at the time, a highlight in Richard's life at that

time. He graduated with a BA in English Language and Literature in 1967 and an external BA in Law and Economics from the University of London. He went on to teach English at Kimbolton School in Huntingdonshire for a year before going to the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, where he was a part-time lecturer whilst studying, gaining an MA in English class 1 in 1971.

Returning to the UK in 1971, he studied for his PhD at Edinburgh University specialising in the works of Thomas Hardy. While there he met his future wife, Pamela, and they were married in 1974 near her home in Denstone.

After leaving Edinburgh with his PhD, he was senior lecturer in English at the University of London Institute of Education at Stockwell College in Bromley, Kent from 1975-1981. Whilst there he occasionally visited the ILEA TV studios in Battersea, where in the canteen he was surprised and delighted to run into his old Headmaster, James Wykes, which developed into a firm friendship with James and his wife. It was also around this time that he met the DJ Alan ‘Fluff’ Freeman, which also resulted in a lasting friendship.

Whilst lecturing at the Schiller International University Wickham Court campus Richard met the founder, Walter Leibracht, who offered him the opportunity to become Principal of their central London campus to be set up in what had been the Royal Waterloo Hospital building on the South Bank opposite Waterloo Station.

When the London campus closed, Richard continued occasionally lecturing at the University of London but effectively retired to Malvern, where he and Pam had moved following her appointment as Principal at Newman College in Birmingham. There he was able to continue his love of gardening in their hillside home and walk on the Malvern hills.

He was responsible for three books: *The Neglected Hardy*, *The Personal Notebooks of Thomas Hardy* and *Emma Hardy’s diaries*.

He remained in contact with friends and masters from school until his death on January 15<sup>th</sup> 2024.”

### **C.D.W. (Drummond) Thorne (F 56-60).**

**Drummond’s son, Matthew, has sent the following on behalf of the family:**

“We regret to announce the passing of Charles Drummond Wilson Thorne, on 16th May 2023.

He was born Charles Drummond Wilson in Edinburgh on the 29th of June 1942. His mother was Aymee Robertson, and tragically his father, Squadron Leader Matthew Drummond Wilson, had been killed in action after a bombing raid over Essen. This all happened two months before Drummond was born. It was his

maternal grandfather, Dr Charles Robertson, who was the father figure to him then, and along with his mother and grandfather, all lived together in Bonnyrigg just outside Edinburgh.

His mother remarried when he was five to Kenneth Thorne and they relocated to Glasgow where Drummond attended boarding school at Cambusdoon, Alloway in Ayrshire.

After Cambusdoon, he then attended St Bees School as a boarder between 1956 and 1960. After leaving St Bees he went to study at the Agricultural College in Ayr, finally settling in Stirling where he worked in the Agriculture and Fisheries Department as a Head Agricultural Officer.

There he met his future wife, Marcelline, and they married on 11th September 1976. He had two sons, Matthew born in 1978 and Mark the following year. Drummonds loved his rugby and spent many years as a member of the local rugby club, Stirling County, and could regularly be found cheering Scotland on at Murrayfield.

He retired in 2003 after 40 years of service in the Agriculture and Fisheries Department, and at the time, he was one of the longest serving civil servants in Scotland.

In retirement, he was happiest in the company of his grandchildren, Marnie and Joni.

A friend to many and a true gentleman with a wonderful sense of humour, he is greatly missed by all who knew him."

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july24bulletin>.**

### **John Vidal (F 62-67).**

John died of cancer in October 2023 aged 74. Born in Accra, Ghana, after leaving St Bees School he studied English and economics at Birmingham University before moving to France where for a time he taught English as well as working as a journalist for various French newspapers. On his return to England, he continued this career with the Guardian in 1983, initially writing on the arts. He remained with the paper until 2016, becoming their authority on environmental matters, and eventually became the paper's environmental editor. The plight of the third world, whose causes he championed over many years, became very dear to him.

He was twice married.

**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)**

## Notification of Deaths (Since the January 2024 Bulletin)

<b>ARMSTRONG, T.P. (Paul)</b>	Died 24.02.24	FN 71-76
<b>DOVE, W.E. (Bill)</b>	Died 30.04.24	FN 57-60
<b>ELGOOD, R. (Richard)</b>	Died 09.03.24	M 68-72
<b>INGHAM, J.A. (John)</b>	Died 01.02.24	SH 53-58
<b>INGHAM, J.E. (John)</b>	Died 05.04.14	SH 52-56
<b>JAMISON, M.H. (Michael)</b>	Died 21.02.24	F 61-65
<b>JOHNSON, R.G. (Ronald)</b>	Died 03.01.24	M 59-65
<b>MARTIN, J.S. (Joseph)</b>	Died 22.12.23	SH 51-54
<b>NIMMO, I.D. (Ian)</b>	Died 21.03.24	F 52-57
<b>OSBORNE, P.T.H. (Patrick)</b>	Died 09.06.24	FS 53-57
<b>PLUMMER, H.L. (Henry Lynne)</b>	Died 01.06.24	G 44-48
<b>SHARP, T. F. (Tom)</b>	Died 12.04.24	G 44-47
<b>TAYLOR, R.H. (Richard)</b>	Died 15.01.24	FS 59-64
<b>THORNE, C.D.W. (Drummond)</b>	Died 16.05.23	F 56-60
<b>VIDAL, J. (John)</b>	Died 19.10.24	FN 62-67

**Thoughts!** One or two conversations on OSBs Day have prompted the Editor to say that we would welcome any reminiscences from OSBs, no matter how slight, for inclusion in the Bulletin. Most members will recall some amusing or curious incident from their years at school and which, at the very least, can be regarded as good social history if nothing more. As we all know, habits, attitudes, speech patterns change with the times. Ask a post 1970s OSB what ‘gliding’ was or what was meant by the ‘Swees’ and they would probably have no idea. I imagine a lengthy record of terms no longer in use at school (‘school slang’) could be compiled which would certainly be of value to the school archives, which leads me on to the kind gift of 1920s memorabilia which David Paul (FN 71-76) kindly presented to the Society on OSB Day.

Most of us will be familiar with the issues of the school magazine, The Pacquet, and its immediate predecessor. These are primarily items of record and the sets we hold in the archives represent a valuable source of our history. But in addition to these there have been from time to time ‘ephemeral’ magazines which have made an occasional appearance, usually during the summer term, containing matter of a much more informal nature. The titles of some of these are known, although from their very nature, the print run was very small and copies of such issues are now extremely hard to find. That is why it was a pleasure to have among David’s recent gift some copies of The Mitre, an ephemeral from the 1920s. Please don’t forget the archives if you are thinking of disposing of any memorabilia from your school years.

## 200 Club 2024



We currently have 57 members, which is sadly a large decrease from last year when we had 77!

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.

We have a total of £1546.98 in the bank. This will be £1,181.98 after the distribution of prizes in June 2024. 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.

### Winners of the June 2024 Draw:

PRIZE	No.	WINNER
<b>£200</b>	73	Derek Kaye
<b>£40</b>	57	James Brindle
<b>£40</b>	71	W. Mathison
<b>£40</b>	1	Bill Dove
<b>£40</b>	76	William Wright

**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, and also the development of the ecology pond.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 or 07970 180 751.

## OSB Day 2024

### St Beghians' Day - Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024

A cool cloudy day with intermittent rain did not dampen the enthusiasm of the OSBs and guests who attended the annual gathering.

Following the Committee Meeting, at which a new member, David Paul (FN/AC 71-76), was welcomed, the Annual General Meeting was then held in the Foundation, during the course of which the outgoing President of the Society, Carter Croft (FN 60-65), introduced his successor in the post, Darryl W. Davies (FS 62-68). The OSBs were addressed by the school's interim Headmaster, Andy Keep, who gave a detailed account of the present situation at the school and the challenges of the future.

Following the meeting, the full Minutes of which will be in the January 2025 issue, there was a service in the chapel attended by the school's boarding community and conducted by the Rev'd (Group Captain) Canon Richard Lee, who gave a witty address outlining his previous connections with the school and the need to preserve its traditional values.

This was followed by an excellent lunch in the Foundation dining-room and then an interesting, guided walk in the Priory grounds, organised by George Robson (FN 57-64), to visit the graves of the several members of the school community interred there. There was also a talk on the famous 'St Bees Man' given by a former master, Chris Robson (M 68-04), and a short organ recital by Frank Bowler. A full account of the Walk and Talk, by George, may be found on page 31. A Fives tournament took place as well after lunch, which included members of the school along with OSBs and which had been organised by John Wilkinson (FS 68-73) and Laurence Gribble (SH 02-09).

The day concluded with an 'indoor' barbecue for the OSBs and the school's boarders. Owing to the weather on the day this was held in the Foundation dining-room rather than on the terrace, but this didn't detract from the convivial conversations which ensued.

A list of those who had indicated they would be attending on the day, along with apologies for absence, can be found elsewhere in this issue.

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july24bulletin>.**

#### **THANK YOU!**

The Secretary would like to thank the anonymous OSB who kindly arranged for the presentation to her at the Committee Meeting of a 'Queen Bee' clip-on charm. It was a kind thought and much appreciated.

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july24bulletin>.**

## OSB Day - Priory Walk and Talk 2024.

Following the success of the 2023 venture, a full twelve months were spent in putting together a similar but revised version for 2024.

As last year, OSBs and partners met in the Quadrangle where George Robson (FN 57-64) introduced himself and gave a brief history of the quadrangle's features.

Before moving off to enter the Priory's grounds, sheets outlining the features to look out for in the churchyard and details of the priest and composer John Dykes were distributed. The group then crossed the road and went through the lychgate to turn right to pay respects to the village's World War One and World War Two memorial to the fallen, then onwards to view the area where plaques are laid to mark the burial of ashes.

At both the war memorial and the sites of the following single red roses were laid and a relevant photograph displayed:

Dinah Haile, who ran a 'tuck shop' next to Grindal for many years, Tony Cotes (M 59-90), Rev. Geoffrey Moule (school Chaplain) and Bill Fox (FN 35-40) (Bursar 60-80).

The party then moved towards the Priory entrance, pausing to note the graves of a student of the Theological College, Sharm Oates, who died suddenly in 1865 and whose headstone displays information about his family, also the master and founder of the school's CCF, Emil Zullig. At both sites red roses were laid and a relevant photograph displayed.

We then moved to the Priory entrance where the marvels of the ancient entrance were observed before entering the Priory and settling in the forward pews in front of a screen and projector set-up by leading resident of the village and retired physics master, Chris Robson (M 68-04). Through popular demand Mr Robson repeated the fascinating illustrated talk he had presented last year on the celebrated 'St Bees' Man', but this year extended his talk to describe features of the village in a historical context.

On the conclusion of the talk George Robson thanked Chris Robson and introduced the Priory's organist Frank Bowler. George then referred to the information on the guide sheets concerning the eminent priest and prolific composer of hymn tunes John Dykes (1823-1876). Mr Bowler then played a medley of Dykes' more famous hymn tunes followed by George explaining why it was that Dykes named one of his tunes '**St Bees**'. Then with Frank Bowler at the organ we all sang *Hark My Soul it is the Lord*, which is traditionally sung to the tune *St Bees*.

Whilst Frank Bowler played a medley of tunes on the noted Father Willis organ (1899), the group was given fifteen minutes to appreciate the features of the

Priory and the Old College Hall before leaving the Priory and continuing the tour of the churchyard.

We visited the graves of more school-related people:

Thomas (M 41-70) Brown and Mary Brown, David (52-91) and Jean Lyall, Sam (M 48-75) and Margaret Parkinson, May Dodds, who served as assistant matron on Foundation for forty-seven years and amongst much else enforced the blackout regulations during the war years.

Red roses were laid here too and again relevant photographs were displayed at each grave.

Passing through a gate we moved into the little known Community Garden, which was brought about in appreciation of the hospitality London's Mill Hill School received during the years it was evacuated to the village. The creation of the garden in 1996 was financed by the Old Millhillians Club and is maintained by the St Bees parish council. George Robson handed out a sheet describing the Priory Paddock Wildflower Garden, which also included photographs and details of a website where further information could be found.

One particularly interesting feature of the garden is what is now known as the *Monks' Laver*. This is a natural well set within a modern stone circle and which may have supplied water to monks and villagers for centuries. It still emits water of the purest quality.

Having passed through the garden we wended our way back to the school via the Dandy Walk.

It was agreed by all that Walk and Talk 2024 had been a delightful and enjoyable experience beautifully organised by George Robson. And appreciation too must be given to Frank Bowler and Chris Robson.

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july24bulletin>.**

**Following the Fives tournament on OSB Day, John Wilkinson (FS 68-73) has sent in some photos remembering fives events during his time at school.**

“The first Fives picture was taken in 1973 when we played 60 hours of fives, nonstop, between the six of us. The picture shows, from left to right, John Wilkinson, Peter Rushforth (FS 70-75), Peter Eadie (FN 69-75), Michael Chisholm (FS/AC 70-75) and Simon Johnson (FS 70-73). Richard Hird (FS 68-73) was the sixth person, but he was playing cricket at the time the picture was taken. The newspaper article details the event.

The Guinness Book of Records occasion with Martyn Sayer and myself, took place in 1975.

Both events were held at the school.”

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july24bulletin>.**

## OSB DAY ATTENDEES

The lists that follow comprise the OSBs that we know were present on OSB Day or those who advised us of their apologies in advance. Thank you to those who were able to be present and also to those who got in touch to give their apologies.

**We thank you for your support.**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Dates</b>
<b>ADAMS, N.W.</b> (Nicholas)	FN 68-71
<b>BROWN, J.D.S</b> (Tim)	G 53-59
<b>CROASDALE, J.A.</b> (Joe)	FS 70-75
<b>CROFT, R.C.</b> (Carter) and Lynda	FN 60-65
<b>CROSSLEY-SMITH, S.</b> (Steve) and Pat	SH 47-52
<b>CURRY, N.J.V.</b> (Nick)	SH 60-66
<b>DAVIES, D.W.</b> (Darryl)	FS 62-68
<b>FENWICK, R.C.</b> (Calder)	FN 69-71
<b>FISHER, B.A.</b> (Brian) and Rosemarie	FS 66-70
<b>FOX, A.P</b> (Anthony)	G 62-67
<b>GRAHAM, J.D.</b> (Julian)	SH 84-91
<b>GRIBBLE, L.J.R.</b> (Laurence)	SH 02-09
<b>HALL, R.</b> (Richard)	F 64-68
<b>HOPE, J.A.</b> (Adrian)	G 69-76
<b>JAGO, J.P.</b> (Peter)	SH 74-81
<b>LISTER, J.P.</b> (Jim)	SH 68-74
<b>LORD, D.F.</b> (David) and Fiona	SH 60-65
<b>LOWREY, T.W.</b> (Tom)	SH 57-62
<b>MYERS, G.</b> (Gary)	FS
<b>OGDEN, J.E.</b> (John)	FS 51-56
<b>PAUL, D.T.</b> (Tilak), Nancie Slone & Vashti Ragoonanan	FN/AC 71-76
<b>REEVE, A.J.H.</b> (Anthony)	M 89-08
<b>ROBSON, G.C.</b> (George)	FN 57-64
<b>THOMPSON, E.A.L.</b> (Edward)	FS 54-59
<b>WEST, J.A.</b> (John)	SH 61-64
<b>WILKINSON, J.A.</b> (John)	FS 68-73

## OSB DAY APOLOGIES

Name	Dates
<b>ARNOTT, R.I.</b> (Ian)	FS 60-65
<b>BRINDLE, J.S.</b> (James)	G 49-53
<b>CALVIN, S.J.</b> (Sara)	G 77-84
<b>CHAPMAN, I.A.</b> (Ian)	G/AC 73-80
<b>COLBECK, W.H.</b> (Bill)	FN 49-55
<b>CROSSLEY-SMITH, T.M.</b> (Tim)	SH 73-78
<b>DUNN, J.M.W.</b> (John)	FS 64-69
<b>ELLIS, J.</b> (Jeff)	SH 72-79
<b>GRANT, S.J.</b> (Stephen)	G 65-69
<b>JACQUES, J.S.</b>	FS 63-68
<b>LEVER, P.G.</b> (Peter)	G 62-66
<b>MATTHEWS, P.G.</b> (Peter)	G 50-55
<b>POWELL, B.H.</b> (Brian)	FS 50-54
<b>PRINGLE, J.M.</b> (John)	FN 46-49
<b>SHANNON, N.</b> (Nicola)	G 78-85
<b>TASSELL, J.A.C.</b> (James)	G 61-66
<b>THOMAS, K.F.</b> (Keith)	SH 71-76
<b>WATSON, D.R.</b> (Dacre)	SH 56-62
<b>WHARTON, D.L.</b> (David)	G 55-60
<b>WHITWELL, T.D.A</b> (Trevor)	FS 66-72
<b>WILLIAMS, D.H.</b> (Don)	F 61-64
<b>WITNALL, S.G.</b> (Stuart)	G 58-63
<b>WRIGHT, D.G.P.</b> (Derek)	FS 48-53
<b>WRIGHT, T.</b> (Tom)	G 11-15

**Thank You** to all the OSBs and friends who joined us for St Beghians' Day on Saturday 15th June 2024. It was a great day, and we hope to see you all next year. We would also love to see many more OSBs back at St Bees. I am sure our new President, Darryl Davies, will keep you all up to date with what we have in store over the next two years. However, if you have any ideas about what you would like to see on offer and the kind of things that would encourage you to join us for such an occasion, please do get in touch. We would love to hear from you.

**At [osb@stbeesschool.co.uk](mailto:osb@stbeesschool.co.uk) or 01946 862408 or postal address on back cover.**

## BRANCH NOTES & EVENTS

### Branch Activities:

#### **Cumbria Dinner - Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024, Armathwaite Hall, Bassenthwaite**

Another successful evening was held at Armathwaite Hall, Bassenthwaite on February 9th, 2024 for the West Cumbria Branch Dinner. Once again over sixty people were in attendance.

I say this every time, but I should like to extend my thanks once again to Simon Steele (FS 85-89), the Manager at Armathwaite Hall, and also to Leeann Lennox-Burrough, Sales and Marketing Executive, for once more making this dinner possible and for all the hard work they have put in so that this evening runs safely and smoothly. Also, our MC for the evening, Richard Sidaway, deserves a special mention for his help and meticulous attention to detail. Many thanks also to all the staff who work so tirelessly behind the scenes.

I am indebted to Pam Rumney, Secretary of the Society, who has been a great help to me in organising this dinner and who works amazingly hard throughout the year for the benefit of the Society. Pam also set up a table of memorabilia, supplied by the school archivist Tony Reeve, to display school magazines and photographs which corresponded to the years of those who were present. Once again, the magazines seemed very popular.

The evening began with a champagne reception in the Broadwater suite prior to the meal. Thanks to Miss Dee (aka Victoria Davies) (L 94-99)), for providing the music and entertaining us at the champagne reception.

After the reception we took our seats for the meal, which was of excellent quality. We were given a varied choice of starter, main course and sweet with a vegetarian option, and the presentation was superb. The excellent staff and service made it another memorable occasion.

Unfortunately, Mr Robin Silk, the Headmaster, was involved in a cycling accident and was unable to attend. This would have been Robin's last Cumbria dinner as he has taken up an appointment at King's School Vattanaacville in Cambodia, where he will serve as Founding Principal. Mr Silk, who joined the school in the summer of 2021, will be remembered for his significant contributions to the school's substantial growth, seeing student numbers 'rise exponentially'.

Andrew Keep, current Deputy Head and Head of Sixth Form, will step into the role of interim Headmaster until his own retirement in August 2025. In Mr. Silk's absence, we were delighted that Andrew was able to step into the breach and give a very comprehensive account of what's going on at the school.

We also welcomed our President, Carter Croft (FN 60-65). This is Carter's final

year as President of the Society, and I should like to thank him for the work he has put in.

**Attendees:**

**Guest** – Andrew Keep (Deputy Head).

**Officials of the Society** – Carter Croft (FN 60-65) (President) and Linda Croft, Fred Lord (SH 60-65) (Treasurer) and Fiona Lord (Staff 93-07), Darryl Davies (FS 62-68) (Cumbria Branch Secretary).

**Alumni** - Lawrance Park (SH 48-51), James Brindle (G 49-53), Tim Brown (G 53-58), Rob Collin (FN 56-62) and Mercy Collin, Michael Pemberton (SH 57-62), Tom Lowrey (57-62), Richard Lockwood (FS 59-64), Sally Hopkinson, Tim Melville (F 59-64), Paul Haywood (SH 60-65), David Ward (FN 60-65), Nick Curry (SH 60-66) and Viv Curry, Anthony Dearden (FS 62-66), Peter Whipp (G 62-68), David Rowlands (G 62-68), Tim Mackay (FS 68-73), David Paul (FN/AC 71-76) and Vashti Ragoonanan and Nancie Stone, Richard Ward (FN 74-77), Ken Rangecroft (FN 74-78), Dougal Reed (FN 75-80) and Shirley Valentine, Andy Haile (SH 76-83) and Jane Dyer (Former Staff), Roy Calvin (SH 79-83) and Sara Calvin (nee Gough) (L/G 77-84), Rob Stewart (SH 79-83) and Dymrna Stewart, Rosheen Ryan (L/G 80-82), Jonathan Steele (FS 82-87), Paul Mawson (FS 83-90), Jon Milburn (FS 83-90), Andrew Miller (SH 83-90) and Leanne Miller, Simon Steele (FS 85-89), Richard de la Riviere (AC 88-95), Amelia Warne (G/L 88-95), Alastair Lord (SH 90-95), Laurence Gribble (SH 02-09), Oscar Hendry Pickup (SH 08-15), Tom Wright (G 11-15).

**Current members of staff and partners** - David Norbury, Chloe Small and Rob Small, Corrine Alexander and Nick Gribble, Helen Bertram, Jamie Bertram, Brad Simpson and Sarah Simpson, Emma Stott.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year when the dinner will take place on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at Armathwaite Hall.

To book a place, contact Darryl at [darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com](mailto:darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com).

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july24bulletin>.**

## **Scottish Gathering.**

**Tim Mackay writes:**

"The Scottish Gathering of OSBs took place on 9th May 2024 at Scotts Restaurant in Port Edgar, close to South Queensferry. We were fortunate to be blessed with good weather, the location is spectacular, the restaurant kindly provided the OSBs with a table that looked out onto the three bridges over the river Forth. There is nowhere like it in the world, and I would recommend any OSB to come along to the next Scottish OSB gathering, which will be held on Thursday 8th May 2025 at Scotts Restaurant."

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july24bulletin>.**

## **Huddersfield RUFC Meet Up.**

**Carter Croft (FN 60-65) writes:**

“I met up with Dick Lockwood (FS 59-64) at the Armathwaite Dinner. We discussed the difficulty of the Yorkshire Branch in spite of all the hard work put in by Steve Crossley-Smith (SH 47-52), who has done a great job holding the Branch together for many years.

Dick and I decided to organise a luncheon for OSB friends at Huddersfield RUFC. Dick chose the Fylde game, as that was one of my former clubs. We had a lively pre-match beverage in the Presidential Bar, old pals catching up on the past, followed by a steak pie and dessert. Then we were bundled out to watch the match, Huddersfield having one of those seasons that one wants to forget! The home side set off very well, dominating for 60 minutes, only to see a Fylde come back using their three quarters to win the match at the death; for me a satisfactory result, enjoyed in the sunshine by all who attended.

A big thank you to Dick, who has offered to repeat this event next season.

If any OSBs would like to attend next year, please contact Pam Rumney or myself, you would be more than welcome to join us. It was a storming day out and I hope those who came will repeat the occasion.

Those who attended were: Dick Lockwood (FS 59-64), Anthony Dearden (FS 62-65), Graham Crowther (SH 58-64), David Cade (FS 59-64) and Maggie Cade, Chris Haywood (SH 60-63), Paul Haywood (SH 60-65), Rod Murray (G 58-63), David Lord (SH 60-65), Duncan Peel (SH 59-63) and Carter Croft (FN 60-65).

A big thank you to Maggie Cade for putting up with us all. I hope she will attend again.”

**Carter Croft (FN 60-65).**

## **Meet up of the St Bees School athletics team of the late 60s...**

**Bruce Murdoch, Darryl 'Daz' Davies and David 'Horsey' Hughes.**

“Brucey was a great athlete and rugby player winning the Victor Ludorum at the school sports. Horsey could both sprint and run cross country. He was the best long distance runner in the school. Daz was a hurdler and cross country runner and was captain of athletics and cross country.

Horsey and Daz meet up regularly so it was great that Brucey could join us. After coffee in the Windermere Jetty Museum, lunch was taken at the Hole in't Wall in Bowness. A great catch up for the three at Bowness-on-Windermere.”

**Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july24bulletin>.**

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

### **Asia - Hong Kong and Shenzhen.**

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

Facebook Group: "Old St Beghians in Asia"

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

E-mail: OSBinAsia@gmail.com or WhatsApp: +44 7930 258791 (Laurence).

### **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."

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 or details can be obtained via the Society office.

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

The South Cumbria and Furness Branch is holding an informal social meet at Grange over Sands Golf Club on **Friday 27th September** at 6.00pm. Please bring partners or friends if you wish. We would love to see a number of younger OSBs there, if possible, so please do put the date in your diaries and get a group of friends together to attend. There will be a bar to buy your own drinks and we are putting on food if you are interested, (the menu is steak and ale pie with garden peas and chunky chips or homemade chunky tomato and garlic pasta with garlic bread, followed by apple crumble with custard or ice cream or strawberry and cream Eton mess, all for £15pp). Please let us know before the event if you intend to come and also, if you wish to eat, your food choices, so that we can cater for the numbers.

Last year it was a success, and we hope to improve it this year, by surpassing the numbers. Please do come and join us for an informal meet-up with OSB friends. Dress code - casual - anything goes!

Please **RSVP, by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**, to Carter Croft or Pam (OSB) advising if you are interested in attending plus, if you would like to eat, your choice of food.

**Contact:** Carter Croft on tel 07743700986 or cartertusm1946@icloud.com or Pam (OSB Office) on 01946 828093 or osb@stbeesschool.co.uk.

## **West Cumbria Branch Dinner - Friday 28th February 2025, Armathwaite Hall, Nr Keswick, Cumbria.**

Armathwaite Hall, situated in 400 acres of deer park and woodland next to Bassenthwaite Lake, near Keswick is the ideal place to hold our annual re-union. Join us for a chance to meet old friends and make some new ones and enjoy a fabulous three-course dinner with coffee and tea afterwards as well as wine on the table, a champagne reception and live music.

All this for only £39.00 per person.

Why not stay overnight in one of Armathwaite's fabulous bedrooms for the heavily reduced price of £185.00 (normally £355) with full use of Spa facilities? Or even, whether you are staying or not, spoil yourself with a full pamper day in Armathwaite's luxury spa as well, including: a day package with full use of the spa's luxurious facilities from 10.00am until 2.00pm including a 55-minute face or body treatment followed by an indulgent afternoon tea in the hotel's Lake View Lounge, Monday-Friday for £145.

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july24bulletin>.**

For further information contact Darryl Davies at:

[darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com](mailto:darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com).

**\* Please see the insert included with this Bulletin for full details about the  
Dinner and also further booking information \***

## **London Dinner – May 2025, London.**

Following the London Social planned for this October we shall be organising a formal London Dinner in **May 2025**. Details will be confirmed in due course, but we intend the event to be in a similar style, location and format to previous dinners. Please do get in touch with Graeme Bagnall or Martin Birkett if you are interested in attending: Graeme ([graemebagnall@me.com](mailto:graemebagnall@me.com) or call on +44 7778 301584) or Martin ([martin.birkett@gs.com](mailto:martin.birkett@gs.com)). Further information will be available soon – please keep checking your emails, plus the Society website and Facebook pages.

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

It is planned to hold the next London Social on **Friday 18th October 2024**.

Nicola Shannon (nee Metcalfe-Gibson) (L/G 78-85) would love to hear from you if you are interested in attending the evening at The Samuel Pepys, Stew Lane, EC4V 3PT. Please contact Nicola at [nicmetcalfeshannon@gmail.com](mailto:nicmetcalfeshannon@gmail.com) or 0776 619 5468.

A lovely evening to catch up with OSBs over a drink and/or a bite to eat.

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

A date has been set, **Wednesday 6th Nov**, for the 2024 Annual North East Branch Reunion Lunch event at The Northumberland Golf Club, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne. After the tremendous success of the 2023 Lunch format, the 2024 gathering will once again start around midday, enabling more OSBs to travel to and from the event in daylight. This year would have been a special celebration for Bill Dove's 50th Year as Secretary of the North East Branch. With the sad news of Bill's passing, there will be a celebration of his life. Bill's daughter, Amanda, has kindly offered to perform the secretarial duties of her father on this occasion and will be our special guest on the day. If anyone has any special memories or stories about him, we will be pleased to hear from you. We look forward to seeing and welcoming members and guests in November 2024.

Please get in touch with Bill's daughter Amanda at:

**amandadodsworth@hotmail.co.uk** if you are interested in attending the lunch.

## **Scottish Gathering 2025.**

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-](http://www.scotts-southqueensferry.co.uk/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=google%20my%20business)

[southqueensferry.co.uk/?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=organic&utm\\_campaign=google%20my%20business](http://www.scotts-southqueensferry.co.uk/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=google%20my%20business)).

Hopefully we may look forward to 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.

## **Thomas Froggatt Memorial Rugby Match - 28th December 2024.**

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

**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>**

## **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.

# Golfing Society (OSBGS)

## Old St Beghians' Golfing Society

### The Halford Hewitt Centenary Year

St Bees was delighted once again to participate in the Halford Hewitt. This was no ordinary year for the competition, whose committee had big plans to celebrate in style for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first gathering of old boys' schools on the Kent coastline.

The celebrations began early, in January, with a black-tie dinner held at Grosvenor House, London. The special event held the annual general meeting, the draw for the upcoming 2024 tournament and speeches.

St Bees fielded a strong team of six for the evening, originally meeting at the Caledonian Club prior to the Grosvenor agenda.

**Photos of the Grosvenor House Black-Tie Dinner in January 2024 may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july24bulletin>. The team of six for the evening shows from Left to Right: Andrew Goodwin, Mike Stamper, Adrian Peckitt, Tom Wright, Charlie Crummey, and Michael Coffey. Four further photos may also be seen from the evening.**

The Tournament was held as usual in April, with the hopes of the first glimpse of summer-condition golf.

As a smaller school, we (St Bees) do well to field a team of ten every year and compete in testing matches. We are showing promise of a decent Halford Hewitt run. Our match against Cranleigh, despite our falling short, was a clear example of this. Minor changes to fortune may have resulted in a different outcome. We held our heads high, as Cranleigh went on to be Cup semi-finalists.

We, as a society, rely on spreading the word that this wonderful golfing opportunity is available for all Old St Beghians who possess a reasonable golfing talent and who are willing to test themselves against some of the best amateur golfers in the country.

Please do get in touch if you are interested or know of someone who is.

**Photos from a great evening of Halford Hewitt history may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july24bulletin>, including Ben Wilson in action and a selfie from John Currie in front of the new OSBGS Flag, made especially for the centenary celebrations.**

## Upcoming Golf Events:

St Bees will return to Edinburgh in September to play in the **QE Coronation Cup at Royal Burgess (20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024)**.

All Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july24bulletin>.

**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)

## 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.

## 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)	R. Hall (Richard) (F 64-68)
L.M. Cox (Lucy) (L 05-10)	A.D. Lord (Alastair) (SH 90-95)
D.W. Davies (Darryl) (FS 62-68)	D.T. Paul (David) FN 71-76
J.M.W. Dunn (John) (FS 64-69)	M.N. Roberts (Mark) (SH 93-95)

### 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 couple of places available on the Committee.**

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

**The next St Beghian Society Committee Meeting – November (tbc) 2024.  
The AGM and St Beghians' Day, 2025 – TBC 2025.**

**Copy Deadline:** As the target month for the next issue of 'The Old St Beghian' is **January 2025**, 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, 2024**.

**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>**