



The Old St Beghian

July 2025

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From Our President Darryl Davies (FS 62-68)

I have attended a number of OSB events this past year, starting in September when I attended a gathering at Grange-over-Sands Golf Club organised by Carter Croft (FN 60-65) and Paul Haywood (SH 60-65), designed to involve OSBs from the Barrow area.

In November I was at the North East Dinner held at Newcastle Golf Club and dedicated to the memory of Bill Dove (FN 57-60). Bill's daughter Amanda was present and she was presented with a framed 1st X1 cap in memory of Bill's outstanding fifty years of service as Secretary of the Branch.

February saw the Armathwaite Gathering where 98 people were in attendance. There was a mixture of OSBs and staff, and we were delighted to welcome Stuart Lancaster (FN/AC 80-88) the former England rugby union manager. Attendees' ages ranged from 91 to 25! As part of the evening an auction was held for an England rugby shirt signed by Marcus Smith and a winning bid of £1,000 was received.

I then made the long journey up to London for a dinner at the Civil Service Club, well organised by Martin Birkett (SH 83-90) and Graeme Bagnall (SH 85-91). Here I met many of the pupils I used to teach and also many of the U15 County Shield winning rugby team of 1987.

As President of the Society my aims are to involve more females and to get younger people involved in our proceedings if I can.

With that in mind, we have had two meetings with a small group of OSBs at the Melbreak Hotel in Workington; one in October 2024 and one in March this year. A number of ideas were put forward and we have already implemented some of them, for example, an Instagram page and the Newsletter. The first edition of the Newsletter came out in April, and another is planned for the autumn. We intend to have another meeting of the Melbreak Group later in the year. If anyone would be happy to get involved, I would love to hear from you.

St Beghians' Day this year was a great success despite the weather, and many OSBs were present. The AGM was well attended and my thanks go to Andrew Keep, the acting Head, for his presentation on the school; my thanks also to Tom Wright (G 11-15) and Adrian Peckitt (FS 72-77) for giving an informative presentation on the state of OSB golf and a call for more youngsters to use the course at the school.

After a very enjoyable lunch, which saw the Foundation Hall packed, OSBs reminisced in the salad room over the memorabilia on display or listened to music in the quad followed by a barbecue.

In conclusion I should like to give a big thank you to Pam Rumney, the Society's Secretary. I could not have managed without her this year. She is a great asset to the Society.

I am happy with my first year as President of the Society and am looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead.

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

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

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

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

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

Calendar of Events 2025/2026		
2025		
July		
August	Tuesday 12th	Cambridge Gathering The Red Lion, Grantchester
September		
October	Friday 10th	London Social , The Samuel Pepys, London EC4V 3PT
November		
December	Sat 28 th tbc	Thomas Froggatt Rugby Match , Egremont RUFC
2026		
January		
February	Friday 27th	Cumbria Dinner , Armathwaite Hall Hotel, Bassenthwaite, Nr Keswick
March		
April		
May	tbc	London Dinner , Civil Service Club, London SW1A 2HJ
June	Saturday tbc	St Beghians' Day 2026 at St Bees
TBC	Cambridge Gatherings – Various, every two months	
	Asia - Hong Kong and Shenzhen	
	Scottish Lunch	
	Singapore Lunch	

**All 2025/26 event dates & info may be seen on the Society website
at www.st-beghian-society.co.uk.**

We look forward to seeing you at an OSB event.

St Beghian Society Ideas Board

What we currently provide/offer...

- Lunches & Dinners
- Sporting Events
- St Beghians' Days
- Support the School
- Bulletin/Newsletter
- Socials & Drinks
- Golfing Society
- Communication
- Facebook
- Website

What do you like?

What don't you like?

What could we do better?

What else could we do?

New Ideas, Comments, Suggestions...

**Do you prefer
Socials/Drinks
only ?**

**Do you prefer
Formal/Informal
?**

**Do you prefer
Dinners or
Lunches ?**

**Would you like
Sporting Events
?**

**Locations:
Where would you
like to see events
taking place ?**

**Would you like
a Quiz or Music
Event ?**

**What else could we offer
?**

**Any other Comments
or Ideas ?**

St Beghian Society

We Need Your Help...

Perhaps

Be part of the Future OSB Team...

As Treasurer, Secretary, Bulletin Editor or another role...

Join an Informal occasional

Think Tank Workshop

To help with new ideas to move the Society forward for all OSBs...

Be a Future President...

To attend events, meetings, support and promote the Society etc...

Be a Committee Member...

Attend two meetings a year to help support and develop the Society...

How Could You Help ?

Organise an OSB Event...

Maybe an area Dinner, Lunch, Social, Quiz, Music, Sport...

To offer some IT Help & Advice

Re Software, database, Facebook, Instagram, Website – current/future...

Perhaps

Is there anything else you could Help us with or offer Advice on ?

Or any other suggestions and ideas you may have which could help us ?

Please let us have your Comments, Ideas & Offers

osb@stbeesschool.co.uk / 01946 828093 / or by post

SCHOOL NOTES

From the acting-Headmaster

As the 2024–25 academic year draws to a close, I want to express my thanks to the entire St Bees community - whose unwavering commitment continues to shape the success of our school. Every individual plays a crucial part in creating an environment where young people thrive, and I am immensely proud of what we have achieved together.

A major focus this year has been on academic development. With the dedication of our outstanding teaching staff - led by Mrs Johnstone and our Heads of Department - student attainment has continued to rise. Improved results, increased confidence, and record-breaking university outcomes speak volumes about the energy, talent, and commitment within our academic teams. Our founding students from 2018 now move on to top universities, marking a milestone not only for them but for the school's journey since its reopening.

We have also seen exceptional progress in maths, humanities, languages and STEM subjects. Our SEN provision, led by Mrs Bertram, has made a transformative difference to many students, ensuring they are supported and empowered to succeed. With strong systems for pastoral care and safeguarding recognised in our most recent inspection, St Bees remains a place where every student feels safe, valued, and encouraged to grow. Sport continues to flourish here, with notable achievements in volleyball, fives, squash, and badminton. The dedication of staff and coaches has created opportunities and built a thriving sporting culture.

Beyond the classroom, our appearance on the BBC's 'Villages by the Sea' in December highlighted the history and evolution of St Bees, reminding us all of the school's deep roots and ambitious future. We have a new Headmaster joining us from September 2026, bringing international experience and a strong, student-focused vision. Until then, Mr Laurence Gribble will serve as Interim Head, ensuring a smooth transition. In a challenging economic and political climate, the continued support of Full Circle, the Trust, and our Old St Beghian network has been vital. The progress made over the last seven years must not only be protected but advanced, and I have every confidence that the school will continue to flourish.

Leading St Bees has been the greatest privilege of my professional life. Thank you to the Senior Leadership Team, our students, our staff, our parents, and the OSBs. Your support has been incredible.

As I retire, I leave full of pride, gratitude, and hope for the future of this remarkable school.

Andrew Keep, Interim Headmaster.

St Bees School – The Hive Newsletter

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

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

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

OSB Newsletter

The St Beghian Society are trialling the idea of a newly proposed **OSB Newsletter** and are initially intending to produce two short, online only, Newsletters a year, in **Spring and Autumn**, to be distributed in between the current January and July issues of 'The Old St Beghian' Bulletin. These Newsletters are not intended to replace the current Bulletin, but instead, to provide accessible regular current news in a bitesize interactive format.

We hope you enjoy reading it and would welcome your comments and ideas in relation to this new initiative and its future.

If you would like to receive a copy of the new Newsletter and other online mailings in the future, please do ensure that we have your up to date email address. You can still receive a postal copy of the full Bulletin, if you wish to do so, in addition to the online mailings – please do just let us know your preferences at the time of contact.

OSB Day 2025

St Beghians' Day – Saturday, 14th June 2025

Despite a day of intermittent downpours, around seventy OSBs and guests attended the traditional gathering. The morning's business began with a meeting of the Committee followed by the Society's AGM presided over by our President Darryl Davies (FS 62-68). He began proceedings by presenting our indefatigable Secretary, Pam Rumney, with a bouquet of flowers to thank her for the great efforts she had made to organise this event. He then went on to give his Presidential review of the year. This was followed by Andrew Keep's, the Acting Headmaster's report of the year's events at school and an indication of plans for the future. The full Minutes of the AGM will be included in the January 2026 issue of the Bulletin.

There was then a presentation on the OSB Golfing Society, delivered by Tom Wright (G 11-15) and Adrian Peckitt (FS 72-77), which included an appeal for any interested OSBs to support this branch of the Society. Following questions and answers, the meeting ended and members gathered in the school Chapel for a service. We are very grateful to the Rev John Woolcock, who stood in to conduct this service at extremely short notice, and to the school's music master, Lee Shackley, for playing the organ.

Lunch was then taken in the Foundation dining room and, again in spite of the weather, this was followed by a musical entertainment in the Quad, in which the well-known Miss Dee (Vicky Davies (L 94-99)) performed as well as a local group assembled by Neil Bettinson, which played music by a Victorian music master of the school, John Rooke. Lee Shackley and a former recent student, Maddison Charlton (22-24) also contributed to the entertainment.

Also taking place after lunch was a fives tournament, organised by John Wilkinson (FS 68-73) and Laurence Gribble (SH 02-09), which included current students of the school, staff and OSBs.

Events concluded with a barbecue and the opportunity to prolong conversations and reminiscences on what had been a successful day despite the weather's best efforts to spoil it.

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

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.

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.

Name	Dates at school
ADAMS, N.W. (Nicholas)	FN 68-71
BETTINSON, Neil, Linda Taylor and Jack Hale	Music
BRAITHWAITE, J. (John) and Priscille Braithwaite	G 65-69
CHARLTON (nee Fox), L. (Leanne), Anthony Charlton and Maddison Charlton	L 94-01
CONNELL, M.D. (David)	FS 56-59
CROASDALE, J.A. (Joe)	FS 70-75
CROWTHER, A.R. (Alan) and Jonathan and Andrea	FN 55-60
DAVIES, D.W. (Darryl) and Pat Davies, Louise Harvey and Stuart Burns	FS 62-68
DAVIES, V.E. (Victoria) + 2 (The MustangZ)	L 94-99
DOWNHAM, S.A. (Stephen) and Kornelia Downham	G 61-65
EADIE, P.M. (Peter)	FN 69-75
FENWICK, R.C. (Calder)	FN 69-71
FERRINGTON, A.A. (Alan)	G 65-71
FINDLAY, J. (John) and Barbara Findlay	SH 65-69
FISHER, B.A. (Brian) and Rosemarie Fisher	FS 66-70
FOX, A.P. (Anthony)	G 62-67
GOTT, P.M. (Peter)	FN 68-73
GOW, M.J.A. (Malcolm)	SH 66-71
GRAHAM, J.D. (Julian)	SH 84-91
GRIBBLE, L.J.R. (Laurence)	SH 02-09
GRIBBLE, Nick and Corinne Alexander	Past Parents
HIRD, R.W.I. (Richard)	FS 68-73
HO, H.L.K. (Kenneth)	FS 79-82
LISTER, J.P. (Jim)	SH 68-74
LORD, D.F. (David)	SH 60-65
LOWREY, T.W. (Thomas)	SH 57-62
MACLEOD, D. (Derek)	G 59-62
MIDDLETON, R.J.L. (Robert), and Mary Middleton, Emily Dodds and Matt Telford.	FN 50-54

PTO

MYERS, G. (Gary)	FS 68-70
PAUL, D.T. (David), Vashti Ragoonanan, Nancie Slone, Philip Benn, Debbie and Prandeo Ramsumair	FN/AC 71-76
PECKITT, R.A. (Adrian)	FS 72-77
REEVE, A.J.H. (Anthony)	M 89-08
ROBINSON, M.R. (Malcolm)	SH 66-70
RUMNEY, P.J. (Pam)	OSB Sec
SWALES, R.J. (Roger) and Marjorie Swales	FN 64-67
THOMAS, K.F. (Keith)	F 71-76
THOMPSON, E.A.L. (Edward) and Philippa Atkinson	FS 54-59
TODD, A.J. (Andrew)	G 72-79
TODD (nee Leeming), C.F. (Catherine)	L 77-79
WATSON, D.R. (Dacre) and Ann Watson	SH 56-62
WEAR, T.R. (Timothy)	FN 65-70
WEST, J.A. (John)	SH 61-64
WHITBY, C.L. (Chris)	SH 66-70
WILKINSON, J.A. (John)	FS 68-73
WILLIAMS, D.H. (Don) and Linda Williams	FN 61-64
WORKMAN, P.J. (Philip)	SH 85-92
WRIGHT, T. (Tom)	G 11-15

Brian Fisher (FS 65-70) reflects on OSB Day.

“Saturday 14th June 2025 was a very special day for me because I met some old school friends I had not seen for fifty five years and it was unbelievably good value.

We met up at 10.30 and parted at 22.00 hrs, and apart from listening to some great live music in the quad, I don't think we stopped chatting, reminiscing and laughing the whole time.

I hope the same group will re-attend next year, but they may have heard enough Brian Fisher stories for one decade! So be warned, I could well be looking for some replacement old boys for 2026.

For Tim, Ricky, David, Pete, Anthony, Glenn, and many many more.
It was a fabulous day - do not miss 2026.”

OSB DAY APOLOGIES

BIRKETT , M.J. (Martin)	SH 83-90
BRINDLE , J.S. (James)	G 49-53
BROWN , J.D.S. (Tim)	G 53-59
CALVIN , R.P (Roy)	SH 79-83
CLEGG , E.P. (Peter)	SH 54-58
COLBECK , W.H. (Bill)	FN 49-55
CROFT , R.C. (Carter)	FN 60-65
CROSSLEY-SMITH , S. (Steve)	SH 47-52
DUNN , J.M.W. (John)	FS 64-69
ELSTON , D.A. (David)	FS 65-70
FERNS , M.S. (Michael)	SH 53-58
HIND , W.R. (William)	G 59-64
GILLMAN , M.J. (Michael)	SH 68-73
GODBER , R.C. (Rodney)	FS 57-62
JACQUES , J.S.	FS 63-68
JALLAND , T.W. (Tim)	FS 71-76
KIRKHAM , V.J. (Vanessa)	G 88-90
LAMONT , C.I. (Chris)	SH 92-99
LEVER , P.G. (Peter)	G 62-66
MACKAY , T.H. (Tim)	FS 68-73
MARSHALL , D.J. (David)	M 66-89
MATTHEWS , P.G. (Peter)	G 50-55
MESSINGER , F.O. (Frank)	SH 50-55
MCKAY , C.T. (Christine)	Former Parent/Gov
MOORE , C.R. (Ross)	SH 65-68
OGDEN , J.E. (John)	FS 51-56
OXLEY , T.G. (George)	SH 58-62
PILLING , D.F.M. (Derek)	G 47-52
PRINGLE , J.M. (John)	FN 46-49
REDWAY , H.W. (Hugh)	G 62-67
REW , R.J. (Robert)	FS 50-55
ROBSON , G.C. (George)	FN 57-64
ROWLANDS , D.W. (David)	G 62-65
SHERWIN , A.P. (Andrew)	SH 93-00
SLOWTHER , M.C. (Michael)	FN 71-76
TASSELL , J.A.C. (James)	G 61-66
WHARTON , D.L. (David)	G 55-60
WITHNAL , S.G. (Stuart) and Hazel Elliot	G 58-63

OSB NOTES

Sam Ashton (SH 47-53) has sent in the following:

“The recent tv documentary on Alfred Wainwright with all those views of the fells recalled memories of Sundays’ and Three Quarter Days’ expeditions from when I was a thirteen year old with a blue ticket which read ‘Wood, Barr, Ashton, & Kalflaath, Pillar via Ennerdale.’ We left our bikes at the end of the (unpaved) road then hiked up Black Sail, past that lonely Youth Hostel, then veered off to climb Pillar, and then returned. No problem.

In my father’s day they really were Three Quarter Days, lessons until mid-morning then away. He was Ben R. Ashton 1919 to 1923 and brought me up to St Bees in the summer term of 1947 to sit the common entrance exam, which was held in the ‘Arctic Circle’. As soon as I saw the school and grounds I was hooked.”

Michael Blyth (SH 56-61) sends a final report about Plas Alltran.

“The renovation of Plas Alltran, the birthplace of the Old St Beghian, John Fox Russell VC, in Holyhead, Anglesey, is now complete.

The building had been left to deteriorate for many decades. It was the home of the first GP to be established in Holyhead in the 1890s and one of his seven sons, John Fox-Russell, was sent to St Bees School, Cumberland for his education. Subsequently, Fox-Russell studied medicine and became the first of the three St Bees’ Victoria Cross winners in the First World War, when he ran out to rescue wounded soldiers at the Battle of Beersheba, Palestine, but was then machine-gunned to his death. He was only 23. What a waste!”

Link to Wikipedia - John Russell (VC) may be found here:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Russell_\(VC\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Russell_(VC))

Tenants will soon be moving into the three modern apartments of the now restored house. These apartments are specially reserved for short-term tenants who are transitioning from homelessness to permanent accommodation.

I was first moved to act by a BBC Article inspired by the UK Victorian Society published in 2021.

Link to BBC News article may be found here: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-56278894>.

Then Old St Beghian surgeon Mike Jamison (F61-65) and myself decided to start the ‘Friends of Plas Alltran’ to encourage the Local Authority not to delay or give up on its original plan to renovate this unique building.

With two others we have been running the restoration campaign for over four years. Now with our goal successfully achieved, this mini-organisation is closed.

Sad to say Mike Jamison, the much loved and respected surgeon at the Ysbyty Gwynedd Hospital died last February 2024.

If you are going in or out anytime on a Holyhead Ferry, you can see Plas Alltran standing like an ancient sentinel at the main road entrance end of the concourse for vehicles as you enter the harbour area.

I recently had confirmation that my request to have a Blue Plaque memorial for John Fox Russell VC placed on Plas Alltran front wall is being put to Anglesey County Council."

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.

From Tim Brown (G 53-59):

"Following reading this month's Bulletin, and while I'd hate to query George Robson, I seem to remember an earlier incident about the road sign. The torch symbol was replaced in the 50s whilst I was at St Bees. To add insult to injury, the girl on the new sign was leading the boy! Hence the blanked-out sign! So, I think the problem began earlier! Trivia really!

I was interested in the article by George on Josefina. I was present when the Hand of God was dedicated. I don't remember everything about that day but think it may have been when the Memorial Hall was opened (by Florence Horsburgh, Education Secretary?). I may be wrong about this.

Josefina became a near neighbour of mine in Ambleside, living in a tiny house on Peggy Hill called the Wash House (now sadly, a holiday-let). She was often seen around the village and created sculptures for a number of churches, including our Parish Church and Cartmel Priory. I think she worked also in the grounds of Rydal Hall.

She left Ambleside to stay first with Mary Birkett, who ran Abbot Hall in Kendal, at her home at Isel, near Cockermouth.

I have a feeling that the two Banner boys, whom she and her husband adopted, spent some time at St Bees but again, I may be wrong."

The repeat of 'Villages by the Sea' on tv caused Ian Crawford (FS 51-55) to write:

"You may be interested to learn that my sport at school was golf, and that I remember that on one occasion the Headmaster Mr Wykes (not a golf admirer) stood next to me on the high ninth tee when I was the Captain of Golf and asked why my long light blue stockings were round my ankles. To this I replied that it was the Captain's decision on all hot days. He ordered me to pull them up. I was not impressed!

From that tee you could easily see the Isle of Man, and for the first time in my long life we are going on a four-night holiday to the island and I will be able to

see St Bees Head easily. So I shall think of my very happy rounds of golf that I can so easily remember on the golf course.”

Letter from Andrew Green (SH 60-64):

“I read John West's article about the junior rugby house match and saw that Gunnar Bursell (SH 62-64) was in the team. This reminded me of the summer of 1964, when I left the school.

Gunnar and Kaare, (pronounced Kora) his older brother, were at St Bees together. The family were originally from Denmark, but had moved to Kenya some time previously, and they invited me to go to Kenya for the summer, which was the only time they went home each year. Luckily for me, my parents said yes, so I spent seven weeks there.

Their Granny had a place near Nairobi where she grew coffee and bananas. We then went about an hour away to a large farm of many acres, run by three members of the family. We went there twice, and also to a cottage by the beach North of Mombasa for a week.

On the way back we visited one of the Tsavo game reserves, where Mrs Bursell, a widow, had been offered a job. I think we were there for a week, all FOC.

I had passed my driving test that April and some days, Kaare, Gunnar and I would drive around the reserve, which was absolutely fascinating. One time we were nearly charged by a rhino but got away in time!

I was very lucky and still don't know why they asked me. Then it was back to earth and I began 'Timbering' in September.”

[Andrew's family were timber merchants in West Yorkshire. In their heyday, Arthur Green of Silsden had twenty-eight lorries, including subcontractors, one hundred and fifty woodfellers and thirty woodleaders with tractors pulling-out and loading.]

(The Society has no contact details for Gunnar and Kaare. If anyone has knowledge of them and can put us in touch, we would be grateful. Ed.)

Charles Hedley (FN 58-64) writes:

St Bees - revisited (2025).

“On Wednesday May 14th we three Hedley brothers (Robert, FS 50-56, David, FN 52-57, and Charles, FN 58-64) arrived at St Bees. With us were Ann (David's wife) and Gill (Charles' wife). This was in response to an invitation from Pam Rumney to have lunch in the Foundation dining room, followed by a tour of the school.

We were made so welcome by everyone: Pam, David Lord (who used to be Fred when he was at school!), Tony Reeve, and the acting Headmaster, Andrew Keep. The Foundation dining room remains the same (except – what happened to the

harmonium?), but all the rooms upstairs and downstairs have been changed to meet the needs of the school today. Big Dorm has changed beyond all recognition! Tony took us on an extensive tour including the chapel, library, swimming pool, sports hall, and he made sure that we saw everything we wanted to. Nothing seemed too much trouble for him, and he certainly went the extra mile for us.

It was a very interesting day and special thanks must go to Pam, who organised everything for us. We are so appreciative of the kindnesses shown to us by everyone during our visit. The weather was at its best, ensuring that we had a thoroughly enjoyable time back at St Bees. A memorable day indeed!"

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.

George Robson (FN 57-64) has discovered the following:

"At the start of the year, George sent in a photograph of some medals that he had spotted in an auction house in York, which belonged to OSB, Captain D. F. Neilson DSO MC (1892-1918), who entered St Bees School in 1906. Neilson has previously been written about in the July 2017 Bulletin, as part of an article regarding the inscriptions on the panels in the Foundation dining room. These were carved by pupils who had served, but who had not lived beyond, the war's end in November 1918 (See <https://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july17bulletin/Lest%20We%20Forget%20Article.html>).

Unfortunately, the items belonging to Neilson found at the York auction house had already been sold to a private purchaser, but they included Neilson's Military Cross (MC), the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) and a 'Death Penny' (i.e. a Memorial Plaque – Medallion, otherwise known as 'Dead Man's Penny' or 'Widow's Penny').

A photo of the medals can be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.

Whilst at St Bees School, amazingly Donald Francis Neilson played for the 1st XI in 1908, 1909, 1910 and 1911, a rare occurrence to be a 1st team player for so many years. A photo of the 1908 St Bees School cricket team, taken from 'The Story of St Bees (1583-1939)' may be seen at

<https://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july17bulletin/OSB%20Notes%20GR%20Foundation%20Inscriptions%201908%20Cricket%20Team.html>.

Other photos including Neilson may also be seen hanging in the Foundation Dining Room.

Captain Neilson, D.S.O. M.C. of the Lincolnshire Regiment was killed in action on 15th April 1918 in the battle for Kemmel Hill, aged 25 years."

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.

George Robson (FN 57-64) continues his articles on OSBs who fell in the First War.

“Over recent years *The Old St Beghian* has featured articles about the eight Old Boys who carved their names on the Foundation dining room panelling and later fell in action during The Great War. Coincidentally, photographs of all eight were discovered amongst the many sports’ team portraits displayed around the walls of the room.

However, the school records include other team photographs. And there is one that is particularly poignant - that of the 1908 1st X1 cricket team (also mentioned in the previous article). A photo of the 1908 St Bees School cricket team, taken from ‘The Story of St Bees (1583-1939)’ may be seen at <https://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july17bulletin/OSB%20Notes%20GR%20Foundation%20Inscriptions%201908%20Cricket%20Team.html>.

Of the twelve boys featured (and when you look at them, I think you’ll agree they are better described as *men*), seven (58.33%) were to be killed in action during the First World War. This is particularly tragic in that the overall proportion of deaths amongst British forces in the war was to be 11 %.

Of the seven only one – Donald Francis Neilson – inscribed his name on the panelling. Neilson and his impressive achievements has featured in two previous Bulletins and it is my intention over coming months to investigate the stories of the other six. I start with:

JOHN CEDRIC RAILTON (1890 - 1916).

The elder of two sons of Macclesfield stockbroker Charles Railton, the elder John entered the school in 1901. Having completed his time at St Bees he became a sharebroker’s clerk at his father’s business. But as war broke out, he answered the call and enlisted on 2nd November 1914 as part of the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS). This unit was assigned to support ground forces in France, but when it was disbanded, he received training as a pilot on a Maurice Farman biplane. His task was to patrol the coasts and waters around the UK looking for enemy ships and U-boats.

Based at Tresco in the isles of Scilly in order to guard the western approaches, his Maurice Farman bi-plane plane crashed near Gush Island in the Scillies on 9th May 1917. He drowned, as did his co-pilot Flt. Lt. R.S. Whigham.

Railton was buried in Penzance cemetery (plot R14.16.) with his headstone carrying the words from Psalm 139 that were later to be highlighted on the Vasconcellos monument that stands outside the school Memorial Hall.

*Interestingly John’s younger brother, Reid Railton, was a motor engineer who designed the car known as the Railton Special in which John Cobb broke the land speed record in 1947.”

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.

And finally from George Robson (FN 57-64):

The Penny.

“I guess every Old St Beghian has left armed with experiences and skills the school has bestowed on them.

In my case I can list amongst many others playing the church organ, knot-tying (via the scouts), tolerance of others, and exam certificates.

But it works the other way too. If I think hard enough, I can come up with things that I have over the years contributed to the school.

As my final term as a pupil was drawing to its end in 1964, I thought about all this and a quaint idea came into my head.

I had read in the newspapers that after many centuries the production of sterling pennies was to cease during 1964. With the Royal Mint holding surplus stock and the decision made to switch to decimal coinage, further production was unnecessary. So, I decided that I would leave a piece of myself in St Bees by burying a penny piece and retrieve it when I might pay a future visit to the school. To prevent moisture damage, I wrapped the coin in plastic and put it into a small tin box. But where to bury it? After coming up with a number of possible sites I plumped for St Bees Head. So, I got a ‘blue chit’ from housemaster Peter Croft and set off alone to the top of the Head. Locating an easily remembered spot and having remembered to bring a penknife, I buried the box.

I have revisited the village numerous times since 1964 and I have ensured on each visit that I have briefly exhumed the penny, which is still in pristine condition.

So, a piece of me is always at St Bees.

Incidentally - amongst the events of 1964 were:

The Daily Herald changed its name to The Sun, Harold Wilson became Prime Minister, China exploded its first atomic bomb, Canada adopted its new national flag (the maple leaf), Cassius Clay beat Sonny Liston and changed his name to Mohammad Ali, the infamous Great Train Robbery took place, Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for life on Robben Island, ‘Mary Poppins’ had its world premier, the Forth Road Bridge opened, the last judicial hangings took place in Britain, Lyndon Johnson became President of the USA, The Beatles performed in the USA for the first time,

and a chap buried a penny on St Bees Head, Cumbria (then known as Cumberland).

*By the way there were 153,294,000 1964 pennies produced so there is no profit in setting off with a metal detector to retrieve it!

**The Royal Mint then decided to delay the ending of penny production, which did not happen until 1967!”

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.

From John West (SH 61-64). Privilege Memories...

"Andy, my brother, was with me at St Bees for my first couple of terms and we were still very close then. We enjoyed each other's company. I was on Meadow for my first year and Andy was on School House. One Sunday we asked permission to go for a walk together to Gosforth. (I think we needed a blue ticket.) PL happily agreed. The School housemaster (Walters?) grilled Andy. He seemed to think he wanted to get away for a smoke. Eventually he allowed it. (My dad smoked sixty a day and took half an hour on the edge of the bed every morning coughing, neither of us has ever smoked!)

After Chapel it started to spit with rain. Andy brought an old bike 'cape' (remember them) and there was room for us both inside it. We went into Hostel corridor to don it and came out laughing at how ridiculous we must have looked. Andy turned right and we went down the 'Senior' steps - a privilege to which I was not entitled. I guess nobody noticed, but I worried all day that somebody might have seen us and reported it. How ridiculous were those privileges. Writing to Andrew Green (SH 60-64) has reminded me that I did go to an OSB Day in about 1970 with brother Andy. Andrew and David Hanson were there. At one point we were all in my car and I headed over the level crossing from the village to turn into the main gates on to the terrace, when brother Andy asked, 'Are you sure we're allowed in this way?' Andrew sighed and replied, 'I think it's a privilege!' Old habits die hard, and I slowed, but I did go through the gates!"

Trevor Whitwell (FS 66-72) and his brother Paul (FS 71-77) recently visited the school and submitted the following:

"Paul and I had not been in St Bees together since 1972, and Paul has never been back since he left in 1977.

Our visit was arranged by Pam Rumney, and we were given lunch in the Foundation dining room, accompanied by David Lord and Tony Reeve, after which Tony gave us a tour of the 'new' Foundation facilities and the rest of the school.

It was lovely to see the school in use again, albeit in a different manner from that which we experienced, but there is no doubting the staff's commitment to their pupils; seeing the interaction they have and everyone's enthusiasm for the future. St Bees School has 'risen' again and is in good hands."

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.

Photographs to enjoy...

If any new or existing OSB Members would prefer to receive the Bulletin via email in future (with lots of additional photographs to enjoy),

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

Richard Woodhead (FS 60-64) writes in connection with Mike Jamison's (F 61-65) death:

"I have just read the OSBs Notes for this month and was very sad to read from Neil Dumbleton that my old pal Mike Jamison had died. I gather from what Neil has written that he died early in 2024.

I was very good chums with Mike and indeed we shared a tent together on that first Atlas trip. I remember well an awful night when the two of us, along with some others, had to spend the night curled up under an overhang on the mountain side. Darkness had fallen and we had been unable to reach the camp that had been set up for us all and Greg Dyke felt it was safer for us to stop climbing and wait for daylight. It was a long, very cold and uncomfortable night. A more pleasant memory on the same expedition was the two of us curled up in our sleeping bags melting the red rind of Edam cheese in our tent candles and watching the red glow flickering around our chilly high altitude 'home'! Happy memories.

I have so many memories of that trip down to the Atlas mountains; memories hardwired into the grey matter even after all these years. As I said they are 'happy memories' and certainly I got a lot of life's lessons out of the whole experience."

The School Tuck Shop.

An OSB has written querying the location of the school's tuck shop, a photograph of which appeared in our recent article, and he comments: "I remember sitting inside what must have been the Tysons' shop in an old armchair, but that was up Finkle Street a little way up on the right hand side. Your recent photo is of the other shop, which was between Grindal and Finkle Street and had a frontage."

Do any OSBs have memories of the shop(s) involved and their location over the years?

Further to the photograph of the School House Junior House Team in 1963 included in the January 2025 Bulletin, Rob Astin (SH 62-66) has sent John West (SH 61-64) another photo with a further challenge to name and date the occasion and players. John thinks it is of the Senior House semi final of the same year, but he has a few questions which OSBs might like to answer if they can.

"Is this late 1963 on Wallside where K. Bursell kicked us to victory?

I can't figure out who is throwing the ball in, it would normally be the hooker, but Curry would be hooker and there he is first in line, so is it one of the props?

RCB Astin is at scrum half. 'Fred' Lord second in line. 'Jumbo' Glenday behind him. The boy with his face hidden I don't know. From the body language I would have said David Farrell, but as I think I can see him behind Forster it can't be him. Can anyone help?

I think the guy in the scrum cap is Hurst, but I can't identify the back marker.

Bill Fox would be the referee.

On the Hostel side I'm embarrassed to say that I can't remember if red hoops were North or South!

J. Roberts, hooker. David Cade scrum half but the second in the line I don't know. I recognise the third in the line's face but can't put a name to him. I think he had reddish hair which is vaguely seen in the photo. I think the one in the scrum cap is Brandwood.

That's it I'm afraid. 11/21 must try harder!"

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.

Rob was pleased to see his previous photo in the Bulletin and replied to John as follows:

"I see we made the latest edition! It will be interesting to see if there is any reaction from those in the photo.

Very sadly, I also see that Michael Jamison died last year which, for some reason, really shocked me. I can still see him, hands on hip, after scoring a try against Durham, a match I found myself involved in as TMG (T.M. Gascoigne) cried off with an illness on the morning of the game. He was a very good centre and formed an excellent partnership with the elder Bursell in the centre for the 1st XV. Makes you realise how vulnerable we all are now as we see our contemporaries fall by the wayside.

I think you have remembered a lot more than myself over the recent rugby photograph and indeed I do think it was that match that Bill Fox constantly penalised myself and Nic Curry for scrum feed infringements. It was FS who played in the red hoops, FN in dark blue hoops if I remember correctly. The only other thought I had about the players was, isn't that David 'Curly' Farrell almost at the back?"

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.

SOCIETY WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

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

www.st-beghian-society.co.uk

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

Please take time to have a look at them and **'follow'** us for up to date information and news of events and other matters that may arise in between Bulletin issues.

We would certainly welcome any comments that you may have.

SNIPPETS.....

Cambridge OSBs at Band Night...

John Braithwaite (G 65-69), organiser of the Cambridge OSB Group, and Ken Ho (FS 79-82) went along to the Elm Tree pub in Cambridge in April to see an OSB, Richard Baty (FN 64-69), play the mouth organ and sing in the Blackjack Blues Band. John says they were very popular and very good.

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.

Our President, **Darryl 'Daz' Davies (FS 62-68)** had his annual meet-up with David 'Horsey' Hughes (FS 64-68) at Windermere.

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.

Eric Middleton (M 58-69) has sent us an update on the success achieved by his latest book, 'An Inside Track to the Holy Spirit'. Although Eric's poor health had made completion of the book something of a struggle for him, he was gratified to receive a host of congratulations from his readers, many of them eminent, including Royalty. Well done to him.

David Priestley has sent in two photos he has found in his father's collection –

Michael Priestley (SH 41-45). Michael is now 97 years old.

One is a School House photo from 1945 (which has been named - handwritten) and the other a School House and Bonfire on VE Day photo.

Do the photos jog any memories?

To view the pictures, please see: <https://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/Pics2%201945.html>.

George Robson (FN 57-64) was awarded a trophy at the Blackpool Easter Hockey Festival for his services to the sport over a number of years, including the role of Festival President and Chairman, plus over sixty years of attendance at the Blackpool tournament. He took up men's hockey at university and is still heavily involved with administration. He has previously received honours for his commitment to the sport, including one from the late Queen.

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.

**All Photos mentioned within this Bulletin may be seen at
<http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.**

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

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

A Privileged Life

Recollections of Foundation House, St Bees School, in the 1960s

Peter Royds (2025)

(This is Part 1 of Peter's recollections; Part 2 will follow in the next Bulletin)

Privileges

Throughout my time at the school, from 1962 to 1967, and long before that, privileges were an interwoven feature of everyday life at St Bees. Boys who became prefects acquired a host of privileges together with a degree of personal authority which is difficult to imagine today. If you were good at sport, you were given privileges and accompanying colours and badges for all to see. Some privileges were conferred simply through progression up the school. But however you got them, privileges represented status and recognition.

Foundation – Day 1

In complete contrast, junior boys, aged 14, arriving on Foundation House after their initial year at school on a 'Waiting House' (Meadow or Eaglesfield) had no privileges and no status. They were all 'fags'. The first evening on their 'Main House' saw them lined up in the junior dayroom where the eight or so House Prefects, in order of seniority, each selected his 'private' fag for the year (three terms). The rest became 'general' fags. Throughout this process, the fags remained silent and were required to continually look deferentially at their feet. This was the start of four years on Foundation. It was a long way from home. There were perhaps 90 boys on Foundation, about twice as many as on each of the other two main houses, School House and Grindal. Foundation was nominally divided in two – North and South – but only for sports activities and because this division conveniently created four house teams when it came to 'house matches'. But essentially, Foundation North and South were administered as one house, with three housemasters.

The School

St Bees village is tucked away on the coast of Cumbria (then Cumberland). St Bees School was well known as the school with short trousers for all boys, aged 13-18, at all times. There were no day boys. It was a minor public school with a proud rugby heritage. The school was founded in 1583 by Archbishop Grindal. There was parental contact only once or twice each term if and when parents visited, and by letter. No 'phone calls unless you went up to the village 'phone box. No T.V. Most of us

were well accustomed to living without parents until the holidays, having typically already spent five years at prep. school from the age of eight. At school, everyone was called by their surname, or nickname, some friendly, some derogatory. When I now read about a contemporary or near contemporary in the OSB Bulletin, his first name can, as often as not, come as a revelation. The cleaners and catering staff were referred to as the ‘skivs’.

The Privileges Test

After their first week or so, the new arrivals on Foundation were given a privileges test – the ‘Priv Test’. You had to pass it or re-sit until you did. The test was supervised by a prefect and held in ‘Big School’, a large, tiered classroom within Foundation. This was not a trivial matter. Privileges were firmly part of the culture, as illustrated later. The test involved a lot more privileges than I now remember. It may even have included reciting the names of the 1st XV rugby team, the school’s most venerated elite.

Those in Charge

The housemasters did not concern themselves with such matters as fag selection and privilege tests.

In general, their involvement in the day-to-day house routine was not front line. The detachment was not unlike that of senior army officers, working mainly through the prefects.

They did, however, attend lunch with everyone in Foundation dining room. They later took the daily evening house assembly and prayers where they made announcements and voiced encouragement or disapproval, as required. At the end of each day, a master would accompany the two ‘duty prefects’ round all the dormitories to oversee ‘lights out’.

Operational law and order was left to the prefects. It was a lot of unsupervised authority to give to this group of 18-year-olds. Fifty years earlier, no-one would have questioned the wisdom of handing young men this level of responsibility and status in preparation for military or colonial service. The model hadn’t been adapted to life in a different era.

Routines

Each of the six or seven dormitories on the first floor had a prefect in charge of it, with two in the biggest dorm – ‘Big Dorm’. There, a prefect slept at each end of the very long, airy, almost barrack-like room with rows of iron-framed beds and white porcelain wash-hand basins down the sides. There were sentry-type clothes’ cubicles beside each bed. This was the senior dorm.

The prefects could stay up later and had a bedtime mug of Ovaltine, or similar, in the ‘Nag’s’ (matron’s) surgery. They could also get up later in the morning, except

for the two duty prefects who had to be first up again to tour the dormitories on the wake-up round.

Every house had its own matron and 'Sick Room'. Foundation also had a lady who sewed – all those woollen socks. She was a big woman and was known as 'Zep', for Zeppelin.

The private fags might run a morning bath for their prefects in the prefects' bathroom. They laid out his clothes for that day, together with the blazer they had brushed and the shoes they had polished.

House run

Next, came the pre-breakfast house run. The prefects were exempt and 'Senior Studies' were too.

All the Dayrooms, apart from 'Swees' (explanation later) lined up along the walls of the wide stone-floored corridor in Foundation which ran alongside Big School and the four studies. Starting with the junior dayroom, we filed outside through the main door beneath the clock and into the quadrangle. We jogged left down the main road, turned left again via an iron swing gate and along the pathway at the side of 'The Crease' (the 1st XV rugby and 1st XI cricket field) to the bottom of the wide flight of steps leading up to The Terrace. At the top, on each side of the steps, the ubiquitous duty prefects had stationed themselves, ready to identify dishevelled hair or clothes, dirty shoes etc. Punishments were given for a repeatedly unkempt turn-out.

More routines

The morning runners proceeded to the Foundation dining-room for breakfast. The non-duty prefects came down in their own time. No masters were present. After breakfast, it was bed-making to the prescribed standard. The weekday routine would then involve organising your books to take to classes, Chapel ('The Shed') at 8.30 am for morning prayers, three morning classes, a break back on house for drinks, a jam sandwich and change of books; two more classes, lunch, sports, two afternoon classes except on Wednesdays, tea, Prep'. Finally, the evening house assembly, with roll-call; and bed.

Meal Times

All meals on Foundation were taken in the dining-room. This was a long room with tables and benches down both sides and generations of boys' names carved into the surrounding wood panelling, above which hung team photos. It was quintessential public school and happened to be the oldest part of the school. There were two doors to the dining-room. Both were at the near end but on different sides of the room. One was the privileged door for the masters and prefects; the other was for everyone else. Down at the far end of the room was the

top table, with chairs, for the masters and prefects. They entered the dining-room by their own door and walked down the middle of the room between the silent ranks of boys standing at their bench seats. No-one sat down or spoke until the Grace had been said.

We occupied more or less the same place at table for every meal but there was a degree of displacement at lunch-time when the 'waiting house' boys ate on their 'main house'. Seating at the tables below the head table was in seniority order ending with the juniors nearest the second-class door. Everyone had a jar of jam and sugar, with name labels on them. These came out for breakfast and tea on wooden trays which were stored on racks in the wall.

Grace was said again at the end of lunch. There were versions in both English and Latin. Boys' heads remained respectfully bowed as the masters and prefects processed out again between the silent ranks, as they had entered, and towards their designated door. Everyone else filed out after them, in seniority order, and through the non-privileged door. It was a mark of enforced deference to seniority that everyone more junior kept their head bowed and eyes to the ground until it came to their turn to move off and out. 'Feet' – i.e. keep looking at them – was the command given to any head raised prematurely in the dining hall before the more senior boys had yet to pass by.

Around the school, junior boys generally whose gaze rested too long on someone more senior were liable to be told to 'turn it off'. It meant 'know your place'. Nor did any junior speak to a much older boy without being addressed first. It was 'being gassy' to speak uninvited.

Assorted privileges

As well as the Foundation dining-room, access to and from various other places about the school was regulated by privilege. Being allowed to walk across The Crease wearing ordinary shoes, rather than rugby or cricket boots, was a very elevated privilege. Other examples were walking through the main gates, opposite Barony, onto the Terrace in front of Foundation; maybe also sitting on some or all of the wooden benches along the Terrace. One of the two main entrance doors to the Chapel was a privileged door.

In Chapel, there was a service by the school's own chaplain every morning, except Wednesday when it was School Assembly in the Memorial Hall.

Attendance at morning Chapel and Assembly was mandatory, as were the Sunday morning, and also evening, services in Chapel. Holy Communion, held before breakfast, was an optional third Sunday service for boys who had received Confirmation. The school choir occasionally sang at Late Evensong in the village Priory Church, always an uplifting setting.

Watching the school 1st XV playing against visiting schools on the Crease was also obligatory, rain or shine. Cheering 'On School' was expected and not joining

in showed a lack of school spirit. Everyone stood along the Crease touchline. Wooden duck-boards were put down if the ground was soft. It was a privilege for certain boys to watch from the Terrace, with the staff. There were no football teams at St Bees. The school took a rather sniffy view of the game. ‘Gentlemen’ only played sports as unpaid amateurs in these days, not as professionals. It was a privilege to wear the school scarf without a coat. And only the Upper Sixth form could wear distinguishing white stripes on each lapel of their blazer – upper sixth stripes. There might have been privileges regarding who could use certain seats in the library, depending on their proximity to the fireplace.

Clothing and Sports Hierarchy

The school uniform, worn every day, consisted of a navy-blue blazer and shorts, lighter blue socks, and a white shirt. Ties were worn only on Sunday. It was cool to wear faded socks, handed down from previous generations. Socks were required to remain pulled up to below the knee and secured by garters. The blazer badge bore the school motto ‘Expecta Dominum’ – ‘Await the Lord.’ New kit was obtained from the school shop in Barony and Zep sewed on the name tags and badges.

Members of the 1st and 2nd XV and XI who were awarded their ‘colours’ could wear them all the time on their blazers in place of the ordinary school badge. An even higher award for first team rugby was a tasselled cap and, for cricket, a striped cricket blazer. There were also cravats. These more decorative awards were worn chiefly in team photos.

School colours and ties were also awarded for athletics, which included distance running, fives, squash, tennis and swimming. Athletics colours were not displayed on the blazer. They were sewn on a white long-sleeved athletics jersey. The Crease was marked out as a running track for Sports Day.

When the powers that be made these school team awards, they were posted on the sports notice board in the main corridor of Foundation which was a well-used thoroughfare for the whole school. This was also where the school team selection lists were put up for home and away matches – 1st teams, 2nd, 3rd, Colts, Under 15’s, the Running 8, etc. Some fixtures involved an overnight stay. Rossall School, in Fleetwood, was an overnight fixture, as was King William’s, Isle of Man, travel to which was by air.

As well as the school team awards, there were house team awards. Each House had its own distinctive award ties for excelling at senior or junior ‘house matches’. Grindal House had only the one generic house tie for both levels. There was also an award of games socks somewhere in all of this. If you hadn’t been awarded a house or athletics tie, you wore the standard school tie on a Sunday.

PHOTOS - A Cricket Team photo 1966 and a Rugby Team Photo 1965/66.

All photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.

ST BEGHIAN SOCIETY NOTES

St Beghian Society Annual Subscription 2025/26

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

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

OSB SHOP

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

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

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

Data Protection Permissions

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

Have you recently changed your address?

Have you got married recently?

Have any other personal details changed?

Have you any interesting news?

Have you told us about it?

If not, please do so now on:

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

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

OBITUARIES

Alastair's daughter Joanne has sent the following:

Alastair M. Carstairs (FN 57-62).

"My father was born in 1943 in Belo Horizonte, Brazil and lived there until he was seven years old when his parents finally returned to the UK to live in Hexham, Northumberland. He said that he spoke fluent Portuguese so it must have been strange when he was sent away to boarding school, first at Ridley Hall followed by St Bees School. We have listened to many stories over the years of his time at St Bees so this must have been a very important period in his life and shaped the man he became.

He studied Civil Engineering at Newcastle University and after graduating became a civil engineer, working around Europe and the US in the early days of his career. He eventually met my mother, Ann, while he was working in Newcastle and they were married in 1970. Then in 1974, he decided to take a job in Hong Kong working for the government, so my mother agreed as it was only a two year contract. However, they loved it so much they stayed there for 22 years and finally returned to the UK in 1996.

My father particularly enjoyed playing lawn bowls in Hong Kong and was a member of the Kowloon Bowling Green Club. He was a very active member of the club, serving on various committees over the years and acting as President before he left to return to the UK. I think he especially enjoyed it because after the game, the players would all retreat to the bar to have a few beers either to celebrate their win or commiserate!

On his return to the UK in 1996, he settled in Whickham, Gateshead and enjoyed his retirement there. However, his health started to deteriorate in 2019 when he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. My mother was able to care for him herself at home but eventually became unable to do so after dealing with her own health issues. They finally moved into a care home together in 2023, but my mother sadly passed away a few months later. His health deteriorated further and he was bedridden for the last year of his life. He passed away peacefully the evening after I had visited him - a life well lived."

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.

John Cranna has sent in the following notice regarding his late father, Robert Allister Cranna (SH 33-37).

"My father, known as Allister, was born on 5th August 1919 in Bolton and died at Epworth Grange care home, Bury on 5th November 2022. He was the youngest of four, the others were Duncan, Margot and Fergus. His father, Robert, was a GP,

who came from Aberdeenshire, as did his wife, Mary and they moved down to Bolton in 1905 to be 'where the work was'. Allister went to school in Bolton and then to St Bees School in Cumbria.

He read medicine at Manchester University during WWII and qualified in October 1944. He was appointed a House Officer at Hope Hospital, Salford for a year before entering the royal navy, but in June 1945 (between victory in Europe and victory in Japan) his father unexpectedly died at the age of 69, and the authorities deemed Allister would be better employed locally than serving "drinks in the navy"!

Thus, he was prematurely pitch forked into general practice at the age of 25. As his father had been a highly respected chairman of the Local Medical Committee (LMC), he was immediately elected on to the committee and was later chairman for three years. Even after his retirement from practice in 1987, he was co-opted back onto the LMC because of his extensive experience.

Soon after entering general practice, he became one of the youngest divisional surgeons in the St John's Ambulance Corps. He was elected secretary of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch of the BMA.

In 1946 he married a nurse he had met whilst working at Hope Hospital, Marjorie Bridge. They had three children – Chris, Jane and John.

After he had worked for three years as a single-handed GP, the NHS was born on 5th July 1948 and he was elected a founder member of the Bolton Executive Council of the NHS and he later became vice chairman. The practice now covered Astley Bridge, Bromley Cross, Egerton and Belmont Village. To cover this large area north of Astley Bridge, Allister and Marjorie bought a house, Rockfield, in Bromley Cross and converted three rooms to a consulting room and waiting rooms. He also took on Dr Andrew Fraser as a partner and for over thirty years cared for the local community with kindness, candour and a unique sense of humour.

Allister and Andrew did all their own home visits each morning and afternoon and they were also on call at night for emergencies. His approach to general practice was to listen to and understand the patient rather than to just prescribe pills. Any patient who was perturbed to leave the surgery without a prescription was told that they did not need any pills. Conversely patients would say "thank you very much for all your help", and he would reply "I've done nothing – I've listened to you, and you've been able to let go of your problems".

In 1979 Dr Moya Cole, a radiologist at Christie Hospital, Manchester opened St Ann's Hospice in Little Hulton, between Bolton and Manchester. Allister was one of five doctors who agreed to give their time voluntarily one day a week and he also visited at weekends and often to do the rounds on a Wednesday afternoon with Dr Cole. He is remembered by the staff as someone who 'gave more than

100% and was very much in tune with the philosophy of holistic care and his role even extended to dressing up as Andy Pandy in a play for the patients'!

In the mid 1980s a new medical centre was built in Bromley Cross which could handle more patients and meant more doctors served the area due to the increase in population in the area. His children had left home by then and the house was too large for himself and Marjorie. They had grown apart by then and there was an amicable separation and divorce.

Allister then moved into a bungalow near the health centre and on the day after his official retirement age, he reinstated himself, which doctors are allowed to do. He continued as a doctor at the health centre until 1987 when he was invited by one of his patients, Sheila Tyler, for coffee, with whom he later fell in love, and this precipitated his full retirement. He was Bolton's longest serving GP having worked for 42 years. They married in 1990 and lived together happily in Smith Lane – they were very suited for each other and enjoyed both local trips and frequent holidays abroad. When they were unable to live independently, they both moved together to be cared for at Epworth Grange home, Bury. Sheila died in 2019 very peacefully in her sleep in very much the same way that Allister died three years later.

Allister was a keen Freemason going to the local lodge, St John's 221 in Bolton every Month, but he gained more spiritual guidance from the Lodge of Living Stones in Leeds, which he visited every month from the 1970s travelling over the Pennines and back in a day and did so into his 90s – then going by local transport which was even more of a challenge. He was a founder member of the Rotary Club of Turton and was later elected a life member.

Allister had few hobbies as such but did some rally driving with the Bolton le Moors car club and the family would go to car gymkhanas, would add improvements to the many Mini cars he owned (they were ideal for travelling around the back streets of Bolton and parking in tight spots) and when he retired, he became a member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists.

He is survived by his three children, five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.”

Willie Jones (M 56-59).

We have been informed that Mr Jones died at his home in Japan on 1st May. The following notes were submitted some time ago by Mr Jones himself about his life and are here reproduced for the first time.

“St Bees was my first teaching post and for my last two terms I was Head of English, succeeding Paul Williams, and housemaster of Foundation South, again succeeding Paul, at a time when such a doubling up was possible. I moved from St Bees to be Head of English at Shrewsbury, where I stayed for seventeen years.

After a year at Edinburgh, where I took an MSc in Applied Linguistics, I was appointed by the British Council in London to take up a post at Hokkaido University, at that time one of Japan's six national universities (they have all subsequently become private). I retired from Hokkaido University eleven years ago, and was, on my retirement, elected by my colleagues Professor Emeritus, the only foreign teacher so far to have been thus honoured. I mention it for the record, although to do so probably sounds a little like vain-glory: one shouldn't speak of it, I know. My last post was as Professor of English Rhetoric at Sapporo University, a post created for me.

As for whatever future is left, that may not be too different from what has gone before, as long as my health holds up. I shall have the same number of classes as for the last two years, a Shakespeare Seminar and perhaps two Writing Classes, but organised on a private basis. And now that the upheavals of the last few months are over, I am hoping that I may be able to settle into a rhythm of writing, reading and teaching, a selfish dream, perhaps, but I hope forgivable. As for my health, I am, thanks to a reduced diet and the maximum dose of warfarin, in better shape than for years, and am feeling not only fitter, but younger, too."

Sam Ashton (SH 47-53) has sent in the following.

Edward 'Ted' Percy (FS 51-56).

"In yesteryear Ted's family, the Percy's and my mother's family the Knowles', must have had a close acquaintance in north Cheshire cafe society, thus I was told to look out for him when he came to St Bees, Eaglesfield House, to begin his time at the school. Ted remembered my somewhat gruff greeting: 'Anyone here called Percy'?"

Being four years his senior at that time at St Bees was an unbridgeable gulf, senior boys simply did not mentor juniors, and we were on different houses. Details of his time at St Bees are sparse but he did win a scholarship to one of the Cambridge colleges and there got a degree in Natural Sciences, and whilst there got involved in amateur dramatics, which he greatly enjoyed. He then went to St Thomas' hospital to begin training to be a doctor. He did his gynaecology training then decided that doctoring was not for him. But whilst at St Thomas he met Art Themen, consultant by day, alto saxophonist by night, and not just any saxophonist but a member of Stan Tracey's Quartet. Ted stayed on in London for a while thoroughly immersing himself in the jazz scene.

His next move was back home to Cheshire to help nurse his mother, who had cancer, and when she died he went out to California to visit his sister and brother in law.

Back in England he decided he wanted to be a librarian and went to Manchester Polytechnic to do the two year-practical course. Having completed that, his first

job was with Lancashire County Council at their newly built library in Morecambe, and there he met his wife Barbara, to whom I'm indebted for much of the content of this account of Ted's life, and to whom he was married for fifty six years; he died on 30th January 2025.

His career as a librarian ran from 1969 until 1993 when he took early retirement. The role of a children's and school's Librarian is to look after children's and teachers' book-needs in public libraries and schools, and this gives scope for other things such as story times, holiday reading, and encouraging children, parents, and carers reading for fun, for learning and for enjoying themselves.

Having got to know Ted in the latter half of his life I'm sure he did all these things with zest and good humour; he was quite the extrovert.

He and Barbara then moved north, first to a house in the Scottish Borders with two fields and a wood, and then to Forres, Morayshire.

Wherever they lived Ted sought out and got involved in the jazz scene, including playing his tenor sax with whomever and whenever he could, and went to jazz festivals nationwide, including Appleby where I met him one July in the late 1980s, and Southport, where we twice met.

When he and Barbara were living near the Grand Union Canal he raised funds for the Milton Keynes Narrowboat Trust by doing long sponsored walks, including parties of children for sections; I discovered that among the jazz fraternity he was, and remains known with some affection as 'Towpath Ted'.

Whilst living in the Scottish Borders he and two friends started the Borders Festival of Jazz and Blues in Hawick, which ran for ten years.

In addition to all the above he and Barbara wherever they lived were enthusiastic gardeners, she growing the flowers, he the vegetables. He was also an avid quiz goer and now and again went on cycling trips in Cumbria, Scotland, and Belgium, where he especially enjoyed the beer. He lived a very full and busy life.

When in 1996 I discovered the 'Appleby scene' I did not recognise Ted, but he had a high profile: large, bearded and, once refreshed by the sponsor's beer, eccentricities appeared, for example leading a conga round the interior of the marquee. I was quite astonished when he recognised me from seeing my name on a list of 'Friends of Appleby Jazz'. Thereafter we hung out together annually until 2007 when, on a Sunday evening, well known musician Alan Barnes announced from the bandstand that not only had Northern Arts stopped their grant but also that Jennings brewery had sold out and the new owners were not interested in continuing their sponsorship. Alan then said a collection would be made to plug the financial hole and started it off with a tanner. No prizes for guessing who came round with the bucket and who collected £2,000 within ten minutes.

Postscript. I was in awe of this top rank of jazz musicians, but Ted introduced me to many, and when in 2009 I saw an opportunity to start my own modest scene

here in Hornby, the introductions made by Ted were a great help. At one of our first performances, in April 2010, featuring Alan Barnes (reeds) and David Newton (piano) we had a mini OSB gathering, Ted came to stay as did Barry Saunders, and from nearby, James Brindle came, and as I write `Jazz in Hornby` continues.”

We thank Colin’s daughter Dinah and his brother Gavin for the following:

Canon Colin Reid (F43-49).

“Colin Reid left St Bees with three passions - rugby, singing and a deep love for Cumbria. While born in Scotland with a family that moved to London, his schooldays made him an instinctive Cumbrian. On ordination he served his first curacy in Kendal and his first ‘living’ as Rector of Caldbeck and Castle Sowerby - and there he stayed until his retirement in 1993. His rugby days behind him, Colin became an avid fell-walker, his main recreation. During his long rural ministry he befriended and admired the sheep farmers of the fells, whether they came to church or not. He trained a lay team to help maintain regular services in what became his three parish benefices, which led to quiet but steady growth in attendances. He, his Yorkshire wife Josephine, and four children entered fully into village life in such areas as the bowls club and local dramatics - which revealed his natural comedic streak. The family became well known as a folk-singing group and Colin won the folk singing class at Carlisle Music Festival more than once - which would have pleased his Carlisle born grandfather, who led choirs in the city and Festival. A man who had to battle with depression in the loneliness of much rural ministry, Colin became a valued counsellor to other clergy who faced the same stresses. His burial service took place in his beloved Caldbeck Church and, in spite of the fact that he had left the parish over thirty years previously, over 200 people turned up to say goodbye.”

Photos of Colin as captain of the rugby team at St Bees (in the centre of each holding the ball), along with one of him and his younger brother Gavin, who wrote the piece, plus one of Colin on his 90th birthday, which was celebrated at the Kirkstile Inn, one his favourite haunts, **may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.**

Sam Ashton (SH 47-53) has submitted the following:

Thomas Fergus Robley (SH 48-51).

“Thomas was born on 28th June 1935 at Beckermest and came to St Bees just after the start of the spring term of 1948.

By his own admission he was no scholar, but did pass an unspecified number of subjects. However, he excelled in rugby, boxing, and squash.

Like all boys of his generation, he was called up for two years' national service, which he did in the army with his local regiment, the Border Regiment. After basic training he was selected as an officer cadet and trained at Eaton Hall. Thereafter he served in two theatres with the Borders, in Egypt and in Germany. After leaving the army Tom went to the Public Schools Appointment Bureau for some careers advice and they put him forward as a possible candidate to work with Brook Bond in East Africa, but first he would have to work on a farm in Sparsholt, Hants, for six months.

In 1955 he first met Mary Tombling and then again in 1956 after he had successfully completed the six month trial and was posted to Mufindi in Tanganyika/Tanzania. He communicated regularly by writing, as home leave was every three years for six months. He got engaged by post and recruited me as his Best Man by the same means. Their marriage was in Shrewsbury in 1960 with the service conducted by Mary's brother John. In January 1965 daughter Angela was born at Iringa hospital and their son Fergus at Kitale in 1966.

In Tanganyika/Tanzania Tom started his career as a tea planter in the position of estate manager, then became a factory manager progressing to technical director. During his time in Tanganyika/Tanzania he founded and was chairman of the Mufindi Rugby Football Club and was co-founder and captain of the Scorpions rugby team, which was Tanganyika's unofficial touring team until 1974 when the invitation team became an East Africa Team based in Nairobi, Kenya.

In 1974 Tom was posted to Kericho, Kenya as the technical director of Brook Bond Kericho where he stayed for a further 21 years. When Brook Bond was acquired by Unilever in the 1980s, Tom was made de-facto M.D. of their plantations, which included tea, flowers, and sisal. On the one occasion I went to stay with him and Mary after we had both retired, he told me that the combined acreage was 35,000, half of which were Eucalyptus trees, felled on a rotation scheme for firewood to raise steam for the factory. The workforce for whom he was responsible was over 25,000, the largest single employer in Kenya, after the national government.

He retired in 1996 and before settling in Michelmersh (Hants) he and Mary spent six months circumnavigating the world and visiting people they had met in East Africa. This love of travel continued throughout their retirement with annual journeys back to Kenya and South Africa along with travels far and wide; the score of countries visited was sixty four and only stopped in 2021.

Once back in Michelmersh he embraced the role of church warden and then chairman of the Friends of Michelmersh Church. He also was a National Trust volunteer as tour guide for Montisfort Abbey. He died on the 18th of September 2024.

Postscript. In the spring term of 1948, I was Head of Baby Dayroom, School House. About two weeks after the beginning of term, John Robley, then in Junior Studies, appeared in the doorway accompanied by a taller younger lad with a genial expression and a broad smile. 'Ashton, this is my baby brother Thomas; look after him.' From that moment we were friends and remained so. When our taste buds developed to the point at which we had a taste for beer, we would down our Sunday lunch with haste and bike the four miles to the 'White Lion' at Beckermest, his home village, where Tom's father, also large and genial, would stand us each to a pint of Younger's bitter. We did bike rides on Sundays to other destinations; great was the freedom at St Bees in those days. During national service our paths crossed, first at H.Q. Lancastrian Brigade in the potential officers' platoon in 1953 and then the next year at Eaton Hall Officer Cadet School.

When both of us had retired he told me that his calm and unruffled demeanour sometimes belied his inner turmoil when dealing with 'differences' with elements of his work force, but he stuck it out, and invariably won his point."

Dimitri Sklavounos (G 63-67) has kindly submitted the following regarding his late brother, George Sklavounos (G 55-58).

"It is with deep sadness that I inform you of the death of my older brother, George. He died at home with his wife, youngest daughter and her husband beside him. His death was thankfully sudden, but not unexpected, and there is some comfort in knowing that he died in a similar way to our dad, without pain and with some of those he loved most in the world around him.

George, born in 1940, was at St Bees School from 1955 to 1958. His time there was not easy, but he threw himself into the challenges it presented. In doing so he developed his determination, resilience and self-discipline. He appreciated these qualities, which stood him in good stead in later life, even though they were tempered in the crucible that was St Bees. Like most pupils, he developed friendships that he valued immensely and maintained. George was strong-minded about many things. Academically he was very selective. He invested greatly in a few subjects that interested him and achieved good grades. The rest he discounted, which was reflected in his leaving St Bees with few qualifications. Sport was another area of selectivity. Although generally good, he enjoyed a limited number of athletic disciplines. The discus was one he particularly valued, as he connected this with his Greek heritage.

George began to develop more fully when he engaged in the world of work. His first job, in a shipping company, stimulated his curiosity and wish to make sense of things. This drove his intellectual development, and he embarked on a life-long

education in shipping, business and economics. His hunger for knowledge and competence, combined with a wish for a comfortable life, led him to leave England with his very young family, and join two others in setting up a shipping agency in Greece. As his abilities and competences developed, he ventured into shipbroking, as his partners developed business interests in other areas also. George's love of challenges and learning took him into other aspects of shipping. When he became a ship-owner for a period in his working life, I remember him saying in one of our many discussions that, 'I want to be big enough to survive the ups and downs of the market, but not become so big that it dominates my life and every waking and sleeping breath.' Eventually George left the world of ship-owning, and enjoyed developing several other innovative business ventures, before once again returning to shipbroking, as he continued to seek a balance between business and family life.

He had many admirable qualities, and too many to describe in this relatively brief piece. However, two particular memories reflect some significant ones. At a business event, I was told by someone in a similar company 'You know, in a sea of sharks, George's integrity shines through. That is a very rare quality in our business.' This was echoed by many others throughout George's life.

When his first grandchild became one year old, he decided he wanted to do something meaningful. With all the focus on Romania (following the overthrow of the Ceausescu regime) at that time, he heard that Bulgaria was another country in extremely difficult circumstances and yet not in the news. What he learned of their plight moved him. He decided that the best gift he could give his granddaughter was to raise as much money as possible to take essential supplies there. He approached many wealthy friends and business associates and asked them to add to his own significant donation. The money he raised enabled him to fill a fleet of long wheel base lorries with trailers with food, clothing, bedding, toys, and different supplies to withstand harsh winters etc. He then drove with them to Bulgaria, and toured the country finding out where the worst affected orphanages were, often with the most children, and distributed everything from all the lorries.

George also assisted many people with endless advice, for no personal financial gain, in setting up their own businesses. These include people who are now successful ship-owners. They all openly acknowledge, and are appreciative of, his mentoring. He enjoyed seeing people he valued achieve success.

George leaves behind his wife of many years and their daughter, and three greatly cherished daughters from his first marriage."

Mark Davies (G 55-59) writes about George:

“I was saddened to hear from his brother Dimitri that my great friend George Sklavounos had recently passed away. We were exact contemporaries at St Bees, entering Grindal in 1955, and though we spent our lives at opposite ends of the globe we managed to stay intermittently in touch. We were not the only overseas students, even in those days, but we formed a special bond through our Greek connection, he as a native speaker, I after five years in Greek primary schools. Also, we faced the rigours of English public school life from a similar perspective, inadequately prepared as sportsmen, a little insubordinate and with a knack of getting into trouble. Later we would recall our various escapades with tears of laughter. As general fags George and I were frequently responsible for the prefects’ tea, and on one occasion, when three of them were playing in a 1st XV away match against Egremont, I remember we cycled back to prepare it but got hopelessly lost in the mist and rain. By the time we got in it was too late to prime the coke furnace in the basement for anything better than smoked toast, and we paid for our sins with a stiff ‘Sea Mills’. Then on a 3Q day and strictly against regulations, we cycled to my grandmother’s in Bowness, but after a heavy lunch and despite George’s ultra-light-weight bike, we didn’t make it back before the supper curfew. Crossexamined by the housemaster, Sam Parkinson, we lied through our teeth, only to discover that our secret destination had been leaked. Justice was swiftly served the next morning with six of the best. George’s nickname, Sklashitproof, was in fact complimentary (compared to say Bog, Pasha, Marlon, Jelly-legs and Lead-head), referring to his imperturbability in hazing sessions, and attested to his inherent strength of character. He also had a great sense of humour, and he and his pal John Anderson would have us all in stitches with imitations of the Goon Show. Both of them were passionately interested in short wave radio, one of the many extracurricular activities the school provided for us, and I also remember them in hot water over an alcoholic ginger beer bottling operation which took over their Quonset hut study. George left St Bees a year before me when his father, a marine engineer, moved the family from Barrow to Acton, and when I visited them there, George had shed his blazer and saxe blue stockings for a dark tailored suit and had morphed into a sophisticated man about town. I remember a whirlwind tour of the West End with him and his older cousin, a merchant sea captain, and gaining a glimpse of the Greek shipping world in the father’s busy office. Cars were more of an adventure in those days and George had sanded down an old Rolls Royce, which sat sedately rusting in their front garden; my grandmother had to hang up her washing round my brother Nigel’s even larger Lanchester; and Grindal mates Chris Ward, Stuart Lyon and I drove to Greece in a 1946 Vauxhall. The ladies undoubtedly found George a charmer - not just handsome but beautiful, as my

girlfriend at the time told me disconcertingly when he came up to Oxford for the day. Yet his English marriages did not work out and when we next met, he had moved to Athens, married a beautiful Greek girl (exemplifying the triumph of hope over experience, as Dr Johnson defined remarriage) and was running a highly successful shipping and agricultural products business. He summed up his thoughts on bicultural marriage to me with an untranslatable Greek proverb: the drift being ‘better the devil you know’. He was immensely proud of his daughter and accompanied her on her European dressage circuit. Recently their Ekali home was threatened by fire, their SUV spontaneously combusting, and they had to consider moving, but George faced these issues and his declining health with cheerful stoicism.

Shortly before retirement, George arranged a reunion of a few Grindal contemporaries in the village, including John Anderson, Gordon Cartmell, Ian Mathieson, Chris Ward and me, but then amusingly, he failed to turn up from Athens himself. I’m not sure that he felt his school days were the happiest days of his life, but he would perhaps have agreed with Gordon’s verdict that the Spartan conditions, hierarchic structure and strict discipline of the postwar St Bees we knew probably didn’t do us any harm. A contemporary on another house told me recently that what he especially appreciated about St Bees was the freedom — the 3Q days. I admired George’s positive outlook, generosity and wry humour and remember him fondly. I would like to extend sincere condolences to his wife Niki and daughter Kelly, his daughters from his first marriage Katherine, Charlotte and Eugenie, and to his siblings Polytimi and Dimitri.”

Peter Strong (G 46-49).

The following edited tribute was kindly submitted by Peter’s daughter Sara Townsend. It was written and delivered at his funeral by his grandson, Michael.

“Peter was born on August 28th, 1932, in Ryton, Northumberland. His life was a tapestry woven with adventure, dedication, family, humour, love, and a very generous spirit.

His early years shaped the resilient, tender and kind man all admired. For school, Peter boarded at Hexham and later St Bees School in Cumbria, where he thrived and formed memories that he would cherish and share in the later decades with his grandchildren. His school was rich with tradition and carried a special place in his heart. When I would speak to him about his schooling years, he would tell of the hymns that they sang and the incredible peace that he would experience as he worshipped. In his later years, to his delight, he was able to go back and visit St Bees with his daughter Sarah, and even visit his old family home there.

At just 18 he joined the RAF and served his country with pride, stationed in both Egypt and Canada. Following this, in 1957, he made the best decision of his life. He asked a wonderful young lady called Judy to marry him. The story goes that a young Peter Strong found himself smitten in love, proposing marriage just two weeks after meeting her. Truly, love at first sight. The rest was history. In 1958 they were married and began their marriage adventure overseas, flying off to Bahrain to live as part of an ex-pat community where Peter worked as an oil refinery worker. This year, on March 18th, they would have celebrated 67 beautiful years together. Remarkably, they received a congratulatory card from the Queen for their 60th anniversary and another from the King for their 65th. Probably one of the few couples in the country to receive such an honour from both monarchs. As one person said, 'A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person.'

Bahrain held special significance for Peter as it was where both Nick and Sarah were born, where his marriage was established and where he thrived. His career eventually took the family from Bahrain to Lincolnshire, where he worked at the Lindsey Oil Refinery in various roles. His work ethic and leadership were exemplary, but it was his life outside of work that truly defined him.

He loved his cars and would reminisce for hours about his Morris Minor, especially on any trip to visit the National Car Museum at Beaulieu. In his retirement, he took up golf and developed a talent for chipping and putting – showing his eye for detail and honing skills to a tee! Golf, along with the connections developed through Judy's membership with the International Ladies, was where so many of his deep relationships were formed. Practical by nature, detailed in orientation, his generosity of spirit, creativity and dedication were always in service to the ones he loved. He truly was someone who drew people together. He was gregarious, always ready with a joke, never taking himself too seriously. One of his stand out decisions that I will fondly remember him by, is that he would never be seen to turn down a nice glass of red wine; whether it was wine over dinner, or a late night whiskey together, for Peter, drinks were simply an opportunity for precious moments. And many precious moments did we have. Even in hospital on his final days, he made the nurses laugh, requesting a glass of wine instead of water to wash down his meal.

Peter's life is a testament to love, resilience, and joy. His legacy lives on in the countless memories we shared and the values he instilled in each of us. He taught us to laugh at our flaws, to love deeply no matter what, and to find beauty in both grand adventures and the simplest moments."

Photographs are available to view and include a picture of Peter and Carr Ridley (G 44-47) who was also a student at St Bees. Peter and Carr stayed close until Carr died 11 years ago. There is also a photo of Peter and Pam Rumney (OSB

Sec), during a visit back to St Bees in June 2023 with his wife Judy and daughter Sarah, and her daughter Rebecca, who were over from Canada. Peter's previous visit to the school had been in 1983 for the quatercentenary celebrations.
Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.

The death of former music teacher Hugh Turpin (M 83-13) has affected many people, and some of the tributes we have received follow.

Anthony Payne (M 67-01) writes:

"Hugh was one of the most inspirational people I have ever known. He was a member of the St Bees Common Room from 1983 to 2013, for much of that time Director of Music.

As far as the school choir was concerned, he felt that there was nothing they could not sing, and this confidence gave the members of the choir the confidence to perform a wide range of music, even Tavener's *'The Lamb'* and Judith Weir's *'Illuminare Jerusalem'*, not to mention some of his own compositions and those of some of the pupils. This range impressed the audiences on the popular tours to the Rhineland, started by Frank Bowler and continued after he left - the statement that 'St Bees is not a specialist music school' was met with baffled disbelief.

When Philip Barratt revived the tradition of Gilbert and Sullivan operas with *'Ruddigore'*, there was no orchestra, so Hugh accompanied the whole production on the piano: he had cut his hand during the day, so the keyboard was a fetching colour of red by the end! In later productions he trod the boards, for example as the Pirate King in *'Pirates of Penzance'*, and who could forget his 'Sweeney Todd' in the Sondheim musical!

Hugh was one of the founder members of the Deo Gratias Quartet, with Frank Bowler, Keith Walker and myself. Later members included Paul Chamberlain, Margie Simper, Jill Hudson and Jane Hendry: the Quartet performed usually with four members, but sometimes with three or five! They sang barber's shop, motets and madrigals, popular song arrangements and standards in various languages, and over the years raised considerable sums for charity.

Hugh also conducted the West Cumbria Orchestra: one of the outstanding concerts that I remember was when he performed George Gershwin's *'Rhapsody in Blue'*, conducting from the piano and expertly masking the heart-stopping moment when the orchestra failed to come in at the end of the cadenza.

Hugh enriched my life to a very considerable degree, and I feel sure that there are very many people who would echo this statement. His legacy will live on in the music of West Cumbria and the many students and staff that he inspired."

John Rowlands (M 78-08) has contributed the following.

“Hugh Turpin would never have stood accused of being enslaved to petty orthodoxy. Trivia such as meticulous timekeeping, sartorial elegance, paperwork, or insistence upon following petty rules and regulations for their own sake were never part of his make-up. But what he did have – and which made him such a valued member of the School House tutorial team – was a deep and genuine interest in the wellbeing of all with whom he had to do, and an ability to get along with people of all backgrounds, views and attitudes. He was a conspicuously kind, sociable and affable man.

The house routine on a Thursday evening might often have been described as relaxed, but never (quite!) disorderly, and the boys responded very positively to Hugh’s gentle and thoughtful encouragement and guidance, freely shared over copious amounts of toast in the old house kitchen.

Hugh’s musicality and teaching abilities are no doubt well documented elsewhere and by people of appropriate musical standing. But what struck me very forcibly was his willingness, even determination, to use music to foster confidence and a sense of achievement in those many of us entirely devoid of innate musical ability. (The Grindal/School House pantomime was a perfect illustration of this. Hugh backstage at the piano, in the dark, music everywhere, and the current score illuminated only by the glow of his cigarette, balanced precariously on top of the instrument!) Boys and girls who had hitherto never sung a note in public were persuaded and enabled by Hugh to do that and more in ways that they would never have believed possible – quite literally ‘to find their voice.’ Nor was there any snobbishness about Hugh’s interest in and love of music. Classical, rock, folk, choral, military band (his appearance in army uniform would probably have provoked little unease in the Kremlin!), he could turn his hand enthusiastically to whatever the situation required and make all those involved feel that they were doing something fun, worthwhile and valuable.

In short, Hugh’s abundant humanity was as important in all his relationships as his music, and for that, generations of pupils, colleagues and friends have reason to be for ever grateful.”

Philip Etchells (M 75-06) writes:

“Over several years I collaborated with Hugh on house plays, pantomimes and revues. His talent and the breadth of his musical tastes were remarkable. He always needed a deadline but, in the end, his contribution was excellent. Two items in particular stick in my mind. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of VE Day, we produced a show in the Memorial Hall. As part of it he sang ‘Kaddish’, the Jewish Prayer for the Dead. Some years earlier in a celebration for the centenary of Grindal House, he performed ‘The Slow Train’, a piece of 1950s nostalgia from Flanders and Swann. These are two pieces as different as it is

possible to be; yet Hugh brought to one an impressive intensity and to the other a delightful lightness of touch.
The school was very lucky to have had him.”

Jill Hudson (M 90-15) writes:

“I had the pleasure and privilege of working in St Bees Music Department under Hugh’s inspirational leadership for many years. Hugh was a highly intelligent man, multi-talented and well-read in many disciplines besides music. In school he was invariably kind, witty and good humoured, and he never failed to show deep appreciation of the help and support given to him by both staff and pupils. I have many happy memories of the wonderful concerts, choir tours, and in particular the carol services, which he planned to perfection, introducing all of us to some of the best choral music in the repertoire. He was not afraid to tackle works which others would have thought far too difficult for us to manage, and in doing so kindled a lifelong love of classical music in many who would otherwise have been afraid of it.

It wasn’t always easy for the rest of us to keep up with a man who was so gifted in improvisation – both musical and otherwise! On one choir tour to Germany there was no one to play the French horn in the orchestra, so he played it himself, through a euphonium mouthpiece attached with gaffer-tape. On another occasion when a school inspector was visiting, Hugh forgot to bring the CD of ‘Rhapsody in Blue’ which he needed for his lesson, so he played the whole piano part himself, from memory!

Hugh was one of a kind, and the St Bees School community was enormously enriched by his prodigious talent and engaging personality.”

Robert Cussons (SH 91-98) writes:

“I was very sorry to hear of Hugh Turpin's death. Along with Tony Winzor, Hugh was the one of the most influential, gifted and engaging teachers I had the pleasure to be taught by at St Bees. He directed and conducted the choir in performing complex and challenging pieces to a very high standard. I remember when I was studying for my grade five violin and he was accompanying me on the piano, after a few minutes he asked me for the violin and sight-read the piece I'd been struggling with, perfectly. When I remarked that I didn't know he played violin, he said that was probably because he hadn't picked one up in about a decade! I also remember his amazing vocal range, as he sang all four parts from bass to soprano at different points in rehearsals with the choir. One abiding memory is singing the full complement of the eight daily monastic offices that would have been sung by the monks of St Bees centuries ago

(<https://stbees.org.uk/home/village/priory/monastic-services/>). He organised this along with Anthony Payne and we all slept in the Priory hall in between

services. On another occasion we went on a choir tour to a number of towns in Germany including the beautiful Wiesbaden, again organised by Anthony Payne with Hugh directing the choir (and the bus driver had to stop so he could have regular cigarette breaks!). I remember missing a trip out to go go-karting one weekend due to a service over-running; when he heard of my predicament, he told me to jump in his car (which was an old but still rather flashy Porsche 924 from memory), and we raced along the lanes around St Bees to catch the minibus, which we didn't manage, but I got two stints of racing that day, one in his car and then later at the go-karting!

He was a phenomenal musician, great fun and inspiring as a music teacher, singing teacher and choir director and always happy to discuss physics and engineering, which was another part of his multifaceted background. He will be very sorely missed by many, I am sure."

Notification of Deaths (Since the January 2025 Bulletin)

BOWER, J.F. (Jonathan)	Died 16.05.25	SH 68-74
CADE, J.B. (John)	Died 19.06.25	FS 58-64
CARSTAIRS, A.M. (Alastair)	Died 25.03.25	FN 57-62
HOMERSHAM, I.H.S. (Ian)	Died 27.03.24	FN 51-55
JONES, W.J. (Willie)	Died 01.05.25	M 56-59
NICHOLAS, I. (Ivor)	Died 28.12.24	SH 44-48
PERCY, H.E. (Edward 'Ted')	Died 30.01.25	F 51-56
REID, C.G. (Colin)	Died 06.06.24	F 43-49
ROBLEY, T.F. (Thomas)	Died 18.09.24	SH 48-51
SIMPSON, D.M.B. (David)	Died 18.11.24	SH 53-56
STRONG, P. (Peter)	Died 22.01.25	G 46-49
STRUTT, M.J. (Malcolm)	Died 01.05.25	SH 60-63
TURPIN, H.M. (Hugh)	Died 28.05.25	M 83-13

THINK OF US....

REMEMBER THE OSBs IN YOUR WILL

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

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

200 CLUB



We currently have 75 payments into the 200 Club account which is an increase from last year. This is due to members buying more than one ticket, which we very much appreciate.

If you paid last year as a one-off payment, and haven't done so already, please do consider renewing your membership for this year too or, better still, set up a standing order going forward.

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

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

We currently have a total of £1,997.96 in the bank after the draw on OSB Day.

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 and assistance with sports kit and sports tours.

In the last couple of years, the 200 Club has donated £3,000 to the school library, which is now open, and £500 to the school's Eco-club. More recently £600 for the purchase of tents for the Duke of Edinburgh's award has also been given. 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!

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.

The Winners of the June 2025 Draw were:

£200	46	DW & PM Davies (Darryl)	£40	71	W Mathison (Gordon)
£40	1	WE Dove (Amanda Dodsworth)	£40	43	PA Mawson (Paul)
£40	30	KJ & EC Smith (Kevin)			

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

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

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

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

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

Darryl Davies (Secretary and Treasurer 200 Club).

For further details and an entry form, please contact me, Darryl Davies:
5 Marlborough Avenue, High Harrington, Workington, Cumbria. CA14 4NW.
darryl.davies1@bopenworld.com or 07970 180 751.

Articles for ‘The Old St Beghian’ Bulletin

The next issue of ‘The Old St Beghian’ is due out in **January 2026**.

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

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

We would love to hear from you!

The Editor would be most grateful if you would let him have your write-ups
by the **30th November, 2025**.

BRANCH NOTES & EVENTS

Branch Activities:

Cambridge Gathering - The Cambridge OSB Group at the Red Lion Granchester (March 2025). John Braithwaite (G 65-69) reports:

“Seven OSBs from Cambridge and the surrounding area as far as the Wash returned to the convenient Red Lion Pub in Grantchester, next to the river Cam and famous for the romantic poets like Byron, meeting in the cafe at the apple orchard. There is ample parking, ease of entry from the M1, and the pub has plenty of room. They provided a table in a large room just for ourselves and switched off the piped music.

The last year or so we have been meeting in various cosy central Cambridge pubs, but we decided for our twelfth meeting to return to the Red Lion. There is a rumour flying around that our next get together could be on the Norfolk Broads. Conversation flowed as we shared our, sometimes hilarious, school memories. I found it fascinating, because of the large age differences in our group, that we had memories of the school masters when they were young and single, right up to when they retired! People like Darryl Davies, a legend, who was a schoolboy in my time and retired as a school master in his 70s is fondly remembered by the youngest in our group. Then there is T.A. Brown, Mr Dearle, Tony Coates, the Major, teaching maths in ‘the Tent’, Lem Parkinson, Peter Broadhurst, and so the list goes on. Then there were blue school socks and shorts worn even in the 6th Form, Privilege Tests, gliding, walking across the cricket crease in shoes, punishment runs, from the range triangle up to the lighthouse for the most naughty. One of us will bring the Grindal house punishment book next time. And so the conversations continued.

I promised to bring (wear?) my blue socks next time, but not the shorts, while another told of his mother repeatedly knitting on the lower parts of his socks. Finally, we talked about Bren guns, Sten guns and Lee Enfield rifles and shaking the hand of legend Gus Walker.

We probably talked about a lot more, possibly even forgot that we had shared these same memories before, and shared them at the meeting before that!

We always meet at 7:30 pm to avoid Cambridge traffic, and midweek when the pubs and restaurants are quieter, (before we get there). We normally meet every four to eight weeks and are very open to other St Beghians to come and join us.”

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.

Pictured L to R: Phil Workman (SH 85-92), Gavin Robertson (G 60-65), Monty Morgan (F 53-58), John Braithwaite (G 65-69), Robert Middleton (FN 50-54), John Wilkin (SH 55-60) and Ken Ho (FS/AC 79-82).

Cumbria (West) Branch Dinner - February 2026, Armathwaite Hall, Nr Keswick, Cumbria - St Beghian Society Social Gathering 2025.

This was once again held in the magnificent Armathwaite Hall on 28th February 2025. After another very successful Dinner in February 2024, I should like to extend my thanks to Simon Steele (FS 85-89), the Manager at Armathwaite Hall, and also to Leeann Lennox-Burrough, Sales & Marketing Executive, for making both this and previous dinners possible and for all the hard work they have put in so that this evening runs safely and smoothly. A big thank you to all the staff who worked so tirelessly behind the scenes to look after the 98 guests present.

Photo - Simon Steele (FS 85-89)(R) & brother Jonathan (FS 82-87)(L).

The evening began with a champagne reception with live music from Victoria Davies (L94-99) (aka Miss Dee). We then sat down to a sumptuous meal with both red and white wine on the tables.

The dinner menu in the Broadwater Suite, Armathwaite Hall was as follows:

Starter

Roast butternut squash and parmesan soup. (v) (gfa)
Tempura langoustine tails, lemon & garlic aioli, balsamic, rocket
Chicken liver parfait, Estate spiced plum chutney, brioche
Burrella, tomato and avocado salad, basil oil (vegan) (gf)

Main

Braised Estate beef brisket, honey roast carrot, mash, Dijon mushroom sauce. (gf)
Pan roasted pheasant breast, chive mash, chorizo, pea and baby onion jus
Plaice fillets, crushed new potatoes, kale, broccoli, butter sauce (gf)
Winter vegetable, goats' cheese and sage wellington, tomato confit, fondant potato (v)

Dessert

Chocolate truffle torte, orange gel, milk chocolate ice cream
Crème brulee, passionfruit macarons. (gf)
Peach melba sundae, raspberry, vanilla ice cream
Cheese board, water biscuits, fruits & chutney (gfa)
Tea and Coffee

Those Present on the night were:

Officials of the Society – Darryl Davies (FS 62-68) (President) & Pat Davies (Staff 91-01), David Lord (SH 60-65) (Treasurer) & Fiona Lord (Staff 93-07), Pam Rumney (Secretary).

Alumni – Steve Crossley-Smith (SH 47-52) & Pat Crossley-Smith, Lawrance Park (SH 48-51) & Allyson Vernon, James Brindle (G 49-53), Tim Brown (G 53-58), Edward Thompson (F 54-59), Dacre Watson (SH 56-62) & Ann Watson, Richard Lockwood (FS 59-64) & Sally Hopkinson, Paul Haywood (SH 60-65), Nick Curry (SH 60-66) & Viv Curry, John West (SH 61-64),

Anthony Dearden (FS 62-66), Peter Lever (62-66) & Jane Lever, David Rowlands (G 62-68), Julian Wood (SH 63-66) & Judith Wood, Tim Mackay (FS 68-73), David Paul (FN/AC 71-76) & Vashti Ragoonanan, Richard Ward (FN 74-77), Ken Rangecroft (FN 74-78), Stephen Pickthall (FN 7478), Steve Hardman (Staff 75-86) & Helen Hardman (Staff 75-86), Dougal Reed (FN 75-80) & Sarah Ambrosial, Andy Haile (SH 76-83) & Jane Dyer (Staff), Roy Calvin (SH 79-83) & Sara Calvin (nee Gough) (L/G 77-84), John Boag (FS 78-82), Peter Harper (78-82), Mark Preston (G), Rob Stewart (SH 79-83) & Dympna Stewart, Rosheen Ryan (nee Parker) (L/G 80-82), Howard Graham (FS 80-87), Stuart Lancaster (FN/AC 80-88), Matthew Reay (SH 82-89) & Louise Reay, Jonathan Steele (FS 82-87), Siobhan Mulrooney (nee Parker) (L 83-86), Paul Mawson (FS 83-90) & Melanie Sharpe, Craig Melrose (F 83-90), Jon Milburn (FS 83-90), Gill Venus (nee Lowrey) (G 83-90), Matthew Hodgson (SH 83-90), Jeremy Tiffen (F 84-89) & Rebecca Tiffen (nee King) (L 86-88), Simon Steele (FS 85-89), Chris Johnston (SH 85-92) & Anne-Louise Johnston (nee Crookdake) (L86-93), Jacqueline Teggin (nee Green) (G 86-91), Andrea Thompson (L/G 86-91), Claudia Staechmann (nee Brown) (G 87-91), Jill Johnson (nee Bunting), Richard Postlethwaite (AC 87-92) & Negin Postlethwaite, Richard de la Riviere (AC 88-95), Amelia Warne (nee McWilliam) (G/L 88-95), Alastair Lord (SH 90-95), Victoria Davies (L 94-99), Laurence Gribble (SH 02-09), Oscar Hendry Pickup (SH 08-15), Tom Wright (G 11-15) and Jake Gildert (12-14).

Current members of Staff and Partners - Andrew Keep (Headmaster), Laurence Gribble (Deputy Head), David Norbury, Chloe Small & Rob Small, Corrine Alexander & Nick Gribble, Helen Bertram & Jamie Bertram, Brad Simpson, Vanessa Johnson & John Johnson, Becky Bell & Adam Bell, Wendy Dootson, Duncan Gray, Lee Shackley & Rebecca Bell.

Friends of the School - Louise Harvey & Stuart Burns, and Nancie Stone.

We were delighted to welcome Mr Andrew Keep, acting- Headmaster, who gave us an update on the current situation at St Bees School. Andrew retires at the end of this academic year and I should like to thank him for his support to the Society. This was followed by a speech from the President of the Society, Darryl Davies, who outlined his plans for the year.

Photo – Darryl Davies (FS 62-68) (OSB President).

After the meal, there was an auction for an England Rugby Union shirt autographed by Marcus Smith. It was brought to the dinner by Howard Graham and presented by Stuart Lancaster, the former England head coach. The winner of the shirt was Stuart Burns, who paid £1,000!!!

Photo of Stuart Burns with Stuart Lancaster & Howard Graham, plus shirt.

Thanks must also go to Pam Rumney, Secretary of the Society, who has been a great help to me in organising this Dinner, sorting out the programme, printing all

the place settings and setting up the memorabilia displays, which seemed very popular.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year when the dinner will take place on **February 27th, 2026, at Armathwaite Hall**. To book a place, contact Darryl at Darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com. Further details in Forthcoming Dates below. **Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.**

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

On a warm and sunny Friday evening on the 30th May, twenty-six Old St Beghians gathered in the Civil Service Club in central London to celebrate the London dinner after a hiatus of six years. Many of the OSBs had travelled from far outside the South East region to attend and this really did enhance the whole evening and bring together a broad spectrum of guests - in fact, we had representation from every house at the school. Special mentions go to David Connell and Mark Richardson, who both happened to be visiting the UK from Australia and USA respectively and managed to fit the dinner into their travel plans - we thank you both!

We were thrilled to have two distinguished speakers this year. President of the OSB society Darryl Davies unlocked many fond memories for all with his humorous recollections of his time at the school as both a pupil and member of staff, whilst the future interim head of school, Laurence Gribble, gave an honest and inspiring update of the school's position and future growth plans.

We hope to repeat this event in 2026 and would dearly love to have even more OSBs turn out for this wonderful evening.

2025 London Dinner attendees:

David Connell (FS 56-59), Dacre Watson (SH 56-62), Mark Spencer Ellis (SH 62-66), Darryl Davies (FS 62-68), Tim Crossley-Smith (SH 73-78), Richard Duffus (SH 76-83), Ken Ho (FS 79-82), Yvonne Reay (G 79-85), Alan Stewart (SH 82-89), Martin Birkett (SH 83-90), Jonathan Milburn (FS 83-90), Mark Richardson (FS 83-90), Paul Mawson (FS 83-90), Matt Hodgson (SH 83-90), Craig Melrose (FS 83-90), Andrew Miller (SH 83-90), Chris Wilson (AC 84-91), Will Adie (SH 85-88), Gareth Callender (FS 85-90), Graeme Bagnall (SH 85-91), Phil Workman (SH 85-92), Ronnie Whelan (FS 86-91), Nikki Bagnall (L 86-93), Andrew Mawson (FS 86-93), Tom Collin (FS 88-90) and Laurence Gribble (SH 02-09).

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.

Scottish Gathering – May 2025, Scotts Restaurant, Edinburgh.

Unfortunately, the Scottish Lunch due to be held at Scott's restaurant, Edinburgh on Thursday 8th May had to be cancelled owing to a lack of interest. If you are an

OSB living in Scotland, please do let us have your thoughts about possible future venues and locations for an OSB event. We would love to hear from you. In addition, we are hoping to link in with the OSB Golfing Society and a tournament held in Scotland in September – so watch this space for further information!

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 (presently eight) meet regularly, **every two months**, in various pubs in Cambridge for a chat. 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.’ One of our group, Robert Middleton (FN 50-54), is kindly taking some of us out on the Norfolk Broads in his boat in July, with an overnight stay in the local hotel. Another Old St Beghian, soon to be a member of our group, performed recently in the Elm Tree pub as the lead singer and mouth organ player in his local blues band, and we went to support. So, we are always up for fun. Our London compatriots may want to give us a try as the non-stop train from Kings Cross to central Cambridge only takes 55 minutes. If you live near and would like to join in, Pam Rumney will give details of future dates and locations via email, the Society website, Facebook and Instagram. John may be contacted direct on 07717209399 or at braithwaite.john@icloud.com or details can be obtained via the Society office. **Our 13th of these Cambridge Gatherings will take place on Tuesday the 12th of August in the Red Lion in Grantchester, at 19:30** hopefully outside this time.

Cumbria South Lakes Informal Social - Grange-over-Sands Golf Club, Cumbria.

There will be no Cumbria South Lakes Social in September 2025, but we hope to

hold another of these get-togethers in September 2026. Please look out for further information in future Bulletins.

Cumbria (West) Branch Dinner - February 2026, Armathwaite Hall, Nr Keswick, Cumbria - St Beghian Society Social Gathering 2026.

The Cumbria Dinner and Gathering will take place on **Friday 27th February 2026**, 7.00 for 7.30 pm at Armathwaite Hall, Bassenthwaite Lake, near Keswick.

Husbands, wives and partners are most welcome.

The cost will be **£41.00 pp** and will include: **A Champagne reception on arrival with Live background music and a magnificent 3 course meal with wine on the table.**

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

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

Please book your accommodation directly with the hotel...

Your contact is Leeann and her email is: leeann.lennox@armathwaite-hall.com or tel+44 17687 88909

Please book your meal with me...

Cheques or BACS payments must be received as soon as possible to confirm reservation and guarantee a place.

This event is likely to be oversubscribed. **(If you cancel before Friday 13th February 2026, you will receive a full refund).**

Cheques should be made payable to: 'West Cumbria Branch OSBC' and sent to: Darryl Davies, 5 Marlborough Avenue, High Harrington, Workington, CA14 4NW.

BACS payment: Sort Code: 01-09-54, Account number: 83707689.

Please add your name if paying by BACS.

Menu will be published later in the year.

Contact: Darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com or 07970 180751.

With every good wish, Darryl Davies.

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

Nicola Shannon (nee Metcalfe-Gibson) (L/G 78-85) would love to hear from you if you are interested in attending the evening at **The Samuel Pepys**, Stew Lane, EC4V 3PT on **Friday 10th October, 2025**, from **6pm onwards**.

Please contact Nicola at nicmetcalfeshannon@gmail.com or 0776 619 5468.

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

North East Branch Luncheon

It is with sadness that we have to report that there will be no North East Branch luncheon or Dinner this Autumn, as we do not have anyone to organise the event. This really is the end of an era, as it will be the first time for 50+ years (apart from Covid) that no OSB event has taken place in the North East.

If anyone would be willing to step forward and organise an event in the area in the future, we would love to hear from you. Please do get in touch with either Don Williams at don@kingdomofnorthumbria.co.uk or 07747 778 786, or alternatively the OSB Office at osb@stbeesschool.co.uk or 01946 828093.

Don Williams (F 61-64) writes:

“As Chairman of the **North East Branch** for quite a stint, it has been a great pleasure to work with both our late Secretary Bill Dove and with past assistance from George Robson. Now, however, without a Secretary, I will be unable to continue with the tasks of Secretary and Chairman on my own. In the time I have devoted to the Branch, I have given my all in ensuring OSBs and guests have had as enjoyable and good humoured a time together at North East Branch events as possible. It has been an immense pleasure for me.

I would like to thank all our past attendees, and also Bill’s daughter, Amanda Dodsworth, who acted as temporary Secretary in organising last November’s excellent Branch Luncheon.

If we are able to hold any kind of future North East Branch events, I assure you that I will do my best to support them and ensure they are as successful as ever.

In conclusion I would like to thank our Society Secretary, Pam Rumney, for her invaluable assistance and Tony Reeve, who has informed us all so expertly as Editor of our Bulletin. Once again, thank you one and all.

With my best wishes, Don H Williams.”

Additional events are sometimes arranged between Bulletin issues.

Please do let us have an **email address** if you have one, so that we can inform you of such dates as they arise or, alternatively, do keep checking the Society’s website and Facebook pages for further information.

www.st-beghian-society.co.uk & <https://www.facebook.com/osbsociety>

Wanted! - OSB Dinners and Events Photographs

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

Please remember to take your camera and capture the memories!

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

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) or M.J. Birkett (Martin) - **(London Dinner)**,

Graeme - Email: graemebagnall@me.com or Tel: 7778 301584.

Martin – Email: martin.birkett@gs.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 Report

Critchley Cup 2025 – Penrith Golf Club

The Critchley Cup was reinstated to the OSBGS Calendar on June 13th 2025, coinciding with the Old St Beghians' weekend at the school.

Penrith Golf Club hosted the event superbly, with the course in marvellous condition and the views breathtaking as always, in kindly weather.

Ten Old St Beghians participated. Congratulations to our winners;

Ben Wilson took the Critchley Cup with a score of 37 points, narrowly beating Cameron Wood by a single point.

Tom Wright won the Scratch Trophy with an excellent 75 gross, with a birdie on the last to beat Cameron Wood on the best back nine.

Andrew Johnston took home the Dick Harrison Cup for the best over 12 handicap score.

Special thanks and a welcome to Adam Macrae and Sam Thomas for connecting with the OSBGS and we are looking forward to seeing you again and competing at our many events in the years to come.

Notable thanks also to Gareth Edgar and Mike Stamper, local Penrith members, and the ever-present OSBGS figure, Rodney Atkinson, for travelling over from the North-East.

The plan is to bring back the Critchley Cup to its former glory, with an event each year coinciding with St Beghians' Day, welcoming OSB golfers of all ages and golfing abilities.

Photo - LtoR: Andrew Johnston, Mike Stamper and Rodney Atkinson.

Photo - LtoR: Cameron Wood, Adam Macrae and Ben Wilson.

Photo - Left, Tom Wright (Scratch Trophy). Centre, Ben Wilson (Critchley Cup). Right, Andrew Johnston (Dick Harrison Trophy).

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.

The Halford Hewitt (April 2025)

St Bees were once again proud to field a team at the 101st Halford Hewitt. The week was played in perfect Kent sunshine in April, providing the first glimpse of summer (particularly for the northern-based OSBs). The week consisted of practice rounds and competitive matches on Royal St Georges, a spectacular course full of golfing history. The team also played on Royal Princes, next door to RSG. An opportunity arose for a game at Rye at the start of the week.

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.

Old St Beghians' Day (14th June 2025)

Adrian Peckitt and Tom Wright represented the OSBGS at OSB Day held at the school on 14th June 2025. They attended the early Committee Meeting and then presented the OSBGS to the general OSB Society at the AGM. The aim is for the OSBGS and OSB Society to work in parallel with each other, helping each other to recruit OSBs to events, golfing and non-golfing. Golf is a great way to connect, the OSBGS is no exception to this.

The PowerPoint presentation included in the AGM talk may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.

Queen Elizabeth Tournament – Edinburgh (19th - 21st September 2025)

The OSBGS will return to Edinburgh to play at the Royal Burgess Golf Club. The weekend golfing is usually spectacular, with social opportunities in and around the city centre also available for the team. OSBs (golfing and non-golfing) are always welcome to meet, watch some golf or join for an evening meal and drinks in the city. Please contact Tom Wright (tomosbgolf@hotmail.com) and Adrian Peckitt (rapeckitt8@hotmail.com).

Critchley Cup - Part 2 - Silloth Golf Club (4th October 2025)

Additionally, a 2025 Part 2 Cumbrian OSBGS social golfing event will take place at Silloth Golf Club on October 4th, 2025. Further details will follow soon; however, to express an initial interest in attending, please contact Tom Wright (tomosbgolf@hotmail.com) and Adrian Peckitt (rapeckitt8@hotmail.com).

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.

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin>.

OSBGS Contact Details:

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

Tom Wright, Secretary – tomosbgolf@hotmail.com.

St Bees Golf Club - For further information:

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

01946 824300 or secretary@stbeesgolfclub.co.uk

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

SOCIETY OFFICERS:

President:

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

President-Elect:

Vacant

Treasurer:

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

Secretary:

P.J. Rumney (Pam)

Committee:

R.P. Calvin (Roy) (SH 79-83)	A.P. Fox (Anthony) (G 62-67)
S.J. Calvin (Sara) (G 77-84)	A.D. Lord (Alastair) (SH 90-95)
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 few places available on the Committee.

If you are interested in being involved, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact the Secretary or any of the above members for further information.

The next St Beghian Society Committee Meeting – Fri 27th Feb 2026.

The AGM and St Beghians' Day, 2026 – tbc.

Copy Deadline: As the target month for the next issue of 'The Old St Beghian' is **January 2026**, the Editor would be most grateful if Branch Secretaries and other contributors would let him have their notices and reports by **30th Nov, 2025**.

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

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

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

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

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