



The Old St Beghian

July 2026

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From Our President Darryl Davies (FS 62-68)

Tempus fugit. It feels like only yesterday that I wrote my piece for the January Bulletin, yet I have attended several events since then.

In February, we held a very successful Cumbria branch dinner at the splendid Armathwaite Hall Hotel near Keswick. My thanks go to Simon Steele (FS 85-89), the manager, for making it possible. Seventy-six guests attended and enjoyed excellent food, fine wine, and good company. They came from far and wide, including Kele Mbagwu (SH 82-84), who travelled from Nigeria.

In May, I attended the London dinner at the Civil Service Club, which Martin Birkett (SH 83-90) organised excellently. Twenty-three people attended, and the evening continued long after the plates had been cleared.

In June, we celebrated Old St Beghians' Day. After the Committee Meeting and AGM, we moved to the chapel, where the Revd Canon Paul Maybury (FS 72-77) led the service. Lunch was excellent, and in the afternoon Eton Fives and Music in the Quad proved popular. My particular thanks go to Pam Rumney, whose organisational skills continue to amaze me, and to the catering staff for all they did throughout the day.

I am very much looking forward to the North East Sunday luncheon on 15th November at Corbridge, organised by Jonathan Steele (FS 82-87).

As Old St Beghians, it is important that we help both the Society and the school

continue to flourish. We can do this by encouraging more women and younger members to attend events. The golfing society, in particular, needs new talent. I would also encourage members to pay their annual subscriptions and perhaps join the 200 Club.

I hope you all have an enjoyable summer holiday.

Darryl W Davies.

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july26bulletin>.

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.

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>

**All Photos mentioned within this Bulletin may be seen at
<http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july26bulletin>.**

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

Calendar of Events 2026/27

2026

September	Fri 18th - Sun 20th	Golf – Queen Elizabeth Tournament, The Royal Burgess G.S., Edinburgh
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	Thurs 17th	Scottish Gathering Combined with the above QE Comp.
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	tbc	South Lakes Social Grange, Cumbria
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October		
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November	Sunday 15th	North East Sunday Lunch The Angel, Corbridge
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December	Sat 28th tbc	Thomas Froggatt Rugby Match, Egremont RUFC
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2027

January	tbc	Cambridge Gathering Venue tbc
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February	Friday 26th (Afternoon)	Golf – OSB Social Silloth Golf Club
	Friday 26th (Evening)	Cumbria Dinner, Armathwaite Hall Hotel, Bassenthwaite, Nr Keswick

March	tbc	Cambridge Gathering Venue tbc
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April	Thurs 8th – Sun 11th	Golf – Halford Hewitt 2027 Practice/Competition
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May	tbc	Cambridge Gathering Venue tbc
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June	Day before OSB Day (Fri)	Golf – Critchley Cup Venue tbc
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	Saturday tbc	St Beghians’ Day 2027 at St Bees
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July		
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August		
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TBC	Cambridge Gatherings – Various, every two months	
	London Event – Social Evening	
	Asia - Hong Kong and Shenzhen (?)	

SCHOOL NOTES

From the Headmaster

As I write my final notes as Interim Headmaster, I find myself reflecting on what has been an extraordinary year for St Bees School.

When I stood before our students, parents, staff and guests at Speech Day earlier this month, I spoke about success and progress. Success is something we naturally celebrate, but progress is something every young person can achieve. Whether a student leaves us with a place at a world-leading university, greater confidence than when they arrived, or simply a stronger sense of who they are, each journey deserves recognition.

That philosophy has underpinned everything we have sought to achieve this year.

St Bees has always been about far more than examination results. Our purpose is to develop young people who combine academic ambition with kindness, resilience and integrity. Those qualities can be seen every day across the school: in the classroom, in the boarding house, on the sports field, during outdoor education and in the countless acts of friendship and support that often go unnoticed.

This year we have continued to strengthen that sense of community. Our students now come from an increasingly diverse range of countries and cultures, yet the atmosphere around the school remains unmistakably St Bees. One of the greatest privileges of leading this school has been seeing young people from across the world learn not only alongside one another, but from one another. They leave with qualifications, certainly, but also with broader perspectives, lifelong friendships and a genuine appreciation of different cultures.

Academically, there has been much to celebrate. Our leavers have secured places at an outstanding range of universities across the UK and Europe, studying subjects as diverse as Engineering, Data Science, Social Sciences, History and Sustainable Development. Just as pleasing has been the progress made by students across every year group, supported by dedicated staff who consistently go above and beyond to help every pupil fulfil their potential.

Beyond the classroom, the school has continued to flourish. Sport, music, drama, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, outdoor education, leadership opportunities and an ever-growing enrichment programme ensure that a St Bees education remains broad, balanced and character-building. These experiences often provide the memories that last longest.

This year also marked ten years since my initial phone call to discuss the possibility of reopening St Bees School. Looking back, it is extraordinary to see how far the school has come. We continue to build on strong foundations while preparing confidently for the future, supported by our growing international partnerships and the continued loyalty of the wider St Beghian community.

As my own time as Interim Headmaster draws to a close, I remain enormously proud to have been the first Old St Beghian to lead the school. Having spent seven years here as a pupil, returning to serve the community that helped shape my own life has been a genuine privilege.

I would like to thank the Old St Beghian community for everything you do for the school. It has been fantastic to spend time with you at the Cumbria Dinner and the London Dinner, and it was wonderful to see so many at OSB Day from across the generations and from around the country and beyond.

St Bees has always been a school that looks forwards while remaining proud of its history. Although my period as Interim Headmaster is coming to an end, I look forward to continuing as part of the Senior Leadership Team, supporting the school's growth and helping to take St Bees from strength to strength. I remain excited about what lies ahead and confident that the very best chapters of our story are still to be written.

With my very best regards,

**Laurence Gribble,
Headmaster.**

St Bees School – The Hive Newsletter

Keep up to date with news from St Bees School.

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

Previous copies may also be viewed here.

OSB Day 2026

St Beghians' Day Reunion and 'Live Music in the Quad'

Saturday 6th June 2026

An overcast but warm, blustery day welcomed to the school around fifty-three OSBs and guests, who had defied the wet weather previously forecast. Following the Committee Meeting, at which Adrian Peckitt (FS 72-77), Jonathan Steele (FS 82-87), and Victoria Davies (L 94-99) became new members, the Annual General Meeting was then held in the Foundation, conducted by the President of the Society, Darryl Davies (FS 62-68). During the meeting the members were addressed by the Acting-Headmaster, Laurence Gribble (SH 02-09), who gave a detailed account of the present situation of the school and the links with Full Circle in China.

At the end of the meeting presentations were made to the Society's tireless and much-esteemed Secretary, Pam Rumney, of a bouquet of flowers from the President and a decorated cake from 'the Cambridge Gang' wishing Pam a happy wedding anniversary.

The AGM was followed as usual by the Chapel service where it was pleasing to see the school's boarding community in full attendance, and where lessons were read by our President and the head of the school students. We thank Frank Bowler (M 83-91) for standing-in at short notice to play the organ. The service itself was conducted by Rev. Canon Paul Maybury (FS 72-77).

An excellent lunch in the Foundation followed, again attended by the school's boarders, some of whom took part in the musical entertainments which followed, along with Victoria Davies and Maddie Charlton (Eliz. 22-24), all accompanied by the school's Director of Music, Lee Shackley. In addition to the music, John Wilkinson (FS 68-73) had arranged for some OSBs to participate, along with several current students and staff, in what was a well attended Fives tournament later in the afternoon.

Events ended with cream teas being served in the Salad Room to round off a very enjoyable day dominated as ever by the convivial conversations which took place throughout.

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

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july26bulletin>.

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.

ADAMS, N.W. (Nicholas)	FN 68-71
BEIGHTON, G.M. (Gerry) and Maggie Beighton	FS 48-52
BROWN, J.D.S. (Tim)	G 53-59
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
CROSSLEY-SMITH, J.A. (James)	SH 75-80
CROSSLEY-SMITH, S. (Steve) and Pat Crossley-Smith	SH 47-52
DALZELL, T. (Tom)	FN 49-53
DAVIES, D.W. (Darryl)	F 62-68
DAVIES, V.E. (Victoria)	L 94-99
DOWNHAM, S.A. (Stephen) and Kornelia Downham	G 61-65
DMYTROWSKI, C. (Carenza)	B 22-24
FENWICK, R.C. (Calder)	FN 71-73
FISHER, B.A. (Brian), Rosemarie Fisher and Mary Vineall	F 65-70
FOX, A.P. (Anthony)	G 62-67
GRIBBLE, L.J.R. (Laurence)	SH 02-09
GUMMERS, D.K. (David)	G 75-83
HOPE, J.A. (Adrian)	G 69-76
HUNTER, N.I.C. (Nic)	SH 63-67
KEIR, P.J.S. (Peter)	SH 71-77
LISTER, J.P. (Jim)	SH 68-74
LORD, A.D. (Alastair)	SH 90-95
LORD, D.F. (David)	SH 60-65
LOWREY, T.W. (Tom)	SH 57-62
MACKAY, T.H. (Tim)	FS 68-73
MAYBURY, P.D. (Paul) and Sarah Maybury	FS 72-77
MIDDLETON, R.J.L. (Robert) and Mary Middleton	FN 50-54
MYERS, G. (Gary)	FS 68-70
PAUL, D.T. (David), Vashti Ragoonanan, Nancie Slone, and Philip Benn	FN/AC 71-76

PECKITT, R.A. (Adrian)	FS/AC 72-77
REEVE, A.J.H. (Tony)	M 89-08
ROWLANDS, D.W. (David)	G 62-65
RUMNEY, P.J. (Pam)	OSB Sec
SOUTHWARD, R.D. (Dougal)	SH 76-84
SWALES, R.J. (Roger) and Marjorie Swales	FN 64-67
WATSON, D.R. (Dacre) and Ann Watson	SH 56-62
WILKINSON, J.A. (John)	FS 68-73
WITHNALL, S.G. (Stuart) and Hazel Elliot	G 58-63
WRIGHT, T. (Tom)	G 11-15

OSB DAY APOLOGIES

ARNOTT, R.I. (Ian)	FS 60-65
BIRKETT, M.J. (Martin)	SH 83-90
BRINDLE, J.S. (James)	G 49-53
CALVIN, R.P. (Roy)	SH 79-83
CALVIN, S.J. (Sara)	G 77-84
DUNN, J.M.W. (John)	FS 64-69
HIND, W.R. (William)	G 59-64
JACQUES, J.S.	FS 63-68
LEES, S.C. (Stephen)	G 56-62
LEVER, P.G. (Peter)	G 62-66
MATTHEWS, P.G. (Peter)	G 50-55
MESENGER, F. O. (Frank)	SH 50-55
OGDEN, J.E. (John)	FS 51-56
POWELL, B.H. (Brian)	FS 50-54
REW, R.J. (Robert)	FS 50-55
ROBSON, G.C. (George)	FN 57-64
SHERWIN, A.P. (Andrew)	SH 93-00
TASSELL, J.A.C. (James)	G 61-66
WHARTON, D.L. (David)	G 55-60
WHITWELL, T.D.A. (Trevor)	FS 66-72

THANK YOU for your support on OSB Day 2026

Please let us know if you have any ideas about next year's St Beghians' Day.

What events would you like to see on the day? What don't you like?

We would love to hear from you with your ideas...

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.

OSB NOTES

A snippet from J.D.S. (Tim) Brown (G 53-59) re David Hedley's article in the January 2026 Bulletin.

"David's article mentioned the freedom we enjoyed, and the bike excursions - especially on three-quarter days, and the fact that he wasn't aware of any serious mishap. Years later, by chance, I got to know Piff Williams and I asked him, as a housemaster, if he had had any worries about sending his brood out for the day. His reply was in line with David - 'Nothing happened. That's the answer'! I don't think the word 'safeguarding' had then been invented!"

David Elston (FS 65-70) has submitted the following.

"I read Peter Royd's article on life at St Bees School in the 1960s with great interest. I remember Peter well. He was a good friend of my older brother John, so was two years ahead of me. I have reflected on his observations and, in particular, the role of the prefects and the housemasters in the late 1960s. It has brought back some memories and raised a number of thoughts I had not previously considered. Looking back, it was a strange world. The four hundred year old school, in a village by the sea, surrounded by rolling farmland and dramatic cliffs, all within easy distance of the glorious Cumbrian mountains, fells and lakes. A curious anachronism set in a beautiful changing landscape.

At that time, a huge amount of the disciplining and management of the lower sixth downwards was delegated to the house prefects. Seventeen and eighteen years olds were overseeing much of the lives of the thirteen to sixteen year olds. The prefects had no training for this, other than following how their predecessors had managed, so perpetuating the norms of behaviour and the culture. They were the prosecutors, judge and jury of those under their control. The duty prefects would go round the dormitories every evening with the punishment book. They would check that all punishments, which was mainly doing runs, had been completed. The housemaster or a house tutor would also do a dormitory tour, but I don't recall the housemasters ever reviewing the punishment book or giving much guidance.

There was an informal right of appeal from prefects' punishments. If some poor individual felt he had been treated harshly, he could complain to the housemaster. I recall a few instances of that happening and there was an inevitable bias in favour of the prefect's version. On one occasion, as a house prefect, I punished all the occupants of a junior dayroom. A few of them had been fighting during prep in the absence of a prefect who had been called away. No-one would own up to what had happened, hence my blanket punishment. One pupil complained to the

housemaster, Anthony Dearle, who, whilst mildly sympathetic, said that since he must have done something wrong that term which had gone undetected, he should have to accept it. Anthony later suggested to me that blanket punishments 'were fine, but could be perceived as stretching the principles of fairness.'

The prefects had a rather better time at school than the rest. When not on duty, they could come and go to breakfast and supper when they pleased. They usually had better studies and tea and coffee brought to their studies at break. They had greater privacy with better changing rooms, so didn't have to wait after daily sports until a bath or shower was free. They could drift off to bed well after lights were out and were free to walk into the village when not in class.

Inevitably, there were some boys who went through very unhappy periods for many reasons. Looking back, I cannot believe the prefectorial system could have helped that. I felt at the time, and still do, that the St Bees pupils were very tolerant of, and often admired, individualism, eccentricities, rebels and madcap humour. However, for the few who didn't really fit in with any particular 'set' life must have been challenging. There was great emphasis on sport, particularly rugby, and an underlying macho culture. Those who lacked any sporting prowess, or were seen as 'weedy,' could suffer. Looking back, I don't think the prefects would have been particularly bothered to make allowances for those not fitting in or suffering from bullying, and wouldn't have known how to manage it.

However, by the late 1960s and early 1970, after Peter and his colleagues had left, that culture was beginning to change, particularly for those of us on the largest house, Foundation. The house of about 100 was split into two much more manageable houses, Foundation North and Foundation South. More studies were built, roomier and with more light.

At last, the awful shorts were consigned to history. Now we were in grey flannel trousers, blazers and ties so we were looking more like young adults. Years later, in about 2010, Joan Lees, wife of the 1960s/1970s/1980s Headmaster Geoffrey Lees, told me that since they had arrived in 1963, she had been quietly campaigning for the end of the shorts. She had correctly predicted that once the boys began to look more grown up, they would behave more maturely and be treated as such by staff. I am sure that was true.

Fagging reduced as prefects began to see it as a tired image of a Victorian past. The houses had television rooms. We read on the news of the 1968 French student riots and growing protests by those of our generation in the USA against the Vietnam war. In 1969 we saw John Lennon and Yoko Ono urging us from bed to give peace a chance. More pirate radio stations were appearing, including Radio Caroline, which was visible from the top of the St Bees Head cliffs, anchored off the Isle of Man. There was a growing feeling that blind adherence to those in authority no longer applied as before.

I recently read a supplement of The Spectator on private schools which outlined how much has changed in the way most boarding schools are now managed and in the role of the housemasters and housemistresses. One article commended the passing of what it refers to as ‘boy government,’ effectively the 1960s prefectorial system at St Bees. Now, housemasters are expected to check on every pupil’s wellbeing regularly and the schools have become ‘more emotionally palatable’ as well as more comfortable.

No doubt some Old Boys huffed and puffed as the changes came about, and some probably had a fit at the thought of girls joining the school. However, without those changes the school would have increasingly become more of an anachronism, which it could ill afford given its location (as lovely as it is) and the competition. I remember Geoff Lees telling me, when we met up in the late 1980s long after he had retired, how prospective parents would arrive at his elegant quarters in School House. Once they had started walking round the school one frequent question, usually from the fathers, was, ‘There must be a quicker way of getting here from the M6 (then finishing at Lancaster) than over all those winding fell roads?’, and another, usually from the mothers, was, ‘Do *all* the boys wear shorts *all* the time?’

On a more positive note, for me, another change was the retirement of the school chaplain and the local vicar assuming his role. This meant that the Sunday service was no longer in the school chapel but in the lovely old Priory, with its Norman origins and its splendid Father Willis organ, which Brian Howard used to enormous effect. For those of us in the choir, in the chancel choir stalls, this was a great improvement from the cramped school chapel choir stalls and the hopeless acoustics.

Another really positive memory of life at St Bees were the regular trips to Rosehill theatre to hear concerts given by leading international musicians, including Alfred Brendel, Sviatoslav Richter, the Amadeus Quartet and Jacques Loussier trio (twice during my time at St Bees). This was, of course, thanks to the generous patronage of Sir Nicholas (‘Miki’) Sekers, and played a great part in developing my enjoyment of classical music, (as did Anthony Dearle’s generosity in lending me LPs from his enormous collection).

One final thought. A particular aspect of 1960s St Bees I did complain about at the time was the school food. It was unimaginative and could be pretty poor on occasion, certainly on Foundation. My brother and I both developed a keen interest in cooking, and I sometimes wonder whether that arose from a desire never to have to put up with St Bees food again.”

From Charles Hedley (FN 58-64).

“I read through the January 2026 Bulletin recently, and couldn't help picking up on George Robson's article about long serving employees. This set me thinking

and I checked with my own contribution about Margaret Widdas (Aunty Margaret, as our family knew her) and note that she was at St Bees from 1936 - 1984, which adds up to 48 years - a truly remarkable achievement!

Link to previous article may be seen here: <https://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july21bulletin/OSB%20Notes%20-%20Charles%20Hedley%20Re%20Margaret%20Widdas.html>.

I do know that she and nurse Appleyard were great buddies and spent a lot of time chatting about all sorts of things. They were both very keen gardeners and no doubt compared notes as gardeners do.

Because Robert and David (my brothers) were at school there before me, mum and dad knew her quite well, and I do remember sitting with them in nurse's sitting room listening to them chatting over a cuppa. This must have been some time in the mid/early 50s."

David Johnstone (G 47-51) has been looking for a photo of St Bees Head he could frame, and sent in the following reminiscence.

"I am particularly reminded of my time at St Bees by that most spectacular panoramic photograph of St Bees Village, the sea, the school, and St Bees Head which heads the OSB News.

If I may tell my reasons for wanting a larger photo, I particularly wanted to show as much of St Bees Head as possible for a painful personal memory.

As long ago as 1949, I and some other boys were walking along the top of the Head on a day's holiday granted to celebrate Prince Charles' birth and some of us decided to get over the clifftop security fence to search for seabird nests and eggs. At that time (and probably also today I expect) this was a heinous crime for obvious safety reasons.

Somebody, a master or school prefect, saw us and this 'crime' was duly reported to our respective housemasters. The errant climbers were duly subjected to corporal punishment! I did not hear about this for some hours and thought I had got away scot-free. However, I was later summoned for questioning by our head of house, who also happened to be my fagmaster (if such people exist these days!). On being asked if I was on the cliff side, I said, truthfully, - no I was watching them from the safe side of the fence. I could sense that he was very reluctantly delivering judgement upon me (as we naturally had a close working (master and slave) relationship). He then said, normally I would just have given you an enormous verbal rocket, but all the boys on the other houses have been corporally punished and we are going to have to do the same with you. Tough justice in those days I can tell you!! After this ignominy took place, I vowed that if ever I were to meet Prince (now King) Charles, I would jolly well blame him and his birthday for putting me through all this trauma - at which no doubt he would

laugh his head off - knowing the tough treatment he went through when at his school, Gordonstoun.

The irony of all this is that I now live only five miles away from his Cotswold home near Tetbury but alas, have never moved in his social circles!"

John Ogden (FS 51-56) sent in the following:

"I found this letter to me during my time at St Bees which you might find interesting for the next OSB mailing.

I had been recommended to take some photos of the rotary oven for treatment of the anhydride which had just been installed by Solway Chemicals which I believe was a subsidiary of Marchon Products. The school had the mineral rights for the anhydrite which provided a substantial income for it in those days. I think that the design of the oven was not for general knowledge and the 35 mm film was handed back to Solway following this letter. I can't remember how much money, if any, I received for taking the photos!"

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july26bulletin>.

George Robson (FN 57-64) - Journey Recollections.

"During my seven years as a pupil (1957-1964), I only remember one boy whose family lived in the village. He was a dayboy rather than a boarder. Of course, in the early years of the school I guess all the pupils were thus because Grindal had founded the school to benefit the village of his birth and the immediate surrounds. However, the coming of the railways in the second half of the 19th century made it much more realistic for boys from distant areas of the country to travel to and from firstly the Theological College then the school. The St Bees station had opened in 1849.

Over recent years I have been researching pupils who served their country during the three major wars of the 19th and 20th centuries- the Boer (South African) War, the Great War and World War Two. In almost every case the soldier I was centring on came from a family many miles from St Bees. Examples are: Donald Neilson DSO MC - Lyddington (Rutland), Percy Loft – Bishop Auckland (Co. Durham), John Scott – Wiltshire, A F Stephenson – Liverpool.

And in time, of course, Old Boy branches were set up, some of which still operate.

Whilst a pupil at our school my family home was at Blyth on the Northumberland coast and to travel to St Bees necessitated three stages – firstly a journey of fifteen miles to Newcastle's Central station, then through the 'Tyne Gap' to Carlisle, and finally south to St Bees.

On average there would be eight of us taking over a carriage at Newcastle, although most of us would steal into an adjoining first class compartment only to

be chased back by the ticket collector as he did his rounds! *Boys will be boys*, I guess, so be assured high jinx and even some beer-swilling invariably took place as we travelled.

On the journey to Carlisle we picked up more boys at the various stations we passed through, particularly at Hexham where on average five lads joined us. There was inconvenience at Carlisle where we had a wait of two and a half hours before the connection south set off. This gave us the opportunity to look around Carlisle.

I had read about the famous **LICKING STONE** at Carlisle castle and more than once I went to the castle with a few pals to view it and the rooms Mary Queen of Scots occupied whilst a prisoner here in 1568.

However, other than the licking stone there was something even more important to me in Carlisle. I discovered there was a coin and stamp shop in the main street. I held myself, as I still do, something of a philatelist and numismatist and never missed calling, becoming a familiar customer to the staff. I remember in particular a visit I made in 1958 because there was a five pound orange stamp of 1883 for sale. I had recently had a birthday and, thanks to a wealthy great aunt, I had the funds to purchase the stamp, which I still have proudly framed in a conspicuous place (see picture). I am still amazed that a five pound stamp was thought necessary in 1883, for five pounds were equivalent to six hundred pounds in today's money. Mind you, most of the stamps were not for postage but as excise duty for tobacco or whiskey.

On arrival at the St Bees' station, we fanned out to our various houses where our trunks and tuck boxes were awaiting us. I have no recollection at all of how our luggage travelled to and from St Bees – perhaps a reader can report on how this was achieved and how it reached the various houses? And perhaps there are also readers willing to write in with accounts of their own journeys to and from school?"

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july26bulletin>.

George Robson completes his researches into OSB's in the Boer War.

"Of the 36 OSBs who served in the Boer war, eight of those listed went on to serve in the Great War of 1914-1918 and the names of all can be found listed on the internet under 'ST BEES SCHOOL – THE BOER WAR'.

An Old Boy of our school, Guy Falcon, was one of the volunteers that were sent out to South Africa. During the first two years of the war, he saw action in the Western Provinces with first Robert's Horse then Wellington D.T.M. He was awarded the South Africa Medal with five clasps covering the actions of Paadeburg, Relief of Kimberley, Orange River Colony, Transvaal and Cape Colony. In October 1901 he and a number of others were boxed up by a group of

rebels near Wellington. After four hours resistance they ran out of ammunition and were forced to surrender. Walking under a white flag towards the enemy a sudden volley of shots, followed by more volleys, rang out and *'the effect was horrible.'*

The bodies of the dead were brought to Wellington barracks and were buried at nearby Maitland Cemetery. Guy's gravestone is particularly fine and a suitably inscribed plaque to all the fallen erected in Wellington Barracks' Drill Hall."

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july26bulletin>.

From John West (SH 61-64), following a recent trip out:

"Julie and I went out for lunch today at a rather nice shop and cafe near Ingleton called Country Harvest. We meandered back to the M6 via Melling and Hornby. I have to tell you that as we went through Hornby, Julie said 'It's not very big is it?' My reply was 'That's because it's twinned with Hornby Dublo!'

She wasn't amused. I had a similar reaction at our daughter Penny's wedding, when I ended the Father of the Bride speech with 'Well it's been an emotional day, even the cake's in tiers!'

To be fair, even Penny covered her face with her hands and she has a similar sense of humour to me.

Anyway, back to Melling.

As we drove through, I had to stop and take a photo of a house named Swallows Nest, which presumably was once a school or vicarage (the church is opposite), but there was no-one about to ask. The words 'Benedictus Benedicat' were carved above the doorway.

These words took me back to mealtimes on School House, where the Head of House (Dacre Watson in my first year) would say grace before we all sat down. Talking to Dacre on one Old Boys' Day, he told me that those mealtimes were exquisite agony for him, as Jame Wykes (he was School housemaster for a while as well as being Headmaster) used to sit next to Dacre and loved to talk about cricket, which was not one of Dacre's sports and Dacre used to squirm trying to keep his end of the conversation alive.

AI tells me:

'Benedictus benedicat' is a Latin phrase commonly used as a short, pre-meal grace, translating as 'May the Blessed One (God) give a blessing'. It is often used in informal academic or religious settings to bless the food and the diners before eating.

Key Aspects of 'Benedictus benedicat':

Meaning: It literally means 'Let the Blessed One bless'. It is a request for a blessing upon the meal and those present.

Usage: It is famously used at Cambridge University and Oxford colleges as a

concise, two-word grace before dinner, particularly at less formal meals.
Full Phrase: It is sometimes extended to 'Benedictus benedicat, per Jesum Christum Dominum Nostrum' ('May the Blessed One bless, through Jesus Christ our Lord').

Post-Meal Counterpart: After the meal, the corresponding phrase is often 'Benedicto benedicatur,' meaning 'Let praise be given to the Blessed One' or 'Let a blessing be given by the Blessed One'.

The phrase emphasizes gratitude and a request for divine blessing on the food being consumed."

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july26bulletin>.

Richard Woodhead (FS 60-64) writes:

"I thought it was about time I started to clear out our loft and in doing so came across a long-forgotten tuck box in which, along with a lot of other bits, were some St Bees' memorabilia and photos. In case they should be of interest for the archives I enclose them herein as I can't think they will be of any interest in due course to my family.

There are two pictures taken on Parade Day, probably around 1962/63.

Also, a Foundation Day Room Study picture – the room at the end of the main corridor. The only name I think I remember in the picture is the person sitting reading and seem to recall his name was Wilson (?).

There is a very faded picture of the 'famous' outside the WCs in Foundation House. No doors on the loos!! It was taken in the winter of 62/63, the year of the 'Big Freeze'. I don't recall who took the picture with my camera as I'm there in the centre. To my right is Jeremy Frith (see other pic of him enclosed) and to the very far right is Carter/Roger Croft, and to his right is John Goss. I don't recall the names of any others in the frame.

The picture records a memorable occasion when a coal brazier had been set up in between the two banks of loos to stop the pipes etc from freezing, but this made it a very convivial time and place for many of us to meet for a quiet fag knowing if anyone in authority came along the smell of the smokey fire would easily disguise the smell of tobacco. Happy days and memory. It was the same winter I recall going ice skating and playing hockey on a large pond somewhere up on a headland near the school.

I also enclose a St Bees School RFC fixture card for 1961-62. I was playing on the wing in the Colts 15 at the time and amusingly see that I kept a record of the scores: a foot note on the bottom indicating I had made 1.5 tries per match. Those were the days when the school could field some decent teams. Let's hope those days will return.

Other photos include Foundation South dorm with Neil Dumbleton, a picture of

Jeremy Frith and one of myself on a three-quarter-day's holiday in Eskdale (the original of which, I thought I should keep).

One last thing. In reply to the rugby photo shown (edition 207 – July 2025) (<https://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july25bulletin/OSB%20Notes%20-%20John%20West%20and%20Robert%20Astin.html>), it was indeed School House v Foundation South. Above David Cade in the far distance is yours truly and to my right under Grindal is George Gibson. Tony Kerr is on 'Fred' Lord's left shoulder and as identified correctly 'Brandy' Brandwood is in the scrum cap. I don't remember the score but have a vague recollection that Foundation were 'robbed' by the ref!!"

Photos mentioned above may be seen on the Society website here:

<https://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/Pics2%201960s%20General.htm>,
along with some other photos sent in by Richard at the end of last year.

SNIPPETS.....

Charlie Lambert (G 64-68) and David Heale (G 64-69) recently met up in March at Liverpool Marina.

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july26bulletin>.

Chris Jenkinson (FS 67-72) and his wife, Sue, visited the school in March.

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july26bulletin>.

George Robson (FN 57-64) writes: "For your interest I attach photos of my 'St Bees School Wall'. This is where I have mounted a display of school-related material. Of course, I could not put the candleholders you featured a while back on the wall - they are on a shelf elsewhere. I am wondering whether OSBs could be invited to submit any similar stuff relating to the school they have on display in their homes? Just a thought."

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july26bulletin>.

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**

OBITUARIES

Adrian Hope (G 69-76) has forwarded the following regarding A.R.F. (Robin) Brooksbank-Pearcy (SH 57-60), who died in December 2023.

“With sadness I learnt recently of the passing of Robin. We first met on Old Boys’ Day, 1992. I was operating the Bridge Inn at Santon Bridge, Wasdale. He breezed in to the Bar to introduce himself with his partner, Maggie.

We met again on the next Old Boys’ Day and became good friends. Robin was a larger than life character, who loved his Guinness with a passion.

After leaving school, he spent his working life with Mercantile Credit, opening an office in Carlisle and then back to their head office in his beloved Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Robin took early retirement due to health issues and spent time in Scotland at his Park home. He was a pen and paper man and his Christmas card always arrived first, beautifully handwritten. When I did not receive a card, I knew something must have befallen my old friend.

I can only apologise for my slow notification to the Old Boys’ Society, but my own health has been compromising.”

John Cross (SH 70-74) has sent in the following regarding M.G. (Michael) Chisholm (FS/AC 70-75).

“I have always enjoyed reading the OSB Bulletins which bring back many good memories. In recent years I have recognised more names and often these names are sadly within the Obituary section of the Bulletins. A few months ago I spoke to Michael (known to most of us at school as ‘Chiz’) on this and how sad that we are losing people we both knew at school! Never did I think that so soon after that conversation I would be sat at my kitchen table writing this obituary for my closest and most loyal friend for the last 56 years.

Chiz leaves a sister, Felicity, and a niece Lucinda and her three boys, Max, Toby and Charlie, who currently attend Austin Friars School in Carlisle. The boys will dearly miss Michael as they grow up. They will miss his wisdom, eccentricity, sense of humour, and his guidance.

Not marrying until much later in life, Chiz never had children but he was Godfather to my daughter, Emily. She is now 44 and Chiz never missed a single birthday in all those years! Such was his loyalty to his duty and everyone he cared for.

During his final year at St Bees School, He was appointed as a school and house prefect and flight sergeant in the RAF section of the CCF. He was awarded the

Sword of Honour and the school Hedley Award. On the rugby field he was a formidable full back for the 1st XV. As a team playing together since the Under14s we often struggled against our opposition, who were inevitably heavier in the scrums and taller in the lineouts. Chiz put our smaller statures down to having shorter legs due St. Bees' close proximity to Sellafield! In other sports Chiz excelled at Eton Fives (very dangerous game to be avoided in my view!) and was captain of the school judo team.

It was on stage for the annual school plays where I have some of my best memories of him. He persuaded me to become a stagehand during the rehearsals and production of 'Waiting for Godot' and I became a willing volunteer on the promise that you got to wear 'civvies' and there was always a good party after the final performance. And so, there was! The following year we performed together in 'John Ford's Cuban Missile Crisis' under the direction of 'Butch' Broadhurst. I should also mention Chiz acting alongside Rowan Atkinson in Dr Faustus and Baron Bollingrew. So, if you ever wondered what Sean Connery and he have in common, it is that they both performed with Rowan Atkinson, but Chiz did so first!

During the latter part of our school career, a small group of us (you know who you are!) made it our mission to reach out to the local St Bees village community; a task that we took very seriously as we joined locals at the cribbage and dominoes' tables and dartboard of the Oddfellows Arms at the top of the village. Under the watchful eye of the landlord, George Cornish, we enjoyed many happy hours when a pint of Jennings bitter was about 20p. Ultimately, this was probably a contributing factor towards my early departure from the school in 1974, but that's a story for another time!

Academically, Chiz excelled in the 6th form and gained a place at St Andrews University to study theology and after five years departed for the real world with a Masters Degree. I think he rather enjoyed university life too much as he never wanted to leave! When he did return to Carlisle after a stint of working in Australia, he put all his academic learning to good use and became a bin man for BIFFA waste management in Carlisle. Clearly identified as a good prospect by the company, he was promoted to driver and then foreman of the Carlisle operation. I can safely say that he was the only binman in the world who lived within the grounds of a magnificent cathedral (Carlisle) and drove a Mk 2 Jag! After clearing up the rubbish in Carlisle, Chiz had a change of career direction and became an antique furniture dealer for a while. He would occasionally visit us in Middlesbrough and spend most of that visit scouring the scrap yards of Teeside for parts to fit an ageing and battered Volvo 240 estate with a huge roof rack, this being the workhorse and trademark car for any credible antique furniture dealer!

Alas, the life as the Lovejoy of the North West became a little too routine and a more varied occupation beckoned. He had already passed his Class 1 HGV driving test prior to his time in Australia and therefore became a lorry driver. However, academia pulled him back to university as a mature student at the University of Northumbria studying Law. He qualified first as a solicitor and then went on to sit for the bar, and you might have expected him then to settle for life as a barrister. No, of course not! Instead, he returned to Carlisle, asked Eddie Stobart for his old job back, and when not driving, also worked as a Pro Bono lawyer in and around Carlisle. He believed passionately in access to justice, helping many people who would not otherwise be able to afford legal assistance. He continued to work for Eddie Stobart up until his sudden passing on 7th March 2026 aged 69.

In recent years we had met up at St Bees, sadly not at the Oddfellows Arms, which like many small village locals' pubs, closed some years ago. We shared precious time together talking and laughing about our teenage adventures (and misadventures) at school. I was always astonished at his recall of people and events that had long since slipped my memory! His impressions of teachers like 'Butch' Broadhurst, the Major, the Headmaster Geoffrey Lees and Sam (Lem) Parkinson and many others will be sadly missed over a glass or two.

I know that all OSBs reading this obituary will join me in offering our deepest condolences to Felicity, Lucinda and her boys for their terrible and sudden loss and I know they will forever miss Michael. I know I will.

On a final note, just a year ago, in an email exchange between us following our discussion about obituaries, Chiz wrote to me:

'Obituaries all seem to be about our achievements rather than accepting our worthiness for simply being who we really are.'

Rest in peace my friend, we will remember you for who you really were, for your loyalty, kindness and generosity towards everyone who had the pleasure of knowing you."

A photo of Chiz seated far right in the St Bees School Under 15s XV in 1971-1972 and one of Michael in 2006, may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july26bulletin>.

Adrian Hope (G 69-76) has also sent in the following regarding Michael Chisholm (FS/AC 70-75).

"I attended the funeral service of Michael Chisholm on 2 April 2026 at Carlisle Crematorium.

His passing was a tremendous shock. 'Chis' as he was known to friends, was approaching 70 years of age and wanted to be in prime condition. Every day he went swimming, cycling, and always an evening walk in Rickerby Park, Carlisle.

We first met back in 1963 at junior school, Saint Gabriel's, Carlisle. We also sang together in the parish church choir at Saint Cuthbert's, Carlisle. He lived with his mother and sister in the cathedral grounds in a 'grace and favour' grade one house, only a short walk away.

Our paths crossed again at St Bees. Chis played 1st XV rugby and was a Brown Belt at Judo.

After school He went to Saint Andrews University in Scotland and gained a 1st Class Honours degree in Divinity. Then, after passing his HGV Licence, he went to Australia for a year driving wagons and taxis.

On his return he went to Newcastle University, gaining a degree in Law, then took his Bar Exams, finishing in the top six. Although accepted in Chambers, he chose not to practise.

'Chis' was 'his own man' and took a position with Carlisle City Council operating their refuse department. It was very fitting that the Council sent a refuse wagon to his funeral.

After retirement, he worked for Eddie Stobart Logistics, driving an HGV as a happy pastime.

He was a genial character, who has gone too soon. He leaves a wife and partner of 42 years, Irene, and his sister, Felicity.

We will not see his like again."

Eric Lafone (F 64-67) has sent in the following regarding his brother A. G. (Alexander - 'Alec') Lafone (FS 44-49).

"I am passing on the sad news that my brother Alec Lafone passed away on February 26th aged 94 at his home in West Horsley, Surrey. He was a member of the 1st XV and went on to play for Harlequins in the pre-professional era. He subsequently studied at St Mary's Medical School and was awarded a 1st class Honours degree as a Bachelor of Medicine. He became a director of the family-owned Butlers Wharfing business, close to Tower Bridge in London. He also held a directorship with Butterfield Harvey Distribution from 1972 to 1975, becoming the distribution manager for Glaxo Pharmaceuticals UK from 1975 to 1993. He later became the President of the Freight Transport Association before his retirement in 1993. He was also a Fellow of the Zoological Society and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Transport. He is survived by his wife Audrey and daughters Nicola and Gayle."

Chris Middleton kindly notified us about his father's death.

Eric Middleton (M 58-69).

"Eric passed away in October 2025 and is much missed by family and friends. Our dad, Eric and mum Pat (1936-2023) thoroughly enjoyed living and working

in St Bees, which remains a special place for all our family. They kept in touch with quite a few friends, colleagues, neighbours and students for many years, so many thanks to those who knew them and made them feel welcome in St Bees and beyond.

Eric was born in Newcastle 1935 and lived on the Crossway, Kenton. He first attended the local Edgefield Elementary School there where one of his reports included the line: 'inclined to fight too readily'. A kind uncle took him on holiday, taught him the Lord's prayer and encouraged him to apply to the Newcastle Royal Grammar school. Eric there gained a scholarship and he developed a keen interest in science and particularly chemistry - and also joined the school boxing and cricket teams and the strings section of the orchestra (violin). Reading the letters and emails Eric continued to exchange with a whole hive of 'Old St Beghians' and other teammates right to the end of his life, these footprints hint at traces of the journeys to follow.

Following a year at Kings, Newcastle, Eric went on to study chemistry at Pembroke, Cambridge, representing the college at boxing and cricket and playing in the orchestra. Summer posts at Vickers Armstrong, Winthrop Labs and a stint as a Pontins Porter also seemed to add further 'reagents' - to his life-path, alongside getting engaged to the love of his life, Pat Brown (1936-2023).

In 1958 he joined his first 'staff team' as teacher and chemistry master at St Bees. Then in September 1961 the school welcomed Eric and his newly-wed wife Pat, also from Newcastle but who had been teaching at Carlisle High School for Girls. First Eric and Pat lived at 2 Main Street, next to the 'tuck shop'. Then as a family, we moved into 6 Lonsdale Terrace, becoming neighbours to amazingly kind people like Gerald and Rita Lamble and family and Mr Graham Gow, and what an idyllic place the school and village seemed. My thanks go to Richard Taylor for capturing a family video snapshot of a sunny afternoon in the Lonsdale Terrace garden and sandpit with Eric.

In 1965 Eric and Pat became housemaster - and 'by default, housemistress' - on Meadow House up the hill - and the family moved into the 'Master's flat' upstairs. In chats and correspondence with dad, students and other staff recalled the housemasters organising 'early morning runs' as Eric did for the 30-ish Meadow House lads with porridge and boiled eggs often on the menu; Eric and Pat having to figure out how to make it all work on a particularly stringent budget, or having to stand in for matron or for the cook at short notice; and also finding good neighbours next door in the Fox family.

The community was clearly close and supportive, good examples of folk who became life-long friends, neighbours, colleagues and other St Beghian parishioners. Fellow 1960s colleagues and students will doubtless remember Mrs Dodding of Finkle Street, Mr. Gill Fee's garage on the corner of Finkle Street and

Cross Hill and Mr Blenkinsopp and his shop with special ice creams on Main Street among many others in the community.

Chris and Lucy were both christened at the Priory – Lucy’s, after we had moved to Meadow House, is commemorated by a photo of colleagues and friends’ children together with family from Northumberland enjoying tea on the terrace there. On many levels, both Eric and Pat found the village Priory to be a very special place too - both on Sundays and in regular parish events such as Harvest Festivals and marking the terms and seasons alongside village primary school activities, school cricket teas and Saturdays at the beach.

The village’s seaside setting just lent itself to beach exploration as a school – and family – activity, enhanced even further by being so close to the Western Fells with Eric and with other science colleagues taking lads on many a ‘geology’ field trip, or simply a good hike up in the Western Fells by Eskdale, Wasdale or Ennerdale. What a blessing to live in this corner of the world.

In 1969 Eric was appointed deputy head of Wombwell High School and the family relocated to a new parish in St Helen’s, Wakefield in the West Riding. Both Eric and Pat continued their teaching careers alongside Sunday school teaching and raising a family. However, for many summers and half terms we would be back in St Bees or staying in nearby Eskdale to visit friends in Copeland.

In 1973 Eric and Pat moved with the family northwards again, this time to the ‘new county of Cleveland’: to work in two new comprehensive schools in Hartlepool: Eric as Head of Brierton Comprehensive, and Pat teaching German at High Tunstall School and later as Head of German at Brinkburn 6th Form college. Dad’s involvement in encouraging students in science, agriculture and the wider curriculum continued.

Last December, Andrew, the son of the then Brierton Deputy Head, Eric Pidd, wrote: ‘those days at Brierton seem like a lifetime ago - a different world almost. I think your dad was a great fit for the Head of a Secondary Modern moving into a Comprehensive school. He brought a whole wider view of the world to kids who wouldn’t have necessarily been exposed to music and the arts, let alone ‘Flatland’! I’d like to think ‘the Two Erics’ were a great team who made a difference to the lives of so many people at that time.’

Through all of this time at St Bees, Wakefield and Hartlepool, we remember the house regularly having guests to stay, visiting family or friends or visitors from abroad and neighbours from church or school life.

Finally, in 1984 Eric joined a new staff team as Principal of Prior Pursglove College, Guisborough and they moved to this North Riding town in 1987, though Pat continued teaching Hartlepool 6th Formers for several years. Eric’s Guisborough colleagues said he enjoyed working with the staff team at Prior, firmly believing education should open as many doors for young people as

possible. Still occasionally putting on his white coat to keep his hand in at the science lab, he encouraged students to explore science and faith.

After retirement Eric volunteered with the CFM counselling group in Stockton and for several years acted as chaplain with Bede 6th Form College, Billingham, including co-leading field trips to Lindisfarne, Holy Island – exploring for example what earlier Celtic Christians meant by ‘thin places’, where heaven and earth meet.

Eric wrote several books e.g. ‘The New Flatlanders’ which started from discussions with 6th Form students about the origins of the universe. His last book, ‘Surprised by the Spirit’ cites several contributions from St Beghian friends among others who had answered the question, ‘what is your special place?’ Dad really enjoyed these conversations in recent years.

EPILOGUE:

In one of his more recent writings, Eric described how he had had a dream where he was welcomed into an enormous hall where a very happy atmosphere revealed singing and dancing Scottish reels and jigs: ‘Walking behind the seated guests enjoying their meal, I met a few old friends and suddenly saw my dear wife. We hugged and Pat said she would keep a place for me. I awoke, bemused, and asked ‘What are you saying to me Lord?’ He answered: ‘You may stop looking for her, she is with me in Heaven, at peace and happy in the Holy Spirit in many dimensions around you.’

Next morning Dad was writing down this dream and remembered his final prayer at mum’s bedside: This was the note -

‘Calm me O Lord, as you stilled the storm. Still me and keep me from harm. May all the tumult within me cease, Enfold me Lord Jesus in your Peace. Love and Blessings to you all.’

From Eric and Pat, loving parents to Chris and Lucy, parents-in-law to Helen and to Martin, and grandparents to Michael, Rachel and to Rosie. We hope you were blessed by some of these memories of Eric (1935-2025) and Pat (1936-2023).”

Photos include Lonsdale Terrace, Meadow House, Eric’s chemistry lab and the school playing fields amongst others.

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july26bulletin>.

D.M. (David) Parker (G 63-68).

Bruce Murdoch (FN 63-68), an old friend of David, advised the Society of his death, and kindly drew our attention to the obituary notice produced by the Edinburgh Academical Rugby Club, of whom David was a former President. We thank Ewan Alexander, the current President, and Jason Parrott, the Club Board Member who wrote the piece, for allowing us to include an edited version of this below.

In addition, a school 1st XV 1964 rugby photo (David sitting far right) sent to us by Bruce may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july26bulletin>.

“It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of David ‘Parky’ Parker on 7th January 2026 - a fine man, player, and great supporter of the Club. He was 75.

PHOTO 1 - David Parker.

Where do we start with this great man? The phrase ‘rugby legend’ is a rather ubiquitous term these days, but we think we can say that Parky was - and always will be to EAFC members - a true ‘Accies legend’ – the type that worked tirelessly in the trenches, behind the scenes and expected very little back, safe in the knowledge that he was helping his beloved Accies. This down to earth and very likeable Yorkshireman found his second home down at Raeburn Place and made it his passion to help continue our great legacy of rugby friendship.

David Mabson Parker was born in Barnsley in 1950 and, despite moving to Scotland in 1995, remained a Yorkshireman at heart. He was educated at St Bees School, Cumbria and studied Business Studies at Sheffield Hallam University with a sponsorship from the British Steel Corporation.

PHOTO 2 - St Bees Colts XV 1965-6 – Parky front row second from the right – his old friend Bruce Murdoch holding the ball.

His interests were rugby, golf, walking, climbing and rowing. He was a member of Wath upon Dearne RUFC, Abbeydale Sports Club, City of Sheffield Rowing Club and Wortley Golf Club. A compound fracture in his left leg (an honourable rugby injury) effectively ended his rugby and rowing careers, but he continued to play golf and walk regularly for many years.

He met and married Sue and they had three sons and a daughter. Initially the family lived in Sheffield and Stainborough.

With three friends from Sheffield, Parky started a golf society (‘The PPP and B’) and continued to join them on their annual ‘meetings’ until last year. Apart from two occasions, these were always ‘stag’ events, but partners were invited to France and Norfolk - his five-month old daughter, Tilly, memorably sleeping peacefully under the dinner and billiard tables in France!

Parky worked initially for British Steel Corporation and later for Weir plc and Morton Hodson Management Consultants, and from the late seventies to the mid-eighties spent a large amount of time in the Middle East.

In 1995 the family moved to Edinburgh and Parky almost immediately found his way to Raeburn Place and Accies. However, Parky’s relationship with the Club started purely by chance – and how lucky we are that it turned out like it did! His great friend, Vincent O’Donoghue, fondly recalled:

‘In 1995, on the first Saturday after arriving in Edinburgh from down south, Parky left his flat in Fettes Row and, asking a local where he could find the nearest

rugby club, headed in the direction of 'Nailacre'. He navigated his way there and after the match went into the clubhouse, where he had a number of pints. He eventually left pretty disappointed, as nobody had talked to him/acknowledged his presence.

The following Saturday, he turned up at Raeburn Place. After the match, myself and a number of Accies were drinking in the Ben Tod Lounge. On the way to the loo, I noticed a gentleman drinking on his own and nodded to him as I passed by. The gentleman, whom I assumed was waiting for some friends to join him, nodded back. On my return, I saw that the gentleman was still on his own and went over to have a chat with him. The gentleman in question was Parky and, after a few minutes of conversation, I invited him over to join the other Accies at the Bar. The rest, as they say, is history!

Parky quickly became an active and dedicated supporter of the Club, helping organise its 140th anniversary celebrations in November 1997, which included organising a celebratory match - David Sole's Grand Slam XV vs. EAFC President's XV - followed by a memorable black tie dinner in a marquee at Raeburn Place.

It didn't take long for us to recognise Parky's talents and so it came to pass that in 1998 he took over as (a very proud) Club President. However, it wasn't an easy time, with players leaving after we had dropped down a division. His commitment and belief came at a moment when it was needed most. He went on to serve two terms as President, 1998/9 and 1999/2000. The 1st XV captains during his tenure had nothing but great respect (with a large dollop of comedy thrown in) for Parky.

PHOTO 3 - President Parky standing far left with the 1st XV Squad 1999-2000 that won promotion from Prem 3, that included such greats as Dan Teague, Richard 'Bumpy' Porter, Craig 'Mr Price' Harrison and Mike Blair.

PHOTO 4 - Parky (holding ball) with the Accies 2nd XV in front of the old Pavillion season 2002/3 – a team full of characters!

Parky loved touring and participated in tours to Biella and Toulouse amongst others and thoroughly enjoyed a trip to Hong Kong and Australia in 2013, following the British & Irish Lions.

PHOTO 5 - On tour to Biella 2006 - Parky 7th from the left.

'I seem to remember lasting 1 min and 50 secs before a hammy went! Too fit I think was the cry.'

PHOTO 6 - On tour with the Lions in 2013 – a relaxing itinerary including Bangkok, Hong Kong, Perth, Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney again!

The bottom line was that Parky was at the heart of all things positive and fun at Accies – whether it be a post-match 'court session', shenanigans after great

victories (who can forget the sight of Parky skateboarding outside ‘Chevvy’s Bar’ in Aviemore after winning the Strathspey 7s?), or enjoying the odd libation or three in the Ben Tod Lounge.

When Parky and Sue moved up to Ullapool in 2008, Parky continued to support the Club and the ‘Hasbeens’, as well as attending many ‘Long Lunches’ at Prestonfield House Hotel and pre-match lunches in the clubhouse. He joined and became Chair of the Ullapool Hillwalking Club, as well as Chairing the Ullapool Trade and Business Association. For 13 years, he and Sue ran a successful small B&B in their home on the banks of beautiful Loch Broom, welcoming visitors from all over the world.

Our current President, Ewan Alexander, wrote recently:

‘Parky was a great servant of the Club and was universally popular. He was Club President in seasons 1998/1999 and 1999/2000 and did lots of other fantastic work at Raeburn Place over many years. I had known Parky for a long time, but got closer to him after I took on the Club’s Vice-Presidency. He was always hugely supportive and, as many will know, despite living some distance from Edinburgh, continued to take a forensic interest in everything that was going on at Raeburn Place. He wasn’t afraid to test and challenge on occasion, but for me, that just demonstrated his ongoing commitment to the Club. I can say without fear of contradiction, that we have lost an Accies legend and Parky will be sorely missed. Our condolences go to his wife Sue and the rest of the family. We will hold a minute’s silence before kick-off at the 1st XV match on Saturday as a mark of respect.’

Another great friend of Parky’s, Ruairaidh Williamson, wrote:

‘Parky created a remarkable legacy which continues on at the Club. I think many people will agree with me that the Accies was and is a club where they really feel a sense of belonging. A large part of that was down to Parky and his influence that extended far beyond rugby. He shaped a community, fostered lifelong friendships, and made countless people feel valued and included. That is a legacy of which any man would be proud.’

PHOTO 7 - Parky out for a stroll at his favourite beach at Gruinard Bay.”

All photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july26bulletin>.

Olaf Thomsen (F 49) died peacefully on 14th November 2025, aged 94.

His daughter, Gabriele, kindly provided the following details.

“Olaf worked for the Pharmaceutical Division of the German company Bayer AG and from 1959 to 1963 was managing director of Bayer de Colombia Ltd. of Bogota, Colombia. From 1961 onwards he had been a member of the Lions Club International.

In August 1991 he visited the school and village to where he had first come as a German exchange student for two terms, and retained vivid memories of his time and the friends he made, remembering especially J. G. Bullivant (FS 45-49), T. C. Seymour (F 44-50), R. Allison (F 44-49) and W. G. W. Morrison. In later life he wrote a book about his family history, and Gabriele has sent some extracts relating to his time at St Bees, from which the following are taken.”

‘It was at the end of 1948 when I and a few other classmates received an invitation from the British military government in Germany to visit an English school. The aim of this programme, which ran throughout the British occupation zone, was presumably to rid German youth of the virus of militarism and National socialism in an age group where service in the Hitler youth and engagement in paramilitary exercises was virtually compulsory. In January 1949, they sent me and several others to England.

In London we were accommodated in a YMCA hostel near Hyde Park and there I was informed that the next morning I would be travelling to St Bees, opposite the Irish coast, and that I was the only one headed there. The village of St Bees had about 1500 inhabitants at the time. Before I could begin my life as a student I had to endure a few things. First, I was completely outfitted and given the usual school uniform. Then I had to get a Certificate of Registration, which I had to take to the local police station at St Bees every month. I soon came to know the village policeman, Constable Atkinson, as a kind friend and helper.

The first thing I had to get used to at school were the strict rules and regulations. Punctuality and discipline were paramount. Students were only allowed to use certain entrances. Smoking and any contact with girls were strictly forbidden.

Violations of rules were sometimes punished with beatings. I personally witnessed a student being beaten with nine strokes of a stick, almost to the point of needing hospitalisation, all because he had gone for a walk with a girl on the nearby golf course. Incidentally, these punishments were usually not handled by the teachers but by the oldest students, the prefects. Sport was an important part of the curriculum, and the boarding school also served as a cadet academy, with once a week a rigorous drill under the direction of a former army captain.

In retrospect I wouldn’t want to miss the experiences I had at the school, but at that time I didn’t find them particularly enriching: the aversion to ‘the evil Germans’ was still palpable among some students – often painfully so! In 1949 I left St Bees to go back to Germany.’

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july26bulletin>.

Copy Deadline: As the target month for the next issue of ‘The Old St Beghian’ is **January 2027**, the Editor would be most grateful if Branch Secretaries and other contributors would let him have their notices and reports by **30th Nov, 2026**.

Notification of Deaths (Since the January 2026 Bulletin)

ATKINSON, R.E.B. (Rodney)	Died 30.05.26	FN 61-66
CHISHOLM, M.G. (Michael)	Died 07.03.26	FS/AC 70-75
HESLOP, G.E.R. (Geoffrey)	Died 30.03.24	SH 41-43
JAMESON, W.B. (Brian)	Died 12.01.26	FN 46-51
LAFONE, A.G. (Alexander – Alec)	Died 26.02.26	FS 44-49
LIVERSEDGE, H.M.G. (Hugh Mark)	Died 31.03.26	FS 59-64
PEARSON, R.H. (Roger)	Died 10.04.26	SH 52-58
ROBINSON, H.A. (Howard)	Died 14.11.25	F 58-61

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.

St Beghian Society

WEBSITE, FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

Please remember the St Beghian Society

Website, Facebook & the NEW Instagram pages at

www.st-beghian-society.co.uk

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

<https://www.instagram.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.



OSB Newsletter

Spring and Autumn Editions

The St Beghian Society are trialling the idea of a newly proposed **OSB Newsletter** and are initially producing 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.

To date, three issues have been published since **Spring 2025**.

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. Thank you to those of you who have already commented with some useful feedback.

If you would like to receive a copy of the new Newsletter and other online mailings in the future (if you don't do so already), 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, which include the electronic Bulletin and Newsletter.

Please do just let us know your preferences at the time of contact.

Articles for 'The Old St Beghian' Bulletin

The next issue of 'The Old St Beghian' is due out in **January 2027**.

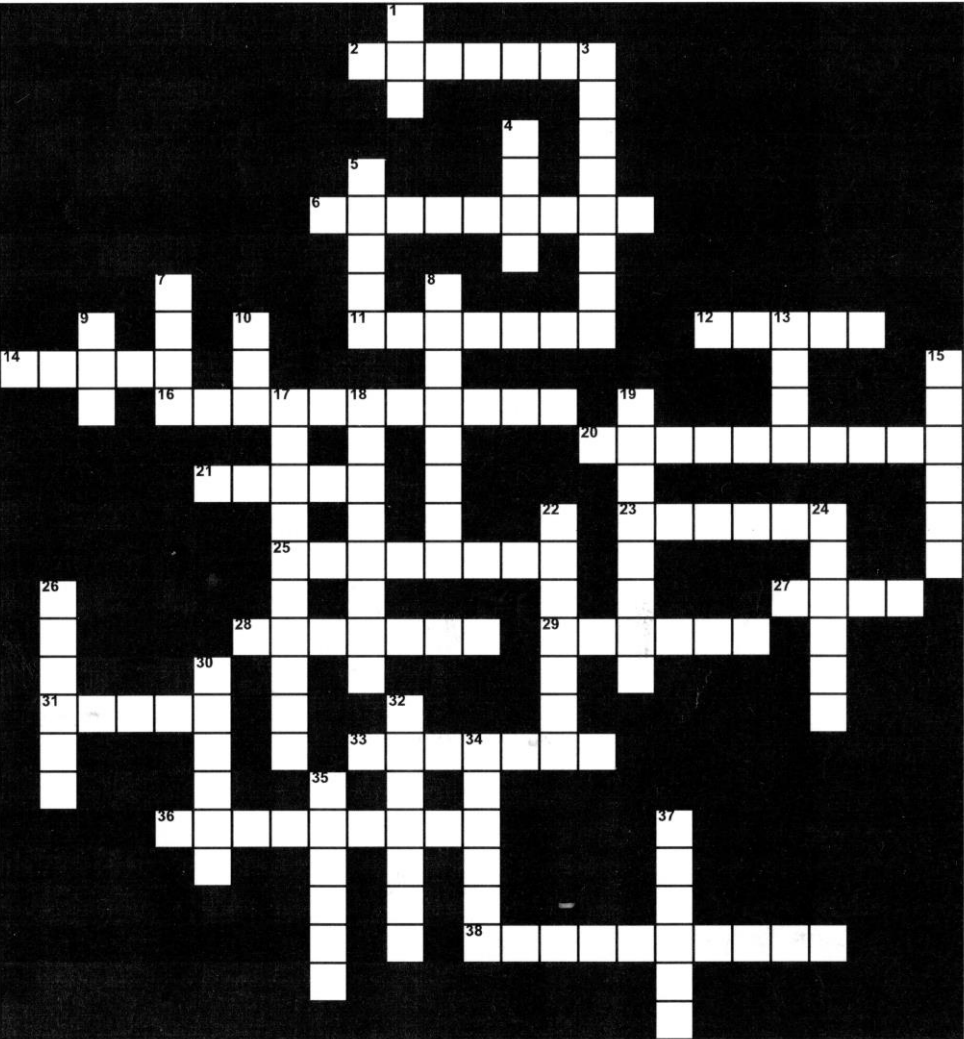
We would welcome write-ups from any OSBs who would like to contribute. Whether it is a piece about life at school or your career since leaving, if you think others may be interested, please do send it in.

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, 2026**.

Crossword - ST BEES VILLAGE and SCHOOL

Numbered start squares shown clearly. Each number is used once only.



Devised by George Robson (FN 57-64)

The Clues to George’s crossword may be found on the following page, and the answers will be printed in the next Bulletin (January 2027). For a bit of fun, feel free to send in your solution to the OSB office and we will let you know in the next Bulletin who was the first OSB to submit a correct entry.

Clues

1. Down – The music centre (3)
2. Across – Responsible for 867 years of mineral rights (7)
3. Down – Downed an airship then received a VC (8)
4. Down – The Priory named after St Begha and which Saint? (4)
5. Down – The most northerly court in England (5)
6. Across – The only female head of school (9)
7. Down – Royalty who visited in 1989 (4)
8. Down – Opened in 1893 to support cricket (8)
9. Down – Beck runs through village and under bridge (3)
10. Down – All prefects had one until the 70s (3)
11. Across – Opened in 1849 where trains stopped (7)
12. Across – Room once called Big but now ... (5)
13. Down – Churchyard gate (4)
14. Across – Master known as TA (5)
15. Down – Archbishop of York born in St Bees (6)
16. Across – Waiting House near the beach (11)
17. Down – Built to assist seafarers on the Head (10)
18. Down – Road from Main Street to the beach is called ... (8)
19. Down – Building named after this Conservative politician (8)
20. Across – Nearby town and port (10)
21. Across – The name Bees derives from (5)
22. Down – Hotel at the beach (7)
23. Across – Rugby pitch overlooked by the New Block (6)
24. Down – Opened by future Edward VIII but now demolished (6)
25. Across – A wood in the lane past the New Block (8)
26. Down – Full (6)
27. Across – Four sided but began as two in 1842 (4)
28. Across – Headmaster throughout WWII (7)
29. Across – A place to worship (6)
30. Down – Opened the New Block in 1959 (6)
31. Across – Full Circle is based in ... (5)
32. Down – Built as the Station Hotel in 1888 (7)
33. Across – Blown last thing at night from Grindal, a bugle or a ... (7)
34. Down – A Waiting House on High House Road (6)
35. Down – Oversees the school finances (6)
36. Across – Where St Bees Man was killed (9)
37. Down – Sheila Appleyard was this of Foundation for 34 years (6)
38. Across – Man who devised coastal walk (10)

200 CLUB



We currently have 70 payments into the 200 Club account, which is a slight increase from last year. I use the term payments rather than members as some members have multiple numbers.
In fact, **we have only 44 members.**

Please can I encourage OSBs to join our club.

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.

All the funds raised go towards the payment of prizes and, more importantly, to help fund extra-curricular school projects or OSB ventures, where required.

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 **£3360.96 in the bank** after the draw on OSB Day 2026, which was held during the AGM.

The Winners of the June 2026 Draw were:

PRIZE	No.	WINNER	PRIZE	No.	WINNER
£200	34	Andrew Mawson	£40	44	Kevin Smith
£40	8	Mark Roberts	£40	27	Peter Lever

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 around £200** and it 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 few 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 Scheme 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 (the price hasn't increased for about 40 years!)** 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.

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).



BRANCH NOTES & EVENTS

Branch Activities:

Cambridge Gathering - 27th May 2026 - Red Lion Grantchester.

The Cambridge OSB Group met at the Red Lion Pub in Grantchester, next to the river Cam, at the end of May. The weather was wonderful and they were able to enjoy an evening outside, with good food and great company.

Please do get in touch with John for further information about future gatherings - 07717209399 or braithwaite.john@icloud.com.

A photo from the evening may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july26bulletin>.

L to R – John Braithwaite (G 65-69), Robert Middleton (FN 50-54), Gavin Robertson (G 60-65) and Monty Morgan (F 53-58).

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

With 71 OSBs, partners and friends in attendance and spanning several decades, it was a lovely occasion which, we understand, went on into the early hours for those who could sustain the pace! Not quite as many as 2025, but nevertheless a good number. Next year, those OSBs who were at school in the 1980s are hoping to make it a big reunion event and are rallying around to encourage people to put the date Friday 26th February 2027 in their diary. Of course, all OSBs, wives, partners and friends, of whatever vintage, are invited and we look forward to seeing you there.

Attendees:

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

Alumni – Bill Colbeck (FN 49-55) and Isobel Colbeck, Tim Brown (G 53-58), Edward Thompson (F 54-59), Richard Lockwood (FS 59-64) and Sally Hopkinson, Carter Croft (FN 60-65) and Lynda Croft, John West (SH 61-64), Stephen Downham (G 61-65), Anthony Dearden (FS 62-66) and Eileen Taylor, David Rowlands (G 62-68), Julian Wood (SH 63-66) and Judith Wood, Tim Mackay (FS 68-73), Michael Gillman (SH 68-73), Andrew Johnston (G 68-73), Joe Croasdale (FS 70-75), David Paul (FN/AC 71-76) and Vashti Ragoonanan, Frank Godber (FN/AC 72-79) and Sharon Sampson, Adrian Peckitt (FS 72-77), Paul Maybury (FS 73-77) and Sarah Maybury (nee Howard), Richard Ward (FN 74-77), Ken Rangecroft (FN 74-78), Stephen Pickthall (FN 74-78),

Fergus Wilkie (SH 74-80) and Suzanne Wilkie, Andrew Carr (G 74-79), Anthony Kearsley (G 75-77) and Jo Harris, Dougal Reed (FN 75-80) and Partner, James Crossley-Smith (SH 75-80), Simon Heap (SH 75-82), Symon Brown (FS 75-78) and Sheila Brown, Mark Steele (SH/AC 77-84) and Jane Steele, Ed Wilkie (SH 77-84), Jonathan Hodgson (SH 78-85), James Kirpalani (SH 79-83), Howard Graham (FS 80-87), Sarah Cousins (nee Eynon) (G 80-87), Lynn Bentley-Stuart (nee Butcher) (G 81-83), Claire Scougie (nee Eynon) (G 82-89), Nigel Fletcher (SH 82-87), Kele Mbagwu (SH 82-84), Jonathan Steele (FS 82-87), Simon Steele (FS 85-89), Paul Cummings (AC 86-88), Victoria Davies (L 94-99), Laurence Gribble (SH 2002-09/Current Interim Headmaster), Jake Gildert (2012-14).

Current members of Staff and Partners - Corrine Alexander and Nick Gribble, Helen Bertram and Jamie Bertram, Vanessa Johnson and John Johnson, Becky Bell and Adam Bell.

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

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july26bulletin>.

London Dinner – May 2026,

The Civil Service Club, London.

On Friday 29th May, twenty Old St Beghians plus three guests descended upon the Civil Service Club in central London for a generous three course meal with wine. It was amazing to see such a wide range of age groups, with attendance at the school ranging from 1956 to 2015 - an incredible 59 years!

Thanks go to our two speakers, who both came all the way down from Cumbria for the evening: Darryl Davies (President of the OSB Society) and Laurence Gribble (Interim Headmaster).

2026 London Dinner attendees:

Dacre Watson (SH 56-62) and Ann Watson, Mark Spencer Ellis (SH 62-68), Darryl Davies (FS 62-68), Adrian Peckitt (FS 72-77), Tony Wilson (FS 72-77), Tim Crossley-Smith (SH 73-78), Dharma Paul (FN 73-78) and Miriam Scharf, Rod Macleod (FN 73-79), John Boag (FS 74-81), Donald Jackson (SH 75-80) and Sabina Jackson, Peter Ainsworth (FS 78-85), Alan Stewart (SH 82-89), Martin Birkett (SH 83-90), Paul Mawson (FS 83-90), Chris Wilson (AC 84-91), Mark 'Ronnie' Whelan (FS 86-91), Paul Mashiter (SH 96-03), Jerry Tsang (SH 96-03), Laurence Gribble (SH 02-09), Emerson Beckwith (A/G 09-15).

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july26bulletin>.

A Big Thank You to all our **OSB Branch Organisers** who kindly put in so much time and effort to arrange these excellent events around the country. We couldn't do without them and we greatly appreciate their assistance in keeping these OSB occasions alive. Thank you to you all!

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.

We are now a core group of around nine OSBs, from Cambridge and the surrounding area as far as the Wash and always meet at 7:30 pm once traffic has died down, and midweek when the pubs and restaurants are quieter. We meet in various attractive central Cambridge pubs or nearby, recently a favourite has been the Red Lion in Grantchester, to eat and socialise for an hour or two. We normally gather every four to eight weeks and would very much welcome other St Beghians who would like to join us. Please do contact me (John) for further information.

Our next, the 17th, Cambridge get-together will be on Thursday 6th August 2026, at the Red Lion in Grantchester, at 7.30pm.

Shortly prior to this will be our July boat trip, kindly hosted for a second time by Robert Middleton (FN 50-54) on his boat on the Broads. Last year, we were blessed with great sailing weather – fingers crossed it is the same this time! Following the summer activities, we will resume our usual gatherings every couple of months in the autumn and beyond.

Contact: John (G 65-69) on 07717209399 or at braithwaite.john@icloud.com for further information.

Cumbria South Lakes Informal Social – Autumn 2026 (tbc) - Grange-over-Sands Golf Club, Cumbria (tbc).

We are hoping to arrange another South Lakes Social Evening somewhere in the south of the county in the autumn (tbc). If you are interested in attending, or have any ideas for a good venue, please do get in touch with Carter Croft as soon as you can on 07743 700 986 or cartertusm1946@icloud.com to register your interest.

Cumbria (West) Branch Dinner - February 2027, Armathwaite Hall, Nr Keswick, Cumbria - St Beghian Society Social Gathering 2027.

The Cumbria Dinner and Gathering which will take place on **Friday 26th February 2027**, 7.00 for 7.30pm at Armathwaite Hall, Bassenthwaite Lake, Keswick. CA12 4RE. Tel: 017687 88909.

Husbands, wives, partners and friends are most welcome.

The cost is **£46.00 pp** and will include:

A Champagne reception on arrival with Live background music

A magnificent 3 course meal with wine on the table.

Our private function 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.

Discounted accommodation is available - 4 Club rooms @ £205 per room B&B and 8 Deluxe rooms @ £270 B&B, these prices also include the use of the hotel facilities. A list of other local hotels is available.

Please book your accommodation directly with the hotel. Your contact is Leeann at leeann.lennox@armathwaite-hall.com or tel +44 17687 88909.

Please register your interest and book your meal with me (Darryl).

Cheques or BACS payments must be received as soon as possible to confirm reservation and guarantee a place (if you cancel before Friday 12th February 2027, 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.

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

We look forward to seeing you in February 2027 for another great night at Armathwaite Hall Hotel.

London Social Evening (Informal Gathering).

Please keep an eye on future OSB Bulletins and social media posts for information regarding the date and venue for the next event.

Join us for a fun and relaxed evening and a great way to reminisce with old friends and meet new ones.

Please register your interest for future gatherings with Martin Birkett (martin.birkett@hotmail.com).

Please also let us know if you would be prepared to help with encouraging OSBs to attend this event in the future – we would love to hear from you.

North East Sunday Lunch - Sunday 15th November 2026

The Angel, Main Street, Corbridge, NE45 5LA

We are hoping to re-establish an OSB event in the North East this year, in Corbridge. A NE Sunday Lunch is being arranged for **Sunday 15th Nov 2026 at The Angel of Corbridge** and we hope you will be able to join us.

Cost: £30.80 for 2 Courses or £37.40 for 3 Courses.

Time: Arrive 12.00, for 12.30.

Drinks: Bar available – drinks to be purchased on the day.

Booking form available at: <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july26bulletin>.

Please make BACS booking payments to:

JE Steele, Sort Code: 20-40-09, Acc No. 40559105. Ref: 'NE + Name'

For further information and to book a place, please get in touch with Jonathan Steele as soon as possible at zambia69.js@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you in the very near future.

Scottish Gathering – Thurs 17th September 2026, Edinburgh.

In 2026 we are planning a **combined OSB and OSBGS (Golfing Society) event** to coincide with the Queen Elizabeth golf tournament in Edinburgh.

The Golfing Society plan to make the weekend a signature event, opening the opportunity for Old St Beghians (golfing and non-golfing) to join, support and socialise with the team.

A combined OSB/OSBGS **Informal Social Evening** will therefore take place on **Thursday 17th September 2026** to which all OSBs are invited.

Please do get in touch with Tom Wright, the OSBGS Secretary to register your interest or to find out further details: tomosbgolf@hotmail.com.

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.

NEW Get-Togethers and Gatherings...

If you have any ideas or suggestions about OSB social events around the country, we would love to hear from you. We are interested to develop new ideas and get-togethers which you, the OSBs, would like to attend.

Please let us know what would attract you to an event in the future and where you would like to see these events held.

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 (Social and Dinner): M.J. Birkett (Martin),

Email: martin.birkett@gs.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: J.E. Steele (Jonathan),

Email: zambia69.js@gmail.

Yorkshire: Currently vacant.

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

Scotland: T.H. MacKay (Tim),

Tel: 0785 008 2583. Email: timmackay5859@gmail.com.

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

St Beghian Society – Careers Forum

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

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

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

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

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

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

or complete the attached/enclosed form and return to:
St Beghian Society, St Bees School, Wood Lane, St Bees, Cumbria, CA27 0DS.

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



NEW OSB Instagram Page



A NEW OSB Instagram page has been created.
Please do follow it to keep up to date with news and events.

OSB Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/osbsociety/>

Golfing Society (OSBGS)

Old St Beghians' Golfing Society Report

Halford Hewitt - April 2026

The 2026 Halford Hewitt competition was held this year following the Easter Weekend from the 9th – 12th April. The OSBGS team started to gather in Kent at the beginning of the week for the practice days. We had an extra day's practice as our first-round match was drawn on the Friday at Royal St Georges against Forest.

We had two 'first timers' in the team this year, Luke Howorth and Sam Thomas, who provided a great boost for the team both in terms of capability and in significantly reducing the average age of the team. Luke and Sam took the event in their stride, and I hope this will be their first of many Hewitt's.

Photo available showing St Bees golfing academy students with their old teacher Stuart Hemmings, who was there with Rossall School. L-R Sam Thomas, Cameron Wood, Stuart Hemmings, Luke Howorth, Tom Wright.

We also saw the handover of the Presidency of the OSBGS from Michael Coffey to Adrian Peckitt. **Photo available showing Michael, Adrian and Tom Wright (OSBGS Secretary) on the 1st Tee at Royal St Georges.** Michael played his first Hewitt in 1966 and in a span of 51 years, has been at the helm of the OSBGS for more than 35 years and we are indebted to his unwavering and dedicated support and promotion of the OSBGS and the school.

First Round v Forest

St Bees started confidently in several of the matches and were well positioned at the turn in all the middle three games, Peckitt and Goodwin were all square, Deall and Berry were three up and Wright and Wood were just one down but looking strong. However, Forest came back strongly over the back nine, converting wins in both the top and bottom matches; St Bees came back winning the third game and despite a late charge in matches two and four, Forest held their nerve to win 3 1/2 – 11/2. Edgar and Wilson lost 4 and 3, Peckitt and Goodwin lost 3 and 2, Deall and Berry won 4 and 3, Wright and Wood match halved, Thomas and Howorth lost 7 and 6.

Princes Plate Tournament

Having lost in the morning we had very little time to re-group, having to 'hot-foot' over to Princes for the Plate Tournament. In the First Round we were drawn against Fettes, an old adversary, and now the team would reduce to six players, those not playing were able to enjoy lunch at St Georges with the remaining Fettes team!

We enjoyed an excellent win against Fettes, especially as one of our debutants,

Luke Howorth, was able to chalk up his first victory at the Hewitt.

Team result St Bees 2 Fettes 1. Deal and Howorth won 4 and 3, Wilson and Edgar Lost 2 and 1, Wood and Wright won 2 and 1.

In the second round we played against Mill Hill, well known to St Bees from the school having spent the war years at St Bees. For a number of years, we used to play an annual match against Mill Hill in Cheshire as a remembrance of those times and a number of the players attended the school during the war years.

We enjoyed a close fought match but ultimately Mill Hill edged the match 2-1. Deal and Berry Lost 2 and 1, Wilson and Edgar won 4 and 3, Wright and Wood lost 2 and 1.

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july26bulletin>.

Critchley Cup – June 2026 - Penrith GC

The OSBGS golfers assembled at Penrith Golf Club on Friday 5th June, the day before OSB Day, to compete for the Critchley Cup, which is awarded to the best stableford score off handicap, other trophies being won for the best gross score, the best score for the over 12 handicaps, and the best score for players aged under 25 on the day.

We held a minute's silence before teeing off to pay tribute to Rodney Atkinson (FN 61-66), a long-standing supporter of the OSB golf society and the school, who died suddenly a few days before the event. Rodney played at last year's gathering.

We had a small number of OSB golfers, which was made up for by the golfing talent playing. There was a total of six golfers with two supporters, Adrian Peckitt and Mike Stamper, who were unable to play due to recent hand and hip operations.

We were very lucky with the weather, which whilst being very windy was dry and sunny. The wind certainly made for challenging conditions but despite this the scores were excellent.

Gareth Edgar won the Critchley Cup with a total of 33 points, just pipping Andy Deall, who won the best gross with a score of 76. Andrew Johnston retained the Dick Harrison Trophy for the Over 12 handicap and Cameron Wood won the Ken Case Tankard in the Under 25 category.

Attendees: Tom Wright, Andy Deall, Ben Wilson, Gareth Edgar, Cameron Wood, Andrew Johnston, Mike Stamper and Adrian Peckitt (supporting).

2026 Winners

Critchley Cup (best stableford score) with 33 points – Gareth Edgar.

Scratch Trophy (best scratch score) gross score 76 - Andy Deall.

Ryder Cup – Ken Case Tankard (best score of Under 25 age group) – Cameron Wood.

Dick Harrison Trophy (Over 12 Handicap) – Andrew Johnston, retaining the trophy.

Photos available include: A group photo taken after observing a minute's silence on the first tee for Rodney Atkinson and the Winners photo, including Gareth Edgar (Critchley Cup), Andrew Deall (Best Scratch Score), Andrew Johnston (Over 12 handicap), Cameron Wood (under 25).

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july26bulletin>.

Cyril Gray – 23rd-25th June 2026

Unfortunately, due to injuries/operations etc, we were not able to get a team together for the Cyril Gray tournament this year, we hope we will be in a better position next year.

All Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july26bulletin>.

Future Dates:

- **QE 2026** - The Royal Burgess Golfing Society, Edinburgh
Fri 18th – Sun 20th September 2026
- **Internal OSB Social 2027** - Silloth Golf Club
Friday 26th Feb 2027 (afternoon – prior to Cumbria Dinner)
- **Halford Hewitt 2027** - practice rounds/competition
Thurs 8th – Sun 11th April 2027

The Golfing Society (OSBGS) is 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 Tom Wright, the Secretary or Adrian Peckitt, the President.

OSBGS Contact Details:

Adrian Peckitt, President – rapeckitt8@hotmail.com.

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

ST BEGHIAN SOCIETY ELECTED OFFICERS:

President:

President-Elect:

D.W. Davies (Darryl) FS 62-68	Vacant
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Treasurer:

Secretary:

D.F. Lord (David) (SH 60-65)	P.J. Rumney (Pam)
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Bulletin Editor:

Accounts Checker:

Golfing Secretary:

A.J.H. Reeve (Anthony) (M 89-08)	J. Spires (Jason) (F 86-93)	T. Wright (Tom) (G 11-15)
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Committee Members:

R.P. Calvin (Roy) (SH 79-83)	S.J. Calvin (Sara) (G 77-84)	D.W. Davies (Darryl) (FS 62-68)
V.E. Davies (Vicky) (L 94-99)	J.M.W. Dunn (John) (FS 64-69)	A.P. Fox (Anthony) (G 62-67)
A.D. Lord (Alastair) (SH 90-95)	D.T. Paul (David) (FN 71-76)	R.A. Peckitt (Adrian) (FS 72-77)
M.N. Roberts (Mark) (SH 93-95)	J.E. Steele (Jonathan) (FS 82-87)	

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)

**The St Beghian Society Committee also includes
the Branch/Event Secretaries and Former Presidents of the Society.**

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 – tbc.
The AGM and St Beghians' Day, 2027 – tbc.**

**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>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/osbsociety>**