



The Old St Beghian

January 2019

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

From Our President Peter Lever (G 62-66)

Dear Old St Beghians,

As I write this note for the January 2019 Bulletin I reflect on the 184 crosses which lined the approach to St Bees Priory Church, each one naming an OSB killed in the First World War. This is what greeted one on a wet and windy Remembrance Day Sunday morning at St Bees. A day that commemorated 100 years since the signing of the armistice that ended the Great War.

It was a heart-wrenching and provocative sight. While most OSBs alive today have thankfully been spared the atrocity of war, we must be for ever grateful to those Old St Beghians who gave their lives for us in both World Wars.

Equally as moving was the Chapel Service on OSB Day when the names of those 184 were read out and a plaque unveiled to commemorate the occasion.

A big thank you to George Robson, who has been so involved on behalf of the Society in orchestrating our Remembrance tribute both in the School Chapel on OSB Day and at the Priory on Remembrance Sunday and in personally presenting two plaques to the school commemorating the 100th anniversary of the ending of World War 1 and honouring some of those OSBs killed.

With the school now reopen and refurbishment continuing there is much to be positive about. However, the fact remains that the reopening project has a long way to go and the pathway ahead is extremely demanding. Opening with only ten children may seem a strange thing to have done, but the Directors believed it was essential to get the school open without further delay. Marketing the school from

the current position is now the priority and I am pleased to report that there is an increased interest from parents of prospective entrants.

The relationship between Full Circle and the St Bees School Charitable Trust is the vital component in re-establishing St Bees School. The Trust remains financially constrained, although progress is being made in the disposal of non-essential school assets. Full Circle continue to develop their international education base with the purchase of a language school in Cambridge, the opening of three kindergarten schools in China, and plans for a prep school in Hong Kong. Their international marketing approach to education should have a positive impact on student numbers at St Bees in due course.

The OSB properties on Lonsdale Terrace are no longer required by the school and the ongoing cost of maintaining them is not financially sustainable by the Society. Therefore the best option for realising this asset will shortly be decided by the Trustees of the Guarantee Trust Fund, and in due course a decision will then be made as to the extent and means by which the resulting funds might be applied to support the School Trust.

I wish to thank all OSBs who have remained loyal to the cause over the past three and a half years since closure, in particular the Branch Chairmen and Secretaries, who have continued to run regional events, and to all those who attended OSB Day in 2018 and our Remembrance service.

The task of getting groups of OSBs together becomes ever more difficult, with alumni more widely spread across the globe than ever before and the declining number of OSBs resulting from the three years of closure. Our current records indicate that about 38% of the known Society members have addresses in Cumbria (although several of these are likely to still be parents' addresses which have not been updated) and more interestingly a quarter of our membership is female. Sadly the Society currently seems unable to draw the ladies to OSB events in any numbers. There is much need for improvement in this area and it is something the OSB Committee is trying to address as well as reassessing the Society's role in the future.

Please try to visit the school in 2019. The refurbished condition of the buildings and the maintenance of the grounds are a credit to all those who have been involved over the past fifteen months, and you may also see children running about once more! The school staff will give you a warm welcome, but please do announce yourself at the school's Main Reception on arrival. In these days of safeguarding regulations, visitors can no longer come and go as they wish on the school estate.

Finally, a sincere thank you to Pam Rumney, Tony Reeve and David Lord for continuing to keep the Society flag flying to the benefit of us all.

I wish all OSBs, wherever you are in the world, a successful and prosperous 2019.

Peter G. Lever (President).

2019 Calendar of Events:

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January		
February		
March	Saturday 2nd	St Beghian Society Committee Meeting
	Saturday 2nd	Singapore Lunch
	Saturday 9th	Wasps Rugby Event
April	Wed 10th - Sun 14th	Golf – The Halford Hewitt
May	Friday 3rd	Cumbria Dinner
	Friday 31st	London Dinner
June	Wed 26th - Sat 29th	Golf – The Cyril Gray
July	Saturday 6th	Golf – The Critchley Cup
August		
September	Sunday 8th	Yorkshire Gathering
	Saturday 28th	St Beghians' Day, OSB AGM & Committee Meeting
October	Friday 11th	London Informal Social
November	Wednesday 6th	North East Dinner
December		

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

George Donath (FS 47-48) writes:

“George Donath (FS 47-48) whose interest in old school days has been reawakened by the recent momentous events at St Bees would be delighted to hear from such contemporaries as remember this Hungarian 'foreigner' who arrived at school with long hair and long trousers! Only those on this side of the grass need bother.” George may be contacted at lidiadonath@waitrose.com or alternatively by telephone on 0207 235 5128.

Dr Bill Frankland (FN 26-30).

In October the long-awaited biography of our oldest OSB, Dr Bill Frankland (FN 26-30), now 106 years young, was published by Brown Dog Books (ISBN 1785452657) with the title: From Hell Island to Hay Fever, The Life of Dr Bill Frankland. It is written by Paul Watkins.

Those who know Bill or have read about him will be aware of the remarkable life he has lived since qualifying as a doctor in 1938, which runs from being a prisoner of war of the Japanese to becoming a world-famous immunologist. He has always valued his links with the school and the volume can be heartily recommended.

Peter ‘Monty’ Morgan (F 53-58) sent in the following about Bill:

“Those OSBs who stay up late and watch HARDtalk on BBC2 with Stephen Sacker would have seen him in the early hours of 7th January interviewing Dr William Frankland, MBE but known to us as Bill Frankland (FN 26-30).

Bill, who will be 107 in March, attended medical school in the 1930s following education at St Bees, studying under Alexander Fleming. He was an expert on allergies and in 2015, aged 103, received the MBE for services to allergy research.

Bill served in the Royal Army Medical Corps in WWII and is one of the last survivors of the Japanese prisoner of war camps in Singapore, having been held there for three and a half years.

Some of us were present when Bill attended evensong one Monday at St Pauls Cathedral a few years ago when the school choir with the headmaster playing the organ had been invited to take part in the service.

Bill can often be seen wearing his Old Boys’ Tie, as he did on HARDtalk, which he is justly proud of.”

Alastair Hayward (FS 45-49) remembers:

“In early September 1945 I became a pupil at St Bees School. My brother, Lindsay had been at St Bees for three years when I became a pupil, but although

we were both on Foundation South, I saw very little of him. All of the new boys were to be fags for their first year. Some fags were private fags. That meant each prefect had a fag who would be expected to do a number of jobs for him. For instance, he would be expected to clean his prefect's shoes and run errands for him. Mr T. A. Brown was the Housemaster on Foundation. Each evening we had to go to the Foundation Dining Room for a very short service before going to bed. I remember the masters who joined the school at this time: Mr Lever and Mr Judge. I think they had both been serving in the war. Life was quite tough at times, especially for the junior ones. However, in a relatively short period one adjusted to life at St Bees. Miss Appleyard was the matron on Foundation. She was very good at her job and the boys all liked her. I believe that she stayed at the school for a long time. There has always been a big emphasis on sport at St Bees, which many boys enjoyed. I did, particularly rugby, cricket and squash. The J.T.C. (Junior Training Corps) was held on Wednesday afternoon, and later a scouting group was formed. Like many Old Boys of the school I was very disappointed when it had to be closed, but now the school has reopened I, and other Old Boys, are very, very pleased and wish the school every success in the future."

From Duncan Merrin (G 53-57) - St Bees 50 years ago.

"It was not quite like Harry Potter but there were some similarities. Imagine if you will it is your first term as a 12 or 13 year old, being put on a train in Manchester by your loving parents and told that you will be met by a teacher at a place called St Bees, five hours away, and that they will see you again in three months. I had been at a boarding prep school so for me it was not too bad, but for many it was frightening. Although there were other boys on the platform in Manchester, the feeling of loneliness once the train puffed away from the station, with tear-filled parents waving goodbye, was overwhelming.

There was a hierarchy amongst the boys; those who were returning to St Bees, even if they had only been there one term, sneered at the new ones just as others had sneered at them on their first train journey to the unknown. They were confident, met up with old friends and laughed and joked. But for those who had been there many years and were seniors or even prefects there was no mixing with these noisy juniors, they could be victims of caning by the prefects in future months, the hierarchy was a fundamental necessity in the running of the school as you will see later

The train chugged round the Cumbrian coast: scenes of a cold sea, bleak September skies and sparse population, nothing of comfort for the new boys, only that in the five hour train journey the more forthcoming had asked with trepidation 'are you a new boy' of others who looked as anxious as they felt.

Some lifelong friendships were started on that train journey, the fear of the unknown and of what lay ahead became shared and gave some comfort to each. Brakes squealing and engine hissing the train slowed to a stop as the station master shouted 'St Bees'. Descending from the train under grey leaden skies the new boys were asked to identify themselves, 'name?' 'Err Smith'. 'Smith, Sir is how you answer'. 'Sorry, Smith Sir.' 'Smith - Meadow House stand over there - your trunk will be taken to the house but you must bring your bicycle.' Thus were the new boys allocated their first home in St Bees. As the day slowly moved into a chilly evening, seven forlorn tired and hungry boys pushed their bicycles up the hill to Meadow House, one of the feeder houses for new boys - the other being Eaglesfield close to the beach. A cheery elderly Scottish matron met them - 'Come now boys - put your bikes there in the yard and come in for supper.' Sharing a dorm with five complete strangers and miles from home, not knowing what the next day would bring was intimidating, but no one dared show a sign of weakness, although the belly quaked, and no sign of insecurity or fear was shown; the head of the dorm, a veteran of two terms, was quick to take advantage of the situation. Belittling those junior to you was a way of improving your own status. The particular head of dorm in Meadow House was a bit of a snob: anybody from Liverpool or Manchester or Newcastle was a pleb - of course he was from Harrogate, very upscale in his thirteen year old mind.

The matron had earlier shown the boys where their clothes were to be kept, the bathrooms and the day room and the boot room where the shoes and rugby boots were kept. Supper had been served and the housemaster gave his talk and then all were ushered to the dorm.

Sleep was hard to come by but sheer exhaustion after the long train journey and the demands of the day swept over the new boys who awaited the next day with trepidation.

The next morning blindly following orders to 'get up - get washed - get dressed - get down for breakfast - get on your bikes and go to Grindal' - the numb new comers charged down the road following 'Harrogate', not knowing where they were going. They sped past, although they did not know it at the time, Archbishop Grindal's house on their left and as they approached the main road 'Harrogate' screamed at them to dismount. A school rule said that you cannot ride down the last hundred yards to the main road as you might not stop and thus career into traffic on the road. Grindal, one of the four houses of the school was on the main road opposite the station where they had arrived the evening before. They were then led through the side gate and towards the back of the building, and as they lent their bikes against the wall of the building shouts emanated from above them, 'You can't lean your bikes there until you have been here two years and don't look up here you oafs this is senior dayroom and you NEVER look in here.'

These were the first signs of the 'privilege culture' and the recognition it had throughout the school.

The newcomers soon slipped into the pattern of school life - but it was far from easy. The rigors of biking down from Meadow House every day in all weathers - running between lessons from one classroom to another - back to Meadow in the evening - they were always exhausted, which I think was the plan of the masters. The boys slept like logs and caused no trouble. They were also exposed to the 'privilege culture'. At every level in the school there were different privileges that boys were entitled to and they were protected with a vengeance. So school prefects could do just about anything: - they could beat boys at any level below them without any master's permission, and they did. House prefects needed permission and could use a fag - personal servant basically - to clean their shoes or cook baked beans on toast at the weekend for them - all amazing when you look back. Senior day room boys had their privileges as did boys who won honours in sport - 1st XV colours for example. Senior day room had the dubious job of protecting these various privileges by what was known as 'testing'. Poor juniors were ordered to go to senior day room between preps, and while staring at the ceiling were shouted at by the seniors 'testing' their knowledge of the various privileges throughout the school. It was utterly scary and completely damaging to the educational ambitions of the school as boys were learning privileges during classes - in fear of being called during prep break - but what it achieved was a very strict discipline down through the school, which was not in the hands of the house masters or masters but the boys themselves. From the Head Master down they accepted it as it made life very much easier. It was stopped sometime in the early 60s - and low and behold the school's academic results soared.

The new boys moved down from Meadow House after one term and found themselves in Baby Dayroom on Grindal and Baby Dorm. Again it is hard to believe that these descriptions were used but they were and the new boys knew their status - babies! Baby Dorm faced the road and had no curtains, much to the amusement of the local girls - curtains were eventually supplied to howls of disappointment from the road below. All fun, which in the years that followed and as the boys grew older and moved up the hierarchy of the school developed into some nice friends in the village.

It was not all gloom and doom - there were what were called three-quarter days in the summer where the boys had the whole day off and could go anywhere as long as they were back by 6pm. Mostly they rode their bikes to Ennerdale or often Eskdale, swam in the lakes, sneaked a beer in the pub and rode back. Looking at those roads now I realize how fit we all were.

There was a huge emphasis on sport. It was required that every day some form of sport was played. If there was no inter house rugby or cricket on a day, the sport

for the day was set by the prefects. If they were in a bad mood they could set the Valley Run –which was up past Meadow House, right up the valley, around the top and back down the Whitehaven road. The boys were all very fit. St Bees had the best cross country teams by far (David Lyall was the trainer). When teams came to St Bees, they took one look at the steep hills up behind Foundation that were part of each race and were beaten there and then.

Grindal had its own ‘fives’ court so we were the best in the school and won all the cups.

When it became time to leave, it was a sobering thought to realise that those good friends made from the days of Meadow House and Baby Dayroom, who had been your constant companions for four or five years, were no longer going to be at your side. Thankfully the OSB Club has kept many in touch over the years.

The last memory many of the boys who were leaving had was of the Head Master wishing them well and telling them to uphold the values of the school. Although he said, ‘I notice many of you are already wearing the Old Boys’ tie – which you are no doubt thinking is a passport to all kinds of undesirable privileges.’ (by which he meant smoking , having a beer and talking to girls). Little did he realise that most of these now 17 or 18 year old boys didn’t see them as undesirable! I hope this has given you some insights into days gone by.”

John Ogden (FS 51-56) recalls some days in the 1950s to accompany photographs he has sent.

“I was on Foundation South and had received a Christmas present of a Paxette I.35mm camera and a developing tank. As a member of the School Photographic Society I soon learned how to use both, and some of the photographs taken by this camera show the building of the Memorial Hall in 1953 along with its official opening in July 1954 by the Minister of Education, Miss Florence Horsburgh on Speech Day. Also present was the Bishop of Carlisle, who I believe was then Chairman of the Governors. One photograph shows Miss Horsburgh presenting a prize to J.H.M. (James) Kennedy (FN 51-55), a keen sportsman on Foundation North, after she had declared the Hall open.

The photos largely speak for themselves but there were several details and happenings worthy of mention. The Hall itself was heated by a hot-water system above the auditorium acoustic ceiling; this was a pioneering system which I haven’t seen repeated anywhere else. The flooring was of hardwood tiles glued in parquet herring-bone pattern to the concrete slab floor.

The first rainy week after the Hall came into use, many wet shoes caused the wooden floor to swell and rise from the concrete as the glue gave way and eventually the whole floor had to be re-laid.

The stage proscenium, made of large sheets of veneered plywood, was unique in that it could be enlarged or reduced vertically or horizontally by a system of ropes

and pulleys. I often wonder how often this has been used. In the wall of the classroom near the steps to School House at the library end of the building was a rectangular hatch which could be used for a variety of purposes: for projection of films onto a screen on the stage; for the control of a variety of recorded special sound effects, or music for plays which were actually being performed on the stage. One of the photos shows the plasterer working near to this hatch. The very large stage curtains were a present to the school from Miki Sekers (later Sir Nicholas T. Sekers, MBE) who, with his cousin, came to West Cumberland from Hungary and in 1938 founded Hensingham Silk Mills. These curtains had a shiny silk side intended to face the auditorium and a duller side. Unfortunately the shiny side was not compatible with the stage lighting and the curtains had to be turned round to get an even effect. Sekers Fabrics celebrates its 80th anniversary this year, and produced the fabric for either Her Majesty the Queen's wedding dress or her coronation robe. Unfortunately I can't remember which!"

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan19bulletin>.

Charity Cycling Trip

On the 12th January **Laurence Gribble (SH 02-09)** and his friend Danny Wang, both from the Full Circle Education Group, embarked on a 25-day cycling trip from Hong Kong to Cambodia to raise funds for Adventurous Global Schools, the charity they both set up more than two years ago. They have a fund raising target of three million Hong Kong dollars, roughly £300,000, and their trip will be broadcast over five episodes on the most-watched television channel in Hong Kong, called TVB.

The trip begins on 12 January from The Peak, Hong Kong, where Laurence's last trip finished. They will arrive at AGS School, Sneung, Cambodia on 3 February. The journey is approximately 2500km and will be 21 days of cycling and 24 days in total. Danny and Laurence will be joined by Louisa Mak (Miss Hong Kong 2015 and non-executive director of AGS) - she visited St Bees last Christmas and did some filming with Laurence and the school Archivist, Tony Reeve. They will also be joined by Bryan Pun, a TVB host.

They hosted their annual charity dinner in Hong Kong in November to raise awareness for their venture and have a website where interested parties can discover more about the charity. Their trip is worthy of our support and they would welcome a donation.

The website link follows and includes a link for donation: www.agsschools.org.

OBITUARIES

William John Lancaster (FN 53-56)

His son Stuart has submitted the following.

“Former Old St Beghian and well-respected farmer and family man John Lancaster of Lime Tree Farm, Culgaith died at the Cumberland Infirmary on 3rd September 2018 following a sudden illness on his farm.

John was born on the family farm in Culgaith on 11th April 1940. He went to The Craig Preparatory School in Windermere, followed by three years at St Bees School.

At the school, he was a member of Foundation North, representing the school in the Colts’ rugby and cricket teams. He greatly enjoyed his time at St Bees and he made many friends and was a proud Old Boy.

After St Bees he came home to Culgaith to work with his father on the farm. He loved his work and soon joined Penrith Young Farmers, where he also made friends for life.

It was when he was with a young farming friend in Carlisle that he met his wife Ann, who was at Art College at the time in 1963. Three years later they were married in St Michael’s Church, Dumfries, her home town.

Not long after, John and Ann moved to the family farm, which John began to modernise during the 1980s and 90s. Four children followed: Stephen, the Managing Director of PFK in Penrith; Stuart, Senior Coach at Leinster Rugby Club in Dublin; Fiona, who has a happy and successful life with her family in Wilmslow; and David, who works as a barrister in London.

Of the four children, Stephen, Stuart and Fiona attended St Bees during the 1980s: Stephen (FN 79-86) Stuart (FN/AC 80-88) Fiona (G 82-90). Like their father, they also made many friends and feel that St Bees made a significant impact on shaping their personalities and sense of independence.

John ran a very successful dairy, beef and sheep farm around Culgaith for all of his adult life. However, foot and mouth, which was devastating for the whole of the farming community in Cumbria, struck in 2001 and Lime Tree Farm was also affected. He restocked with beef and sheep and continued to farm right up until his untimely passing.

John was a kind man, a real gentleman. He loved animals and never saw work as work. He was a man of great integrity and his patient, balanced demeanour helped hugely in managing the farm and in helping Ann to bring up four young children so well.

Many people expressed their shock and sympathy at his passing, but also described his dry wit and sense of humour. He connected with so many people on

different levels and his personality and presence was felt far beyond the local community of Culgaith.

He also found time to support the local community in Culgaith and Penrith and previously served as a governor of Culgaith School and a councillor for the Culgaith Parish and Eden District Councils, where he was held in high regard by his peers.

Above all, John was a family man and was deeply committed to supporting his family and putting them first. He was much loved and will be sorely missed by many, especially his wife Ann and his family.”

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan19bulletin>.

Halina Rice, Alan’s daughter, has kindly sent the following notice:

Alan Rice (FS 49-54)

“Alan Rice passed away on Tuesday 27th November 2018 at home with his family by his side. A loving husband, father and grandfather, he will be sadly missed by all his loving family and friends.

Alan was at St Bees from 1949 to 1954. He was a very loyal Old St Beghian and would travel up to the Old Boys’ Day every year for as long as this was possible. He had very fond associations with the school and the area. His academic record was good and he excelled at sport and in particular rugby. It was while still at St Bees he reached the height of six feet two and a half inches! He was also lead cadet and marksman as part of the RAF section of the Combined Cadet Force. He went on to study Mechanical Engineering at Nottingham University.

Following an apprenticeship at General Electric he worked for many years as a management consultant. He later was Director of his own company specialising in the design and production of generators and alternators and also worked closely with the University of Leicester on various engineering projects.

Alan married Maria, who was also at Nottingham University and who graduated in 1959 in Biology. They had three children, Anielka, who graduated in Botany, mother to three granddaughters, Eliza, Ellen and Alice; James, who graduated in Electrical Engineering, a hedge fund manager and father to a grandson William and granddaughter Georgia; and Halina, who graduated in Philosophy and Theology, a director of ecommerce. In the last two decades Alan looked after Maria, stoically and unstintingly – with wit and good humour.

He was buried at Kirk Hallam and the service was attended by many friends from all aspects of his life. He was well respected and a guiding figure to many of those he met.

Alan Rice: Loyal and stoic, capable and intelligent, loving and always funny.”

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan19bulletin>.

Norman Cuthbertson Wakefield (G 53-57)

The following details have kindly been supplied by his wife Katherine.

“Norman died on the 13th June aged 78. At St Bees he excelled at rugby and was chosen to play for England schoolboys while there. The game remained a passion for him and he continued to play until a serious accident in 1960 ended his career. After leaving school he worked for the family firm of H. Henderson & Co. in North Shields and then succeeded his brother and took over the running of the firm of T. Wakefield & Son, funeral directors, where he continued to conduct business in North Shields and Tynemouth until his retirement in 1999. He regularly attended the OSB Dinners held in Newcastle and returned to the school for the last OSB Day just before its closure in 2015.”

Paul Williams (M 48-58)

Mrs Rachel Card, Paul’s niece, has sent in the following notice.

“Paul Williams joined the English Department of St Bees in 1948 as a newly qualified teacher from Jesus College, Cambridge and during the next ten years he became Head of English and a Housemaster. He was active outside the purely academic sphere at the school. One example is that he produced the RC Sherriff play 'Journey's End'; another that in his production of 'Twelfth Night' the school's captain of rugby played Countess Olivia. He brought in pictures for the school corridors and supplied films for the Film Society; he was also involved in the Jazz Club. Paul was a Londoner and his next appointment was at a boys' grammar school there – the Coopers' Company School. Pupils at both St Bees and Coopers' School remember how he used his English lessons to encourage them to develop their own personalities, whether or not they were academically inclined. The impact he had is evidenced by the number of ex-pupils who were still in touch with him at the time of his death. In 1967, Paul became a lecturer in a London College of Education for adult students, the Thomas Huxley College in Ealing, training them to become teachers of English. When the College closed, he carried on this work at the University of London's Institute of Education. He was regarded by his colleagues as 'a teacher of real distinction' and was active in the National Association of Teachers of English, and its London branch, co-authoring a book on the role of language in education. Paul spent his long retirement travelling the world, visiting art galleries, going to the ballet and theatre, and enjoying the company of his many friends and acquaintances. He is sorely missed by all.”

Sam Ashton (SH 47-53) recalls:

“I arrived at St Bees, aged twelve, for the autumn term of 1947. After one term on Eaglesfield I was posted to School House. Soon after my arrival, and with all

other new boys, I was subjected to a singing test. Having demonstrated that I wasn't tone deaf, I was recruited into the choir. This was no great distinction; the choir stalls had to be filled otherwise there would have been insufficient space in the nave of the chapel for the rest of the school! Biennially there was a Gilbert and Sullivan production; I must have volunteered or been press-ganged into the female chorus for the Yeomen of the Guard. This was a period when the teaching staff was being much enlivened by the influx of demobilised servicemen. All these men had, in common, approachability; they were man to man. A.N.R. 'Tony' Dearle was one such, and possessing an impressive tenor voice, took the part of Colonel Fairfax. Another was Paul. He assisted each Wednesday in uniform, with the 'Corps', the CCF contingent. This then had relevance, for we all knew that after our time at school we would be called up for national service. Paul, with his stooping gait and non-regimental hairdo, had a distinct lack of military bearing, not only that, he wore his beret towards the back of his head, thus ignoring the stricture: 'Beret to be worn with cap badge one inch above the left eye'. However, and well remembered, was his advice to maximise the shine on one's boots: 'Always finish off with a soft brush'. Thus, I still have mine; it came with me through national service and beyond. (Others in the ex-army contingent were Philip 'Percy' Lever, ex-Airborne, he had landed at Arnhem in a glider; Sam Parkinson, Harry Judge, and Brian Crowther.)

With the passage of time I no longer remember the exact sequence of drama productions in which I was directed by Paul. However I have a clear image of his first intervention during rehearsal. The stage was at one end of 'Big School'; a double length class room (halved by a sliding partition), the far half featuring a cascade of long shallow steps.

The entire cast was on stage (it was probably a rehearsal of the 'Yeomen'), when suddenly Paul ran from the back, down the steps shouting 'Cut!' in the best Hollywood manner. It made quite an impact. Two years after that, in 1951, we did 'The Mikado'. I was cast as one of the 'Three Little Maids', but as my voice was breaking, back I went into the chorus.

By this time there was emerging in the school a culture change. Hitherto our chapel services were not-too-high Anglican, but the established religion was rugged. In 1951 one James C. Wykes, was appointed Headmaster, a musician, his instrument, the oboe. (He was also a cricketer having played for Scotland.) Not only that: whereas we hitherto had had a music master, doubling as chapel organist and choir master, we now had appointed a Director of Music in the person of Donald Leggatt. He re-invigorated the school orchestra, (J.C.W. on oboe). Those of us in the choir now became choristers: he took us by the scruffs of our necks and trained us. He and Paul between them propelled our G and S productions up to a new standard; and Paul expanded 'drama'. In between whiles,

and in no particular order, I was directed as Banquo in 'Macbeth'; Peter Quince in 'The Rustics' from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'; and Maria in 'The Undoing of Malvoleo'. Bryan Pringle brilliantly played the principal part, while Olivia was a lad called Jackson. (In those days I wasn't good on Christian names.)

Paul mentored Bryan's exceptional talent in a number of productions, and on leaving St Bees, after a gap year delivering telegrams on a bike from Bolton post office, he gained entry into RADA (along with Peter Bowles, Peter O'Toole, Albert Finney, James Villers et al.) and in his last year there won the Bancroft Gold Medal for his portrayal of Abraham Lincoln. He went on to have a long, varied and distinguished career, all kindled and greatly encouraged in the first place by Paul. I appeared in Chekov's 'The Bear' as Luka, the manservant; the harassed heiress was Terry Mayne with his Northern Irish accent that you couldn't cut with a cold chisel; I can't now remember who played the over-bearing suitor, Smirnov.

I was Monsieur Jordain in Moliere's 'Le Bourgeois gentil homme' complete with elaborate period costume and wig; my wife, similarly attired, was one Newton (?). There was also a play in which I was a hapless, Irish, bowler-hatted, police inspector. My sidekick was Tony Speakman as a uniformed sergeant with a thick Liverpool accent.

I was an idle scholar, and I didn't like any game involving spheres or ovoids invading my space. I was rescued from obscurity by my involvement in the choir and drama. In my last year, voice now well and truly broken, Paul and Donald directed me in the role of Major General Stanley in the G and S 'Pirates of Penzance' - a performance never equalled before or since, anywhere, any time! Well that's what I think! What is certain is that on the following Speech Day, 1953, I was awarded the only prize I ever won: the 'Braithwaite Prize for Drama'. My form was never taught English by Paul, but in the science sixth form we benefited from his 'general studies' class. This was to introduce us to the arts with emphasis on music and painting. At his bidding we researched the French impressionists and wrote a lengthy essay. Thus was kindled in me a life-long interest. He introduced us to some of the classical and romantic composers. I had become infected by jazz music having heard it seeping out from John Robley's study. Such was Paul's approachability that he allowed me to play a few representative 78s. He said, 'I quite like the blues, but I can't really do with it when they sound happy'.

He was very patient and even-tempered. On the rare occasions that he boiled over he would shout 'Curse your guts boy!' Then it was all over.

After national service I continued with participation in amateur stage productions, but nothing came up to the atmosphere created by Paul at St Bees.

P.S. In June 2002 Paul and I were briefly in contact with reference to the death of Bryan Pringle. He and I were close friends. I have looked out a post card I had from Paul. It depicts the drawing room from Canons Ashby House, Northants. In the centre is a chaise longue and Paul said that it reminded him of that which we had had on the set of the Moliere production which he called the ‘Prodigious Snob’.”

Tim Brown (G 53-59) recalls:

“I attended Paul’s funeral at St Marylebone Crematorium, Finchley. The chapel was packed and there were several eulogies, some mentioning St Bees School, which had been his first teaching post after Cambridge. I was pleased to see another OSB, Peter ‘Monty’ Morgan (F 53-58) there as well as the current director of the Rosehill Theatre at Whitehaven, in which Paul had always taken an interest.

At St Bees Paul taught me English in the New College Hall and introduced me to the poetry of John Betjeman, for which I’m eternally grateful.

He was greatly interested in amateur dramatics and, again, I’m grateful for that introduction. His greatest achievement was perhaps a production of ‘Ruddigore’, which I’ve never seen bettered, and which involved so many of the pupils at that time.

I lost touch with him after that, but regained it on a transatlantic cruise, when the unmistakable voice asked me if I lived in Cumbria as he’d once taught there.

That was about fifteen years ago, and we kept in touch afterwards. I last visited him at his Islington house, for coffee, in April of last year, when he wasn’t feeling too grand. He subsequently entered a care home.

He left St Bees and teaching, but returned to the latter in London, I believe.”

Jim Harcombe (SH 50-55) writes:

“I was on School House from 1950 to 1955 and I got to know Paul Williams very well.

From a schooling point of view I remember Paul Williams as an excellent ‘young’ teacher of English. He always had a smile on his face and his lessons were brilliant entertainment!

I got myself involved in a number of school plays under Paul’s directorship. I took the part of Martha in ‘Arsenic and Old Lace’ and I also remember being in ‘Pirates of Penzance’ and I feel sure that he also directed that.

St Bees always had very good teachers, housemasters and Head Masters. It was, and I am sure that it will, start again, as a very great school. Paul Williams was one of the best.”

From David Hedley (FN 52-57):

“I’m sad to hear that Paul Williams has died but it’s good to know this was peaceful and did not involve a long stay in his care home, away from his wonderful home in Corsica Street.

That’s where I picture him, but also remember the house he shared with Bertie in Castlehaven Road, and before that his study/sitting room at St Bees. Here he would invite the fortunate few to play readings, and a rare opportunity to appreciate a quality of life in an otherwise Spartan environment. And yes, sophistication to the point of a pin to prevent slippage with his shantung ties. (I wonder how many of us would have noticed these details – I know his sense of style and decor reached more of us than he would have guessed.).

I was three years in the Arts Sixth and Paul was for me the most inspirational of my teachers at St Bees. Then there were the plays he produced, which have given me some of the most positive and enduring memories of school life, with no idea then of Paul’s continuing influence in my life.

I’d left school to read English at Durham, then for want of any clear direction in life had worked briefly in industry and so it would be five years after St Bees that I contacted Paul about the possibility of my becoming an English teacher. His encouragement and support led to his posting a number of books and to the suggestion that I learn more about NATE (National Association for the Teaching of English).

I survived, barely, my first six months as what I would now call a supply teacher, and Paul, probably sensing it would be a good idea for me to move on, mentioned lightly that it could be worth my applying for a post at Coopers’ Company’s School in Mile End. He happened by then, after his sabbatical venture in the world of dress design, to be Head of the English department.

Looking back I don’t recall any close monitoring, just a quiet encouragement over those three years, giving me the experience and confidence to move on with my career in secondary and then adult education. And when I came to produce school plays, I followed his meticulous model of dismantling two scripts to reassemble with text and direction notes in parallel, though costume design was a step too far. On a very different tack, our experience in the mid sixties of Paul and Bertie’s relationship was itself a support in our response, twenty years or so later, when our son told us he was gay. Their example helped us recognise that this need be no bar to a fulfilling life, and of course social attitudes were already changing significantly. They were there at a much more challenging time!

So Paul has made a real impact on my life for which I am very grateful. I’m glad that in recent years I was able to tell him something of this, though of course not enough.”

P.M. (Monty) Morgan (F 53-58) attended Paul's funeral and has sent in the following:

"A Celebration of the life of Paul Williams took place at St Marylebone Crematorium on Friday 28th September 2018. It was attended by J.D.S. (Tim) Brown (G 53-59) from Ambleside and myself from Godmanchester in Cambridgeshire.

The Celebration finished with a get together in Paul's favourite restaurant, Fredericks in Camden Passage, Islington where 'His Table' was decorated with flowers and a picture of him and his partner, Bertie, next to a Cunard liner. They spent many a holiday cruising, usually on MV Minerva until Swan Hellenic went out of business, and then on Cunard liners.

Paul Williams (Sir) taught us both and hundreds of others English and was my housemaster on Foundation. We both left at the end of the school year in 1958. Paul went into theatre design before returning to teaching. Those of us who studied under Paul knew what an exceptional teacher he was.

Paul had an exceptionally happy life with Bertie, who predeceased him by five years. They lived for many years in Corsica Street, Highbury N5 where they were well known locally, even setting up their Neighbourhood Association. Thanks must go to Paul's niece, Rachel Card, from Beccles in Suffolk for organising this Celebration which Tim and I were so pleased to have attended."

Ivor Nicholas (SH 44-48) writes:

"The death of Paul Williams at 92 saddens me; yet at the same time vividly recalls happy memories of a wonderful teacher at St Bees only a few years older than myself. Aged 17 in 1948 Paul (then 'Sir') successfully polished up my English language and literature for school certificate and encouraged my piano playing enough for me to take the piano solo cup at Workington Musical Festival, and the School House music trophy. Piano playing was then an almost unheard of talent at St Bees, then a reputed stronghold for public school rugby. Possibly his first teaching job, Paul regarded St Bees, much to my dismay, as 'a minor public school'. I'm happy to note he stayed there ten years! I feel sure he always wore a tie - each one with colours of rainbow shades!"

John Ogden (FS 51-56) remembers a school inspector's visit to one of his lessons where, at the lesson end, he said to the class: 'I want you boys to understand that Mr Williams' lesson was the best English lesson I have ever attended.'

Photo from John of P.F. Williams preparing a lesson in the library
may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan19bulletin>.

Notification of Deaths

(Since the July 2018 Bulletin)

AITCHISON, Dr W.K. (Kenneth)	Died 29.05.16	F 41-44
BELL, P.M. (Peter)	Died 30.08.18	F 60-65
HODGSON, C.P.J. (Clive)	Died 10.08.17	G 44-47
LANCASTER, W.J. (John)	Died 03.09.18	FN 53-56
LOGAN, S.H.M. (Sam)	Died 11.09.16	G 45-49
NICHOLLS, R. (Richard)	Died 07.08.18	F 49-53
PAYNE, N.L. (Norman)	Died 21.10.18	F 57-61
RICE, A. (Alan)	Died 27.11.18	FS 49-54
WAKEFIELD, N.C. (Norman)	Died 13.06.18	G 53-57
WILLIAMS, P.F. (Paul)	Died 13.08.18	M 48-58

200 Club

The latest draw for the 200 club was made on St Beghians' Day on Saturday 29th September 2018. It was made in the Foundation Dining Room during lunch, which made for an exciting atmosphere. The lucky winners are listed below:

PRIZE	Ticket No.	WINNER
£160	6	P.J. (Philip) and S. Etchells
£60	46	D.W. (Darryl) Davies
£60	62	D.T. (David) Johnston
£60	42	W.S. (Bill) and J. Affleck
£60	14	G.C. (George) Robson

I should like to thank all those who subscribe to this worthwhile cause. For as little as £2.00 per month you will be entered into two draws per year and have a chance of winning the top prize which currently stands at £160.00. The more members we have, the bigger the prizes! Not only that, you will be helping the St Beghian Society with much needed funds at this time.

Please contact me on darryl.davies1@bopenworld.com for further information and an entry form.

Darryl Davies.

St Beghians' Day 2018

Saturday 29th September

A relatively large number of OSBs attended this year's annual celebration, the first to take place following the reopening of the school in September 2018. The names of those who signified their attendance in advance can be found on the next page along with those of others whom we know were present on the day.

The Committee Meeting preceded the Society AGM in the Management Centre and a feature of this year's AGM was an address by the school's acting Headmaster, Gareth Seddon, followed by a question and answer session. Gareth delivered an upbeat assessment of the current situation, emphasising that although pupil numbers were presently small and confined to one year group, the fact that the public could now see that the school was once more open and providing education was already generating enquiries from parents looking ahead to enrolment next year.

Following the AGM a special service was held in a crowded school chapel to commemorate the centenary of the ending of the First World War. Proceedings were conducted by the Vicar of St Bees, the Rev Becky Gibbs, and included a reading of the roll of the names of the 184 OSBs who fell in that conflict. A special plaque to mark the anniversary, which had been kindly presented by George Robson, was unveiled by the Society's President.

Lunch was then taken in the Foundation Dining Room followed by reminiscing in the autumn sunshine. It was a very pleasant and successful day.

The **Minutes of the AGM** can be found elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan19bulletin>.

Save the date!

St Beghians' Day 2019

Will take place on

Saturday 28th September, 2019

Further Information will be posted on the website and facebook page as it becomes available plus, of course, inclusion in the July 2019 Bulletin.

OSB Day Attendees 2018

ADAMS, N.W. (Nic)	FN 68-71	LORD, A.D. (Alastir)	SH 90-95
BEIGHTON, G.M. (Gerry) & Maggie Beighton	FS 48-52	LORD, D.F. (David) & Fiona Lord	SH 60-65
BRANDWOOD, P.M.H. (Mike)	FS 61-66	LOWREY, T.W. (Thomas)	SH 57-62
BRINDLE, J.S. (James)	G 49-53	MACLEOD, D. (Derek)	G 59-62
BROOKSBANK-PEARCY, A.R.F. (Robin) & Maggie Brooksbank-Pearcy	SH 57-60	MCBRYDE, J.R. (John) & Alyson McBryde	G 58-61
BROWN, J.D.S. (Tim)	G 53-59	MERRIN, D.S.R. (Duncan) & Yati Merrin	G 53-56
BURN, G.M. (Michael) & Dorothy Burn	G 58-61	MESSENGER, F.O. (Frank)	SH 50-55
CROASDALE, J.A. (Joe)	FS 70-75	MILLER, A.G. (Andrew)	SH 83-90
CROSSLEY-SMITH, S. (Steve) & Pat	SH 47-52	MURRAY, H. (Harry)	FN 54-59
DAVIES, D.W. (Darryl)	FS 62-68	NICHOLAS, I. (Ivor)	SH 44-48
DEAN, A.S. (Adrian)	AC 82-90	NIMMO, I.D. (Ian)	F 52-57
FENWICK, R.C. (Calder)	FN 70-73	OGDEN, J.E. (John)	FS 51-56
FOX, A.P. (Anthony)	G 62-67	PAUL, D.T. (Tilak), Vashti Ragoonanan & Nancie Slone	FN 71-76
GEORGE (nee Lyall), Mrs S.E. (Sarah) & Mark George (Trustee)	L/G 77-85	REEVE, A.J.H. (Tony)	M 89-08
GOSS, J.R. (John) & Lynne Goss	FS 60-65	ROBERTS, M.N. (Mark)	SH 93-95
GRAHAM, J.A. (Tony)	FN 53-55	ROBSON, G.C. (George)	FN 57-64
GRIBBLE, L.J.R. (Laurence)	SH 02-09	ROCCA, M.C. (Mark)	FS 75-80
HAIGH, J.P.T. (Jonathan) & Penny Haigh	FS 54-58	RUMNEY, Mrs P.J. (Pam)	OSB
HALL, R. (Richard)	FS 64-68	THOMAS, K.F. (Keith)	SH 71-76
HARDMAN, Steve & Helen	M 81-86	THOMPSON, E.A.L. (Edward)	F 54-59
HEWITSON, J.R. (John)	SH 52-57	THOMPSON, T. (Thomas)	FN 44-49
HOPE, J. A. (Adrian) (DNA)	G 69-76	TIFFEN, J.S. (John)	FN 52-56
LAM, T.W.Y. (Tommy)	SH 87-90	WILLIAMS, D.H. (Don)	FN 61-64
LEES, S.C. (Stephen) & Lesley Lees	G 56-62	WILLS, A.J. (Anthony)	F 60-64
LEVER, P.G. (Peter) & Jane Lever	G 62-66	WINDLE, M.P. (Michael), Valerie Windle & Susan Byrne	FS 68-71
LISTER, J.P. (Jim)	SH 68-74	WITHNALL, S.G. (Stuart)	G 58-63

OSB Day Apologies 2018

AFFLECK, W.S. (Bill)	SH 45-51	HAILE, A.J. (Andy)	F/SH 76-83
BULLOCK, J.F. (James)	FN 44-48	JACKSON, D.I. (David)	FS 56-60
CALVIN, R.P. (Roy)	G/SH 78-83	JOHNSTON, A.T. (Andrew)	G 68-73
CALVIN, S.J. (Sara)	G 77-84	MAYNE, T.F. (Terence)	SH 47-52
CLARKSON, R.M. (Richard)	G 51-57	POWELL, B.H. (Brian)	F 50-54
DIX, W.M.H. (Malcolm)	FN 55-58	WATSON, D.R. (Dacre)	SH 56-62
DOVE, W.E. (Bill)	FN 57-60	WRIGHT, D.G.P. (Derek)	FS 48-53
DUNN, J.M.W. (John)	FS 64-69		

The Edmund Grindal Society The New School Foundation Appeal

Since the launch of the Appeal in September 2017 the total sum raised, including anticipated Gift Aid, is £96,000. Monies have either been donated outright or pledged. A sum totalling £44,000, plus gift aid, has been received as one off cash donations and a further £31,000, plus gift aid, has been pledged on an annual giving basis.

These funds are being directed to the School Charitable Trust.

The School Charitable Trust remains in a very tight financial position and the funds raised by the Appeal to date have helped the Trust to participate in the Joint Venture Company, with The Full Circle Education Group, to reopen the school.

A sincere thank you to all those who have contributed. Further donations would provide further financial comfort to the Trustees of the Charitable Trust.

THE LAST POST

It is known that for some years it was the tradition for a boy on Grindal to serenade the village with a rendition of the Last Post from the House balcony of an evening, and we have received a few brief reminiscences in recent months of this tradition. Should any OSBs recall the names of any of those who played on these occasions, the instruments used, and indeed any relevant anecdotes, please let either **Tony Reeve (Editor)** or **Pam Rumney in the office have the details**. Below is the information we have to date:

1948-1950	F47-52	Barr, Dr. R.F. (Ron)	From Grindal fire escape
1951-1956?	G51-56	Baldwin, C.P.P. (Peter)	From Grindal fire escape
1956-1961?	G56-62	Lees, S.C. (Steve)	From study window (French Horn)
1961-1966	G61-66	De Gruyther, T. (Tim)	From Grindal fire escape (S.Bugle)

**Minutes of the 25th (110th) Annual General Meeting of
the St Beghian Society held in the Whitelaw Building
on Saturday, 29th September 2018 at 11.00am.**

There were 38 people present, including Peter Lever (President), Pam Rumney (Secretary) and David Lord (Treasurer).

- 1) **Welcome** – Peter Lever, the President, opened the meeting by reflecting that when he took over from Dacre Watson a year ago, he recalled that Dacre had previously described his Presidency as having a vertical learning curve. Peter went on to say that he regarded this last year as President as feeling more like being at sea in a hurricane and that it had been an extremely interesting challenge being President of the St Beghian Society, a Director of the Joint Venture Company and also a Trustee of the St Bees School Trust. However, he was confident that progress was being made.
Peter recounted the eight excellent OSB Dinners which had taken place, despite the number of attendees at some diminishing. He also reported that the Singapore Lunch group had formally established themselves as an OSB Branch and would be holding annual meetings. In addition, the Hong Kong and China group was flourishing as an Asian Branch of the Society.
Peter concluded by drawing members’ attention to a paper produced by Laurence Gribble, which had been circulated to those present and outlined the primary responsibilities for the St Bees School Management Company (JVC), and in addition he highlighted the 75% Full Circle and 25% Charitable Trust interest in the project.
- 2) **Brief Silence in memory of departed OSBs** – Pam Rumney read out a list of OSBs who we had been advised had passed away since the last AGM in September 2017.
- 3) **Minutes of the 109th A.G.M. held on Saturday 23rd September, 2017 (published in the January 2018 Bulletin)** – Laurence Gribble requested an amendment to item 10b to say that ‘The St Bees School Trust does have charitable status but the St Bees School Management Company (JVC) does not’.
The amended Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and were proposed by Mike Brandwood and seconded by Don Williams.
- 4) **Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- 5) **Election of Officers:**
 - a) **President Elect - vacant.** Peter reported that he would be retiring in September 2019 and that a successor was required to take over the

Presidency. He requested that all members gave the matter some thought and contact the office with any suggestions or proposals.

b) Committee – retiring this year were Roy Calvin, Darryl Davies, Andy Haile and Andrew Johnston. It was reported that all but Andy Haile had been contacted and that they were all willing to continue.

c) Treasurer – David Lord agreed to continue as Treasurer for the time being.

d) Secretary – Pam Rumney also agreed to continue as Secretary.

e) Golfing Secretary – Tom Wright was happy to continue as Golfing Secretary.

f) Accounts Checker – Jason Spires was willing to continue in this position.

A proposal to re-elect all the officers as above was made and unanimously agreed.

6) The re-opening of the school – It was agreed to leave this item until the end of the meeting.

Mark George (Chair of the School Trustees) and Gareth Seddon (Acting-Headmaster) joined the meeting following the completion of all other items of business.

Mark commenced by proudly announcing that on September the 6th St Bees School had re-opened and that sincere thanks were due to many people for this achievement, including the OSBs. He went on to introduce Gareth Seddon, the current Acting-Headmaster.

Gareth began by describing recent weeks as an extremely tumultuous time. He emphasised his commitment to the project and said it was absolutely key that the school had re-opened in September this year as planned. Whilst talking to parents, he had flatly refused to accept that the school might not open, but instead had given his all to reach the point of seeing children come through the doors at the beginning of the month. Gareth indicated that there had been a desire to celebrate and mark the occasion, but that arrangements had deliberately been low key in order for the new intake to get established as quickly and normally as possible in their new environment.

Gareth stressed the importance of having a group of children who really understood the spirit of St Bees School. He reported that they had already played Fives and carried out geological work on the beach, the latter being in school uniform, which had received recognition and admiration from visitors. He went on to report that the school had held its first parents' evening during the previous week and that the feedback had been overwhelmingly positive with one parent stating 'This is far better than I could ever have imagined'.

Gareth emphasised the need for this to be standard and for promises to be kept as the school moved forward.

With his personal love of history, Gareth drew some appropriate parallels between 100 years ago today when the Hindenburg Line was broken, it having been stated that it couldn't be done, and the opening of the present school. He concluded his analogy by stating that he was very much looking forward to moving onward, whilst ensuring that everything was better for everyone. He was confident that the enthusiasm shown by parents and pupils to date would encourage others to come forward and be part of the developing school.

Peter Lever expressed his sincere thanks to Gareth for a very impressive overview of the school. He indicated that the school was in very good hands and wished him the best of luck in the development of the school.

A Question and Answer session then followed:-

Mike Brandwood (FS 61-66) asked about the number of pupils currently in the school and the future of boarding at St Bees. Gareth Seddon stated that there was no boarding at present as the Boarding Houses were not currently available. However, there was money being spent on School House which would enable boarding accommodation to be available from next year.

Anthony Wills (F 60-64) enquired as to whether there were any other full-time teachers in place, other than Gareth. Gareth confirmed that all teachers were part-time and that during the recruitment process he had had a key idea of the areas that needed covering. He went on to say that out of the 42 applicants, eight were interviewed and the three who were finally appointed covered, between them, all the various subjects required. One applicant, a Biology and Chemistry graduate, also offered Outdoor Education and D of E, plus taught Geography to A' level. Another, an Engineering graduate, taught Maths and IT, plus Physics to A' level. The third covered English and Drama and Gareth himself also offered History, PE and Outdoor Education. In addition, a Mandarin teacher had been employed on a part-time basis. He went on to advise that Art would be covered, for one full day every six weeks and Home Economics on a similar basis.

John Hewitson (SH 52-57) continued with a 2nd WW analogy, the 'End of the Beginning', and suggested that the most critical thing as the school entered the second phase would be the marketing, and in particular how the school would be marketed in China. Gareth confirmed that Mary Young, the school's new Marketing Manager, had just started and that a good relationship was developing with Sara Wang, Full Circle's marketing representative in China. Gareth advised that during a recent TV Talent Show in China, the 10 year old winner had 'chosen' St Bees School and was

therefore spending the next two weeks at the school with a view to attending in the future. However, Gareth expressed his concerns over ensuring that there was no inappropriate marketing with regard to the required Tier 4 licence, which relates to the admission of overseas pupils.

Gareth concluded by confirming the success of using social media, which had produced several recent enquiries, resulting in potential parents being shown around the school. A significant number of these had already registered for September 2019.

7) Lonsdale Terrace.

8) Society Accounts – 2016-2017.

It was felt appropriate that items 7 and 8 should be dealt with together.

David Lord, the Society Treasurer, began by recalling that initially, when the school closed in 2015, the OSB Guarantee Trust Fund (GTF) had covered the ongoing Lonsdale Terrace running costs for the two years up to the 31st August, 2017. From the 1st September 2017 up to the 31st August 2018 the school used the Terrace for staff accommodation, for which rent was paid to the GTF on a monthly basis. The school also covered the running costs of the Terrace during this period. As the Terrace was now no longer needed by the school, a decision to sell the houses had been made. In order to satisfy the planning approval, two parking places for each property had to be created and quotes had been obtained to complete this work along with other conversion work needed to make the properties saleable. This cost was estimated to be in the region of £200k+. David advised the Meeting that the GTF did not have sufficient funds to complete the work and an application for a loan facility had been submitted to the Cumberland Building Society. Once the work had been completed, all the properties would be sold, apart from No.1, which would be retained, the downstairs being a possible base for the OSB office in the future, and the upstairs flat could be rented out. David reported that three different valuations had been received since the school closed and all valued the properties at around £2.1/2.2m in their present state. After the payment of Capital Gains Tax on all the properties it was hoped that the GTF would end up with between £1-1.5m.

In response to a query regarding the necessity of providing parking places, Peter Lever confirmed that it was a condition of planning consent that had been imposed by Copeland Borough Council. It was suggested that perhaps it was worth appealing against the decision, which David Lord agreed to consider along with a further suggestion to evaluate financially the impact of a reduction in the number of parking places per property.

Frank Messenger asked if Lonsdale Terrace would possibly be required by teaching staff, but Peter Lever advised that the school did not have the funds in the budget to be able to offer free accommodation to teachers in the future. David Lord drew members' attention to the **Old St Beghians' Club Guarantee Trust Fund Account** and mentioned again the fact that Lonsdale Terrace had been occupied by school staff since September 2017, during which time the school had paid rent to the GTF. Following an approach to Tom Milburn with regard to the possible borrowing of funds to help the school at this difficult time, a valuation was obtained costing £3k. The cost of the valuation was initially paid by the GTF but would be reimbursed by the school in due course. David observed that the accounts indicated a small profit of £15k+ and that the outstanding mortgage on No.8 Lonsdale had reduced by £12k.

The **St Beghian Society General Account** showed a loss of just over £22k, mainly due to two one-off items of expenditure. The school had a real need to employ Sandy Rogers as a Site Manager but were unable initially to fund this appointment. The Society therefore had agreed to pay £25k over an eighteen month period to assist the school with his salary. In addition, £1850 had been required to launch the new Edmund Grindal Appeal. Whilst being prepared to help the school through these difficult times, the Society's cash reserves, as a consequence, had deteriorated significantly. Pam Rumney's salary, together with the Bulletin and postage costs, still needed to be paid, but with no income currently coming in from school pupil Life Membership subscriptions (or rental income to the GTF to assist), the future would continue to be difficult and David concluded by stating that the Society needed to be very careful with the remaining cash currently held and that he would be extremely relieved when some of the Lonsdale properties were sold to provide some much needed liquidity for the GTF and the St Beghian Society. To assist in a small way David advised that funds from the 200 Club might need to be diverted.

David thanked the JVC and School Trustees for all that they had done to achieve the re-opening of the school and was pleased that the Society had been able to help in a small way. He continued by saying that there were many challenges ahead for the school but that while the Society must try to do everything in its power to help, he was extremely anxious about the Society's possible financial situation beyond the summer of next year.

Steve Lees asked when the Lonsdale work would be completed and the properties ready to sell. David replied that he hoped marketing could start early in the New Year and that some properties would be sold by this time next year.

Frank Messenger mentioned the recent negative reports about Whitehaven School and wondered if this could help St Bees at all. Peter Lever indicated that when asbestos had been found there the Trust had been approached and, at the time, agreed to take 90 pupils if required. However, Alastair Lord confirmed that Whitehaven School had now received investment themselves and were no longer in need of assistance. Peter Lever indicated that the school was always looking for revenue-making initiatives and that all ideas were treated seriously.

- 9) The Edmund Grindal Society** – Peter Lever advised members that nearly £100k, including gift aid, had been raised to date from OSBs. Initially the target had been £400k. Since this time the school’s running costs had significantly increased and Peter confirmed that contributions would still be greatly appreciated.
- 10) Branch Activities** – Peter Lever gave an overview of the various gatherings which had taken place throughout the year. He thanked the organisers of the events and also Members for attending, but expressed his concerns over the dwindling numbers at some of these functions.
- 11) The 200 Club Draw** – Darryl Davies reported that a figure of just over £2600 was held by the club but that the number of members had fallen in recent years and hence new participants were needed. It was agreed that due to the limited time available before the Chapel Service, the scheduled 200 Club Draw would take place later during lunch in the Foundation Dining Room. The draw identified the following winners:

PRIZE	Ticket No.	WINNER
£160	6	P.J. (Philip) and S. Etchells
£60	46	D.W. (Darryl) Davies
£60	62	D.T. (David) Johnston
£60	42	W.S. (Bill) and J. Affleck
£60	14	G.C. (George) Robson

- 12) Any Other Business** –
- a) During the meeting Peter Lever made a presentation to Laurence Gribble (SH 02-09) of an old sixpence minted in the year that the school was founded. The coin had been donated to the school by an OSB and Peter felt it appropriate to present to Laurence, an employee of the Full Circle Group, for his significant contribution in the achievements to date with regard to its re-opening.
- The President thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 12.30pm.**

Armistice Day 2018

The following poem was read in St Bees Priory on Sunday, 11th November by the President of The St Beghian Society as part of the special service which was held.

If I should never see the moon again

*“If I should never see the moon again
Rising red gold across the harvest field
Or feel the stinging soft rain
As the brown earth her treasures yield.*

*If I should never taste the salt sea spray
As the ship beats her course across the breeze.
Or smell the dog-rose and new-mown hay,
or moss or primroses beneath the tree.*

*If I should never hear the thrushes wake
Long before the sunrise in the glimmering dawn.
Or watch the huge Atlantic rollers break
Against the rugged cliffs in baffling scorn.*

*If I have to say good bye to stream and wood,
To wide ocean and the green clad hill,
I know that he, who made this world so good
Has somewhere made a heaven better still.*

*This bears witness with my latest breath
Knowing the love of God,
I fear no death.”*

(Lines found in the Bible of Major Malcolm Boyle, killed in action)

Throughout the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday, there was a variety of events held in the village. These included a display of 214 named crosses along the path outside the Priory to commemorate those killed in the First World War (30 from the village and 184 from St Bees School), while the stories of many of these formed part of an exhibition within. Other events during the week included poetry readings on the hour and every hour in the Priory between 10 am and 6 pm along with various talks. On the evening of Armistice Day the names of the fallen from the school and the village were read aloud in the Bell Tower of the Priory to the accompaniment of the passing bell.

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan19bulletin>.

The names of those from School who fell in the Great War (1914-1918)

ADAM (H.W.)	CROMPTON (A.H.)	HALL (J.M.)
ADAMS (J.P.F.)	CUTFIELD (H.)	HALLIWELL (W.N.)
ADAMSON (D.)	DAVIS (L.A.)	HANNA (J.H.)
ALDERSON (R.)	De la MOTTE (H.T.)	HANNA (W.)
ALLPASS (H.B.K.)	DICKEY (R.G.A.)	HASELER (G.B.)
ARMSTRONG (L.W.)	DICKSON (J.M.F.)	HAWKESWORTH (F.H.S.)
BANISTER (M.J.)	DIX (G.S.)	HAYE (B.)
BANKS (J.)	DIXON (C.J.)	HAYNES (B.H.)
BARRS (N.C.)	DOMAN (G.H.R.)	HILL (M.)
BAXTER (R.P.)	DRUMMOND (J.R.)	HIND (F.)
BELCHER (H.S.)	DUFFIN (C.F.)	HOWSE (B.T.)
BENNETT (G.W.)	EWBANK (J.W.)	HUDSON (A.P.)
BINNEY (E.H.)	EWBANK (L.)	HUDSON (H.E.)
BIRKETT (H.)	FINCH (W.)	HUDSON (R.D.)
BLAIR (C.E.L.)	FORD (R.J.)	HUMPHREYS (S.N.)
BLAIR (R.C.F.)	FORSTER (G.R.)	IRVING (T.H.)
BRAIDFORD (P.)	FORSTER (W.O.)	JACKSON (C.R.H.)
BRAIDFORD (W.)	FOX-RUSSELL (H.T.)	JACKSON (L.)
BROWN (S.B.)	FOX-RUSSELL (J.)	JACKSON (T.L.)
BRYANT (W.T.G.)	FRITH (J.F.)	JAMES (J.)
BUCKLEY (H.P.S.)	FULTON (K.W.F.)	JEFFERSON (H.)
BURGH (E.H.)	FURLEY (F.E.)	JENKINS (L.)
CALVERT (R.M.)	GAMBLE (B.)	JOHNSON (H.N.)
CANNON (P.F.)	GAMON (J.L.P)	JOHNSTON (A.J.)
CARRACK (C.J.)	GARDINER (R.E.)	JOHNSTON (W.T.)
CLARK (W.A.)	GAUL (E.)	JONES (W.T.)
CLEMONS (A.J.)	GEMMELL (J.B.R.)	KENWORTHY (S.)
COLEMAN (C.M.)	GLEGG (A.L.)	KERR (F.)
COLLETT (T.T.)	GLEGG (W.S.)	KING (R.A.F.S.)
COLLINGWOOD (G.A.)	GLENDAY (F.G.)	KING-MASON (C.G.D.)
COLLINGWOOD (R.M.)	GLENDINNING (W.L.)	KNIVETON (J.K.)
CONDI (A.G.)	GRAHAM (C.)	LEFROY (T.E.)
COOMBES (J.E.H.)	GRAHAM (J.S.)	LIMONT (W.E.)
COWEN (H.W.)	GREEN (C.L.)	LOFT (P.T.)
CRAMSIE (A.B.)	GREENHALGH (M.L.)	McCANCE (F.)
CREASY (H.W.H.)	GREGORY (H.V.)	MACNICOL (A.J.B.)
CRITCHLEY (J.A.)	GUNSON (L.R.S.)	MAIL (F.O.)

MARTIN (C.T.)	PRYOR (F.W.)	SPINK (E.M.)
MARTIN (F.S.)	PURVIS (R.C.)	STEELE (A.J.)
MASHEDER (J.)	RAE (J.E.P.)	STOTT (P.H.)
MELLISH (R.C.)	RAILTON (J.C.)	STRATHERN (T.D.)
MILNER (J.L.)	RAMSAY (V.L.)	SUTTON (G.S.)
MITCHELL (E.P.H.)	RANKIN (F.A.)	THOMSON (J.W.S.)
MITCHELL (J.A.)	ROBERTSON (A.P.)	TOTTENHAM (A.H.)
MOLYNEUX (B.)	ROBERTS (A. SHERIFF)	TOTTENHAM (E.L.)
MOORE (J.G.)	ROBERTS (F. SHERIFF)	URWIN (T.A.)
MOSSOP (R.)	ROBERTS (G.B.)	WAIN (R.W.L.)
MURRAY (G.D.)	ROBINSON (G.S.)	WAINWRIGHT (O.J.)
MURRAY (L.)	ROBINSON (H.L.)	WALKER (W.G.)
NANSON (J.)	ROBINSON (J.W.)	WALLWORTH (C.R.C.)
NEILSON (D.F.)	ROBINSON (P.D.)	WARREN (C.G.)
NELSON (W.W.)	ROBINSON (T.V.)	WATSON (D.C.)
PAGE (J.L.M.)	ROBINSON (W.de H.)	WILKINSON (G.D.)
PAGEN (W.R.)	ROBINSON (W.L.)	WILL (G.K.)
PARK (J.W.H.)	RODGERS (J.F.)	WILSON (A.S.)
PATMAN (F.W.)	ROUTLEDGE (J.)	WILSON (J.H.)
PEARSON (G.A.)	SAPORTAS (H.A.)	WILSON (W.H.)
PECKER (H.C.)	SCOTT (J.)	WISE (G.E.F.)
PERCY (H.E.)	SHEPHERD (A.R.T.)	WRAY (T.E.)
PLUMMER (L.D.)	SMITH (C.)	YATES (J.S.)
PORRITT (W.M.)	SMITH (H.G.)	
POULTNEY (J.B.)	SNEDDON (A.B.)	

SOCIETY WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

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

www.st-beghian-society.co.uk

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

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

We would certainly welcome any comments that you may have.

BRANCH NOTES & EVENTS

Branch Activities:

Cumbria (West)

A reception was held in the Salad Room (Foundation) prior to the Dinner which took place in the Foundation Dining Room at St Bees School on Friday 28th September 2018 on the eve of St Beghians' Day.

Those who attended were:

Guests - Mark George (Chair of the Trustees) and Mrs Sarah George (L/G 77-85).

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

Alumni - Mike Brandwood (FS 61-66) and Mrs Kate Brandwood; Symon Brown (FS 75-78) and Mrs Sheila Brown; Alan Crowther (FN 55-60) and Mrs Evelyn Crowther; Laurence Gribble (SH 02-09); Tommy Lam (SH 88-90); Alistair Lord (SH 90-95); Andrew Miller (SH 83-90); John Ogden (FS 51-56); George Robson (FN 57-64); Edward Thompson (F 54-59); Don Williams (FN 61-64).

After a lovely meal prepared by Julie Farrer and Claire Bowes, the formal part of the evening began.

Michael Brandwood proposed the Loyal Toast and Darryl Davies welcomed everyone. As the school had reopened, Darryl felt it appropriate to mention a few famous Old St Beghians from the past and their contributions after leaving the school. The Society's President, Peter Lever, spoke about the work that was currently being done behind the scenes to ensure the opening of the school ran smoothly. Peter concluded by proposing the toast to the school.

Mark George, Chair of the Trustees, then delivered an update on the present situation, beginning dramatically with the words, 'We're Open!' Following his report, a few words were spoken by Laurence Gribble, a former pupil, who had done a great deal of work liaising with Danny Wang, Managing Director of Full Circle, the Chinese group which has gone into partnership with the Trustees of the school and of which Laurence is an employee.

There followed a special event when George Robson unveiled a plaque in the Foundation Dining Room to honour all those who had served in the Great War. It was appropriately placed above the panelling near the carved signatures of a number of those who had lost their lives in that conflict. It was quite a moving moment and George deserves all our thanks for researching and organising this. All those present said how much they had enjoyed the evening.

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan19bulletin>.

London – OSB Social

The London OSB Social was held at The Samuel Pepys pub in the City on Friday 12th October 2018. It was an informal social event for OSBs to catch up with just a drink and/or food. Nicola Shannon (nee Metcalfe-Gibson) (L/G 78-85) with assistance from Dacre Watson (FN 61-64) and Tim Crossley-Smith (SH 73-78) coordinated the event. The years represented spanned from 1945 up to 2005 with both old boys and old girls attending. It was a great success and such a fun and enjoyable evening that we would like to repeat this social next year. Please let Nicola know if you would be interested in attending. She can be contacted at nicmetcalfeshannon@gmail.com.

Attendees: Nicola Shannon (Metcalfe-Gibson) (L/G 78-85), Dacre Watson (SH 56-62), Tim-Crossley-Smith (SH 73-78), Howard Graham (FS 80-87), Jane Barham (Wilson) (L 79-86), David Paul (FN 71-76), Rod Mcleod (FN 73-79), Bulent Tugal (FN 76-83), Sam Robson (G 79-81), Donald Jackson (SH 75-80), John McAdam, Jonathan Pollock (SH 73-78), Ben Wilkins (SH 97-04), Ronnie Whelan (86-91) and Martin Birkett (SH 83-90).

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan19bulletin>.

North East

The 2018 North East Branch Dinner was held at the Northumberland Golf Club, Gosforth Park, in Newcastle on Wednesday 7th November.

Twenty-seven Branch members and guests from the school met in the delightful club lounge for drinks and conviviality. Before all attendees moved into the dining room, Chairman Don Williams welcomed everyone and in particular, by way of celebrating the school's September re-opening, Head Master, Gareth Seddon. As a point of general interest Don announced that a sporting rugby event is being planned for the 9th March 2019 between Newcastle Falcons and Coventry Wasps; more details about this are available on request.

Don informed everyone about the sad death of Branch stalwart, Norman Wakefield, and called for a minute's silence in his memory and in the memory of St Beghians who fell in service during The Great War and subsequent years. On a final note, as a gesture of appreciation for such regular attendance, something which makes the North East Branch so successful, everyone received a gift. At the conclusion of the dinner and speeches, Don presented hard back copies of his book '*A Portrait of Achievement*'. This outlines over 2000 years the North East of England through the events, resources, and people that have shaped and contributed towards its being known affectionately as 'The Pride of Northumbria'. In the dining room after saying the traditional 'Foundation Grace', a superb meal was served and enjoyed by everyone. Following the 'Loyal Toast', Head Master, Gareth Seddon, gave an interesting and upbeat account of the re-opening of the school and the time since. Within six weeks he was faced with an Ofsted school

Inspection! However, he remained positive while awaiting their report summary (we have since heard of the good result!). Gareth illustrated some of the most memorable first term events and new pupil activities. He stressed how delighted both pupils and parents were with progress to date. Internal classes, activities and work are supervised by teachers and staff based in the Foundation. There is a growing impetus of interest with families considering placements next year and Gareth expressed his confidence with the prospects for future pupil numbers. In conclusion he proposed a toast to 'The St Beghian Society'.

St Beghian Society President, Peter Lever, then delivered a speech that gave members an insight into the many challenges that had to be faced by both the school and the Society. A steadfast determination by the Chinese led to the school's re-opening, and he was confident that with the continuing strength of backing by the Full Circle Group, the future ground is firm. Without any requirement in their plans for Grindal House, and given the high cost of repairs and upkeep, it is possible that this property will be available for sale. Similarly, the properties along Lonsdale Terrace are likely to be re-instated as individual residences with adequate parking and therefore suitable for sale. As the school has been closed for three years, it will be some time before the Society itself has any new members. Support for annual dinners and events is of great importance and Peter acknowledged and praised the Branch Secretaries and all others who have worked to ensure the Society remains vibrant. Concluding his speech, Peter proposed a toast to 'the school'.

Finally, a guest well known to Society members, Darryl Davies, gave a talk based on his experiences at St Bees whilst he was a pupil and then for 32 years, a school master. Darryl spoke very humorously whilst he recounted events and reminisced about past school masters and pupils. His imitation of history master, Dickie Dearle and his obsession with passing trains and railway timetables was particularly amusing. Darryl mentioned that he had been very moved by the Service of Remembrance this year on what was a very well attended St Beghians' Day at the end of September. He also thanked N.E. Branch member, George Robson, for devising the Order of Service, serving as organist and for donating the 'Old St Beghians Remember' plaque in the Chapel that was unveiled adjacent to one listing 'The Fallen of The Great War'.

At the end of the meeting Chairman Don Williams distributed copies of his book and then everyone retired to the lounge for some last chat and farewells before making tracks for home.

Present: D.H. Williams, Chairman (FN 61-64); D.F. Lord, Treasurer OSB (SH 60-65); W.E. Dove, Secretary NE Branch (FN 57-60); P.G. Lever, President OSB (G 62-68); D.W. Davies (FS 62-68); G. Seddon, Headmaster; F.O. Messenger (SH 50-55); I.D. Nimmo (FN 52-57); J.D.S. Brown (G 52-59);

N.D. Clothier (FN 53-57); W.M.H. Dix (FN 55-58); C.R. Kennedy (FN 55-59); D.G. Leslie (SH 55-59); A.M. Carstairs (FN 57-62); G.C. Robson (FN 57-64); J.M. McBryde (FN 58-61); T.G. Steven (G 59-64); A.O. Burn (G 62-65); N.W. Adams (FN 68-71); Mrs R.V. Lewis (L 77-79); D.J. Pitchford (G 95-02); D. Bushby (SH 95-02); P.J. Drysdale (SH 95-02); B. Wilson (SH 97-04); R.I. Littler (SH 98-05); M.T. Garstang (SH 98-05).

Note: D.G.W. Reed (FN 75-78) paid but could not make it.

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan19bulletin>.

Yorkshire

An excellent lunch was had at the Old Deanery, Ripon, with a good turnout of OSBs and wives.

We started with all present standing and in chorus gave a rousing rendition of the school grace, a copy being provided for those not remembering. As an innovation we had, through the lunch, a quiz comprising questions about the school.

Following the toast to the school, the President, Peter Lever, gave an update of the present situation and aspirations of St Bees School for the future. There followed a discussion about the way forward and reminiscences of the past.

Those Present: Peter Lever (G 62-65) (President of the St Beghian Society) and Jane Lever, Steve Crossley-Smith (SH 47-52) (Yorkshire Branch Secretary) and Pat Crossley-Smith, Johnnie Johnson (FS 46-50), Ian Crawford (FS 51-55) and Hilary Crawford, Michael Binns (FS 52-56), George Robson (FN 57-64), Bill Dove (FN 57-60), Nick Curry (SH 60-65) and Viv Curry, Carter Croft (FN 60-65), John Goss (F 60-65), Tim Crossley-Smith (SH 73-78), Jordan Madrick (SH 96-03), Gareth Lewis (SH 96-03).

The next 'Yorkshire gathering' will be lunch on **Sunday 8th, September 2019**, more details later.

Steve Crossley-Smith (Yorkshire Branch Secretary).

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan19bulletin>.

Wanted! - OSB Dinners and Events Photographs

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

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

Please remember to take your camera and capture the memories!

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

Thomas Froggatt Memorial Match 2018

Egremont RUFC: Friday 28th December

The Egremont clubhouse was full to the rafters yet again for this annual favourite, which has now become firmly established as a highlight event in the Old St Beghian calendar.

Between them, Egremont and the ex-St Bees team managed to get a game of rugby for just over fifty players, an achievement which aptly demonstrated the popularity of both the event and the cause.

However, the charity most definitely did not extend onto the pitch, as both sides played out a fiercely competitive encounter in the fourth match of the series. The St Bees captain and team organiser Jonathan Garrod was absolutely delighted that his side finally broke its duck by taking the win by 17-12, with all the scoring coming in the last quarter of a hard-fought and enjoyable game.

Jonathan was, however, keen to point out that with no new young players coming through from the school, he is keen to receive future offers to play from Old St Beghians of all ages, not just those of Thomas' era. OSB, and Egremont junior team coach, Katherine Donaldson, is also keen to continue to establish the women's touch-rugby event, which made its first appearance this year and which she is hoping will go from strength to strength.

As ever on this occasion, the real winner was the designated charity 'The Calvert Trust' as the pitchside collection, raffle, auction and generous donations raised a magnificent £1100 on the day.

Thanks go to the Egremont club for hosting the event so well, in addition to the Old St Beghian players, families and supporters who congregated in such excellent numbers. The Froggatt family was once again quietly proud of an event which commemorates Thomas in such an appropriate style.

Could OSBs please note that, subject to confirmation, the next Thomas Froggatt Memorial Match Is scheduled for **Saturday 28th December, 2019.**

Huw Lewis and Stuart McNee.

Annual Dinner and Other Dates:

Asia - Hong Kong and Shenzhen

If you are interested in attending dinners and get-togethers in Hong Kong and Shenzhen, please get in touch with Laurence Gribble, James Rebert or Chris Ma: Facebook Group: “Old St Beghians in Asia”

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

E-mail: OSBinAsia@gmail.com

WhatsApp: +44 7930 258791(Laurence Gribble).

Cumbria

Friday May 3rd 2019 at 7.30pm. This promises to be an excellent evening at the renowned Armathwaite Hall on the shores of Bassenthwaite Lake near Keswick in the heart of the Lake District. Why not make a weekend of it? Do let me know if you are interested as soon as possible as it is likely to get booked up very quickly. Cost:- Dinner: 3 course meal and coffee, £30.00 per person (normally £40.00). Book with Darryl Davies - Darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com. Accommodation:- £125 B&B for the room. (Normally £240) - book with the hotel direct. Ask for Leeann Lennox 017687 76551 or e-mail at leeann.lennox@armathwaite-hall.com stating you are OSBs with Darryl Davies. To take advantage of this fantastic offer, **BOOK NOW**.

London Dinner

The intention is to hold the London Branch Dinner once more at the RAF Club, 128 Piccadilly, London W1J 7PY on **Friday 31st May 2019**. Further details will be available in the New Year, but initial reservations or requests for further information should be sent to either tim.crossley-smith@gva.co.uk or Nicola Shannon nicmetcalfeshannon@gmail.com

London (Informal Gathering)

Following the success of the 2018 London OSB Social at The Samuel Pepys pub, we are proposing to hold a similar event, same time, same place, next year - **Friday 11th October 2019**, 6pm onwards. Please let Nicola Shannon (nee Metcalfe-Gibson (L/G 78-85)) know if you would be interested in attending nicmetcalfeshannon@gmail.com.

North East

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

Scotland

Many thanks to everyone who replied to our questionnaire about future Scottish events. Autumn time seemed to be the most popular for a Gathering and we will therefore circulate further details in due course, but please continue to let us know if such an event appeals to you and also if you would like further details in due course. Please contact Jerry Tsang: drjerrytsang@gmail.com or (0131) 5389703 or 0789 895 8123 or the OSB Office.

Singapore

Following last year's very successful Lunch at the Singapore Cricket Club, a repeat booking has been made for the 2019 get-together on **Saturday 2nd March**. All OSBs and partners, whether living in the Singapore area or not, are more than welcome to attend. If you are interested in joining us or would like further information, please contact Duncan Merrin on duncan.merrin@fullcircle.biz.

Yorkshire

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

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>

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

OSB Rugby Event
Saturday 9th March 2019 - The Ricoh Arena, Coventry
OSB Hospitality package for Wasps v Newcastle Falcons

For those who do not receive emails from the OSB Office:

In late November Pam Rumney sent out an offer to organise an OSB and guests visit to this match. In response to this the following arrangements have been made. There will be a package including a three course chef's lunch, parking, the best seats in the stadium and hospitality in the Jaguar Lounge, which opens at 11.30. The kick-off is at 14.00 and in addition, the following England v Italy match, which starts at 16.45, will be televised on big screens. So far it looks as if there will be a party of about 16. For details see 'Hospitality' in the Wasps' website www.wasps.co.uk.

The cost per head is £132.00. Mark would like to finalise numbers by the beginning of February, so if you are interested please contact Mark Spencer Ellis (SH 62-66) at markspencerell1@gmail.com or at 76 Carnarvon Road, South Woodford, London E18 2NU.

The Ricoh Arena, which Wasps owns, is about five minutes from Junction 3 of the M6, to the north of Coventry. It is easily accessible from the East and West Midlands and is about two hours from London. The Ricoh also has a hotel: for details see www.ricoharena.com.

Branch Secretaries:

Please find below a list of Branch Secretaries. If you are interested in attending a Branch dinner/gathering or require any other information, please contact the appropriate person. In addition, if you are living in another Branch's area temporarily, due to work or University for example, it would be helpful if such members were to contact the relevant Branch Secretary.

Asia:

Laurence Gribble, James Rebert and Chris Ma:

Facebook Group: "Old St Beghians in Asia"

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

E-mail: OSBinAsia@gmail.com

WhatsApp: +44 7930 258791(Laurence Gribble) or WeChat: [laurence358499](https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/0029va858322222222222222).

Bristol & West:

Dr W.S. Affleck (Bill),
Barley Hill, Watledge, Nailsworth, Stroud, Gloucestershire. GL6 0AS.
Tel: (01453) 832619. Email: william.affleck@btinternet.com

Cumbria (South):

N.J.V. Curry (Nick),
95 Appleby Road, Kendal, Cumbria. LA9 6HE.
Tel: (01539) 728808.

Cumbria (West):

D.W. Davies (Darryl),
5 Marlborough Avenue, High Harrington, Workington,
Cumbria. CA14 4NW.
Tel: (01946) 831650. Email: darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com

Liverpool:

I.J. Braithwaite (Ian),
Bramble Grange, Belle Vue Lane, Guilden Sutton, Chester. CH3 7EJ.
Tel: (01244) 300565. Email: ijb.1@virgin.net

London:

T.M. Crossley-Smith (Tim)
Tel: 0207 911 2291 or 07983 585799. Email: tim.Crossley-Smith@gva.co.uk

Manchester:

R.P. Calvin (Roy),
The Lymes, Priory Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire. WA14 3BS.
Tel: (0161) 928 9812. Email: rcalvin1@googlemail.com

North-East:

W.E. Dove (Bill),
3 the Rowans, Baildon, West Yorkshire. BD17 5DB.
Tel: (01274) 585147. Email: williamdove15@yahoo.co.uk

Yorkshire:

S. Crossley-Smith (Steve),
Garth Cottage, Moor Park Way, Addingham, West Yorks. LS29 0PZ.
Tel: (01943) 830640. Email: crossleysmith@btinternet.com

Scotland:

S.T. (J.) Tsang (Jerry)
64/5 Lorne Street, Edinburgh, Lothian. EH6 8QF.
Tel: (0131) 5389703 or 07898958123. Email: drjerrytsang@gmail.com

Golfing Society (OSBGS)

Old St Beghians' Golfing Society Report 2018

2018 has been a flourishing year for the Society. This year's participation in the stand-out events for Old Boys' golf has not only shown that the OSBs are keen partakers in these events but are also competitors. Encouraging results and experimenting with and establishing new partnerships in these varied competitions have shown great promise on which the Society hopes to build during the 2019 calendar.

The Halford Hewitt – Kent – 2018

The year began with a trip to Kent and the tropical climate of Sandwich. It was a fantastic week once again in the home from home accommodation at the Knowlton Court Lodge.

We were drawn to play at Royal St George's (our 'home' course) against Hurstpierpoint. We had an excellent team and with twenty minutes to go it looked as though we would win, following victories from the pairings of Adrian Peckitt and Andrew Deall, Gareth Edgar and Tom Wright. However, in two crucial games we were pipped at the 19th in one and robbed by an outrageous pitch-in from an impossible lie right off the 18th green in the other. A win would have been a great morale booster, however we will return next year all the more determined. We need everyone who is eligible to come and play or support the OSBGS. Next year's event takes place from the **10th-14th April, 2019**.

The Cyril Gray – Surrey - 2018

The Cyril Gray (6 a side for the over 50s), was in some ways similar to the Hewitt and with too many of the same players making up the team! In the first round we lost to City of London in a match we should have won 2/1. In the Plate, a 16 team tournament in itself, we beat (on the same boiling hot afternoon) Framlingham in the deciding game at the 21st, around 8pm. The following day, with a late start, we overcame Eastbourne with the decider again going to the 20th; unfortunately, due to an injury, we could not progress further. There was some consolation in that Glenalmond, our practice-day dinner match opponents, whom we would have had to face on the Saturday morning, went on to win the Plate against Edinburgh Academy in a close final. The dates for **2019** are the **26th-29th June**. The Cyril Gray takes place annually at Worplesdon in Surrey.

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan19bulletin> of the 'winning' Cyril Gray team (l to r) Stephen Moss, Michael Coffey, Mike Stamper, Adrian Peckitt, Jeff Ellis, Andy Crummey.

We are still visible and still fighting our corner, however, we do need support and new blood. Even our Cyril Gray side's age averaged over 60. Old Persons' (or Old Pupils') golf is not only played on the best courses, with in our case excellent accommodation on offer, but it is a chance to widen your horizons and meet interesting people from all over the globe, whilst at the same time representing St Bees and having a good time (especially when you win).

The Critchley Cup – Seascale – 2018

After an absence of three years, the Critchley Cup and its associated trophies returned in some style to *Seascale Golf Club* on Saturday, 7th July. Despite a number of late withdrawals, a select team took to the bleached links at around 10.30 with the entire field completing the course in time to view England's victory over Sweden!

The golf was of the highest calibre. There was a tie for the top honour and the Critchley Cup, Scott Sharp pipping Cameron Wood, who won the Bill Fox Cup, with 20/19pts on the back nine, both amassing 39pts. *Seascale* being their home Club they can expect handicap reductions from 11 and 7 respectively, in the very near future. They are the youngest competitors ever to take part in this OSBGS event as they are both still in education! One of the anomalies of the school's closure.

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan19bulletin> of Scott Sharp with the Critchley Cup with the backdrop of the Seascale 18th and Clubhouse.

The best golf of the day was played by John Berry (2) who scored a magnificent 37pts and won Farquahie's Fortifier (a 'blessing' in disguise!) and a wonderful bottle of malt whisky donated by Tim Morrison.

Other trophy winners were Mike Stamper, who won the superb Ken Case Tankard for seniors; Ben Wilson won the Dick Harrison Cup (over 12 Handicap), and Tom Wright our diligent Hon. Secretary, won the Doman Salver for those under 25 (if we knew where it was – PLEASE SEARCH and let us know?).

We were made very welcome and wonderfully well looked after by all at the Club. We have decided that the Critchley Cup, all being well, will return to *Seascale* **next year in July**.

Our grateful thanks go to Tom Wright our Hon. Secretary for his efforts in cajoling Old St Beghians to the start line (never easy – despite their ability to enjoy themselves hugely 'on the day'), as well as for his secretarial duties on the day – many thanks.

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan19bulletin> of the Hon. Secretary Tom Wright and the Society's most capped player Adrian Peckitt on the 9th green at St Bees.

The following day; The President, Hon. Secretary, and the Society's most 'capped' (and MVP...) Adrian Peckitt negotiated a delightful nine holes of the St Bees School golf course, now the *St Bees Golf Club*. During the round we bumped into Bill Douglas, who has masterminded the saving of the club and course during the last few difficult years. And in addition, of course, there was a good deal of financial backing from the St Bees School Golf Foundation, to which so many members of the OSBGS subscribed. We can report that the Alec MacCaig Memorial bench is well used and in excellent order.

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan19bulletin> of the St Bees course which is in excellent order following the golden summer of 2018 – but they still haven't managed to get rid of all the sheep!

The QE Coronation Schools Tournament – Edinburgh – 2018

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan19bulletin> of the 2 W's, the 2 J's and the 2 A's completing the 3 pairings fielded for the QE 2018.

We looked a strong team for the QE and certainly deserved our Quarter final berth. The introduction of Cameron Wood paired with Tom Wright proved a strong combination (MoliWood-esque) following a solid opening victory (6 and 5) in the first round against the 'Old Aloysians'. All pairings comfortably won their opening matches, resulting in a safe passage into the second round facing the 'Old Oundelians' on the Sunday morning.

The third pairing of the 'two Andy's', Goodwin and Crummey, comfortably won their second round match 8 and 6 whilst the two games ahead were evenly matched. Wright and Wood squandered the chance to win the game on the 18th, resulting in a 19th hole sudden death. A great drive from Wood, dissecting the fairway, put Wright in the ideal opportunity to attack the flag with a pitching wedge. The result left Wood with a 6ft birdie putt to win the game and with a slight left to right break, Wood walked the putt in with a Ryder-Cup styled fist pump. Hopefully the first of many fist pumps for Wood, sealing the overall victory for St Bees, 2-1.

This resulted in an Old St Beghians quarter final afternoon appearance (for the first time in 20 years) against Stewarts Melville. Perhaps a little fatigued, the team showed great OSB spirit against their 'aggressive' opponents. Wright and Wood battled against plus-handicapped golfers, eventually falling short 3 and 1, alongside the 2 A's falling short also. The 'two John's', Currie and Berry, were still in their game at all square after 15, where a concessionary half was declared. 2.5-0.5. The modesty within our victories definitely reflected our dignity in our afternoon defeat, a learning curve for us all! Greater satisfaction followed when Stewarts Melville won the overall event for the fourth time in a row.

It was a fantastic weekend, organised by Captain Andrew Goodwin, fitting the team out with great accommodation at the Braids Hotel. The support of Rodney Atkinson, Charlie Crummey, Nigel Costeloe and Ben Wilson showed the St Bees' spirit off superbly within the clubhouse. With some well-known faces missing as well, the results were looked upon as a great success. Although the golf is the main priority, the evening entertainment in Edinburgh City Centre was thoroughly enjoyable once again; it was a perfectly balanced weekend of socialising and competition.

Key Dates for 2019

Halford Hewitt, Sandwich, Kent - **10-14th April.**

Cyril Gray, (over 50's), Worplesdon, Surrey - **26-29th June.**

Critchley Cup, Seascale, Cumbria - **6th July.**

QE Coronation Schools Tournament, Royal Burgess, Edinburgh - **28th - 30th Sep.**

Players of all abilities are encouraged to attend these events, especially the Critchley Cup. For the other competitions, fielding our strongest side is preferred; however, having a good squad is better than a good team.

Contact Details:

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

Tom Wright, Secretary – tomosbgolf@hotmail.com.

St Bees Golf Club

For further information:

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

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

OSB SHOP

If OSBs would like to have details of the range of items for sale in the OSB 'Shop', please contact the Office and a descriptive price list will be sent, or alternatively the information may be viewed on the Society website (www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/School Shop.htm).

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

SOCIETY OFFICERS:

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

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Currently Vacant

Treasurer:

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

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Mrs P.J. Rumney (Pam)

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R.P. Calvin (Roy) (SH 79-83)	R. Hall (Richard) (F 64-68)
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J.G. Craig (James) (FN 75-82)	D.F. Lord (David) (SH 60-65)

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

The next St Beghian Society Committee Meeting - Sat 2nd March, 2019
The AGM and St Beghians' Day, 2019 - Saturday 28th September, 2019.

Copy Deadline: As the target month for the next issue of 'The Old St Beghian' is **July 2019**, the Editor would be most grateful if Branch Secretaries and other contributors would let him have their notices and reports by **31st May, 2019**.

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

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