



The Old St Beghian

July 2016

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From Our President

Dacre Watson (SH 56-62)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I write this letter to all of you, the contrast with the same period last year could not be greater; the sense of gloom and despondency then amongst Old St Beghians will have, I hope, given way to one of cautious optimism and I would like to congratulate the Board of Trustees, chaired by Mark Rocca (FS 75-80), on the way they have moved forward since February this year, making the school premises more financially viable and maintaining them to the high standard you would find if you were to visit today.

The Board of Trustees are in the process of producing a second Newsletter containing more detailed information and it is planned to send this out with this edition of the Bulletin.

The Old St Beghian (OSB) Committee and I now consider that my prime responsibility will be directed to keeping the OSB Society together and, indeed, flourishing over the coming years. In this context I have attended regional dinners in West Cumbria, Manchester and Bristol and will also be attending the Newcastle and Scottish dinners in the latter part of the year. I would like to thank the organisers of these events for their very hard work, and while I have found the occasions to be very enjoyable, I have also enjoyed the opportunity to meet so many of you for a chat and exchange of ideas for the future.

I dare say that some may question our future over what they perceive to be the loss of our spiritual home at St Bees. Well, we haven't lost that base yet and my vision for the future is that we, the Old St Beghian Society, will work with and support whatever educational establishment is in place in the future. Indeed, Mark Rocca made the very point at the recent Manchester dinner that the OSB Society is, and will be, very much involved as part of the discussions with an eventual successful investor. As an aside, whenever I am in the Queens Hotel I often see the plaque donated by that generation of Old Millhillians who spent so much of their time during the war at school in St Bees; to them St Bees was still their spiritual home long after the school had moved back to Mill Hill and we can feel the same.

Regional dinners and local events have always been the mainstay of our Society and it was particularly pleasing to hear about the first Hong Kong dinner organised by James Rebert (SH 91-98) in January of this year; elsewhere in this Bulletin you will read that in the future James will be joined by Laurence Gribble (SH 02-09) and Chris Ma (G 02-09) in developing an Old St Beghians' group in Asia, which will include an annual dinner, and I would ask that all of you based in that part of the world make every effort to support such a group and I certainly have every intention to be at the dinner in Hong Kong next January.

St Beghians' Day will take place this year at St Bees School on 24th September. As in the past, there will be the Society AGM in the Whitelaw Building and I hope to see as many of you as possible on the day. There will be members of the new Board of Trustees present, who will be informing you of the progress being made and you will have the opportunity of asking any questions you might have. After the AGM we hope to have a lunch in Foundation or the Whitelaw Building as we have done in previous years.

Probably the most frequent question I am being asked is "What will happen to Lonsdale Terrace?"

In answer to this I would advise that Copeland Borough Council has now given planning consent for a change of use of the Lonsdale Terrace properties. This means that, subject to satisfying a number of conditions, work to convert the Terrace back into individual private residences can be commenced. The conditions relate primarily to vehicular access and parking on the Terrace.

I cannot end this Bulletin without making a special acknowledgement of the enormous support I have received over the last 18 months from you, the members of the OSB Society, the OSB Committee and in particular from David Lord, Tony Reeve and Pam Rumney. It would be entirely true to say that the Society would

struggle to function efficiently without Pam in the office, together with the advice, knowledge and support from David and Tony. My heartfelt thanks to the three of them.

I very much look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the coming year, but especially at the AGM.

My best wishes to you all.

Dacre Watson
President.

Printing and Postage Costs

During this time of change, the Society's financial support for the 'moth-balling' of the school is proving to be crucial. OSBs will appreciate that in the present circumstances, the Society's income and reserves are being diminished and therefore every penny we spend has to be carefully scrutinised. A considerable sum is being expended in the printing and postage of the Bulletin, the Board Newsletter and other mailings.

While we welcome the large number of OSBs who have helped us to reduce our costs by opting to receive the Bulletin by email, there is still a significant amount of money expended on printing and posting the 'hard-copy' version of the Bulletin for the benefit of those members who prefer it in this format.

It has been gratifying to receive from OSBs the occasional contribution to offset this cost. The purpose of this request is to encourage other OSBs who receive a postal version of the Bulletin to make a voluntary contribution to offset the printing and postal costs involved in this and our other mailings. As a guide, the sum of £20 pa would be of considerable assistance to the Society. Alternatively, OSBs with computer access may in the future wish to consider receiving mailings electronically instead. We should be very grateful for your assistance in helping us through this difficult time.

Please find enclosed a form which sets out various options for you to consider.

Dacre Watson, President of the Society.

OSB NOTES

Chizor Akisanya (Irukwu) (L 82-85) - A walk down memory lane.

“In March 2015, I, along with so many others, was shocked to hear of the decision to close the school after the summer term. Over the years my husband had listened carefully to stories about my time at St Bees and he insisted that it was important to visit the school before it was closed and set to work making sure that this actually happened. And so on Tuesday morning, 30th June, at a little after 11, we drove into St Bees village. My attention was diverted by a telephone call from my office and so I missed the moment when I was first confronted with my past.

My husband, who was driving, asked where he should go. I looked up. ‘Oh my goodness! This is it.’

‘Where should I go?’ he asked again, a little insistent. I simply kept gawking at my surroundings.

‘Oh wow!’ I exclaimed as we drove over the bridge and approached the level crossing. ‘Mrs C’s!’ (referring to a white building just beyond the level crossing, Mrs Cunningham’s store, which had doubled-up as the tuck shop and a post office).

‘Grindal House!’

‘Look!’ I said, ‘the railway restaurant is still there!’

My husband kept driving and in the absence of instructions from me he turned left taking us up the hill and past Lonsdale Terrace on the left. I squealed again:

‘Lonsdale!’

He stopped. I stuck my head out of the window peering down the terrace. I was suddenly 15 years old again, it was just gone 7.00 am and a bunch of us girls were making our way to Foundation for breakfast, heels clattering down the road.

I shook my head and returned to the present.

‘Everything looks so small, it was so huge when I was here,’ I exclaimed.

It was true. The roads and terraced houses looked like something off a biscuit tin, quaint, picturesque, postcard perfect.

‘It looked huge all those years ago because you were little then’ said my husband.

‘Wow!’ I kept repeating over and over.

He turned the car around and we drove back the way we had come giving me a second chance to take in the sights once again. We parked just outside Foundation and after a quick call into the OSB office waited for Tony Reeve to meet us.

While we waited I took in my surroundings, mentally ticking off the buildings that I remembered. The white building opposite the main school entrance that once housed the school shop and the bursar’s office was now the music school. I

was amazed at how much had been preserved in my memory, stored in a little bank somewhere and awaiting the moment when my past would be recalled. It was 30 years, almost to the day, that I had boarded a train for Carlisle as one chapter of my life's journey closed and another one opened simultaneously. A lifetime had passed and here I was back where, in a sense, it all began. Tony Reeve walked up to us and my question to myself about whether or not I remembered him was answered when he said that he had come to St Bees in 1989. That was four years after I had left. He led us to the reception explaining that a tour had been arranged for me with a couple of surprises along the way. 'If you turn around now, you will see the first surprise.'

I spun round. The person standing before me was unmistakable.

'Mr Davies!' I exclaimed.

'My star sprinter!' he replied.

I would have recognised Darryl Davies anywhere. He had taught me O Level Biology and had doubled as sports' master. I remembered him standing at the end of the 100 metres straight stopwatch in hand as he hollered for his athletes to run faster.

The first stop on the tour was Foundation (in my time it contained two boys' houses, Foundation North and South, now it was simply Foundation).

'Does the head boy or girl still post up notices informing the school that it is officially hot?' I asked, taking in the notice board, which strangely seemed unchanged. 'Yes, and seeing as today is hot, it is officially hot. You may take off your tie!'

We went into the dining room, which I understood was now known as the 'hot' room. Tony was surprised to hear that we had had all our meals in the Foundation dining room. Our sitting always coincided with Grindal's.

Afterwards we made our way to what used to be a lecture theatre but now housed the art workshop and then we went into the chapel. It was exactly as I remembered it. Even the hymnbooks looked like they were the same ones. I recalled having given a reading during chapel and Tony urged me to stand behind the lectern just as I would have done all those years ago. I did, smiling the delight of one who discovers that long-held memories have not proved to be disappointing.

We walked out and round the corner past the library which, sadly, was locked, denying me a glimpse into that most hallowed of surroundings where I had spent endless hours in my bid to ensure that I got into the university of my choice. The Willie Whitelaw building came long after my departure and I struggled to recall what had stood in its spot. Tony was surprised to learn that the art workshop was located in the present PE building. I could never forget that workshop, it had been my second home. I had spent many hours learning to throw

pots and trying my hand at sculpting under ‘Butch’s’ (Peter Broadhurst) watchful eye.

‘Why don’t we pause for a minute and sit just by the Crease,’ said Tony. I was quite happy to stop and take in my surroundings. We looked across at Lonsdale Terrace...even the pastel coloured buildings had been preserved just as I remembered. We sat in silence for a few minutes and then in the distance a two-carriage train trundled past towards the station. I smiled, it looked identical to the train that had introduced me to St Bees village in September 1982 and the one that had taken me away three years later.

‘If you look across to the left you will see the next surprise.’ Tony’s voice broke into my thoughts, transporting me back to the present. My eyes followed his finger and finally rested on two figures walking alongside the crease, one tall, extremely tall in comparison to the petite figure of his companion. I struggled for a brief moment, trying to place them, sifting rapidly through my patchy memories. Realisation flooded my mind. It was the Barratts, Philip and Maureen, Housemaster and Housemistress of Lonsdale in my time. I jumped up and raced towards them. ‘You’ve hardly changed! I gasped, eyes flying from one face to the other. ‘A lot greyer,’ said Maureen with a laugh.

The day would have been incomplete without a visit to St Bees Head. As I stood looking out to the sea, I was glad that I had made the six hour journey from our home in Hertfordshire, glad that I had an opportunity to see the school one final time before it closed in a few days. My last thought was of the number of people that would be affected by the closure of the school; pupils who would have to be relocated elsewhere, some at critical stages in their school career, staff needing new jobs, families uprooted, a village that had been inextricably intertwined with the school having to carve out a new solo identity. So many lives changed forever. It was sad, very sad. But that is life, change is constant and inevitable.”

Stephen Edwards (FN 52-57).

Stephen would like to make a correction to his article in the last issue of the Bulletin in that one of the teachers, Robert Hayes, was erroneously named as Roger.

Alan Rice (FS 49-54) recalls his introduction to the school in 1949.

“The day before the start of the 1949 Michaelmas term I travelled by car with my parents to St Bees and it was in the late afternoon when we left Whitehaven for the last stage of our journey.

About two miles from school, where the valley can be seen in its form, with deep and steep sides, I mentioned that the grass was extremely green by comparison with that in the region of Nottingham. At that stage and that age, I did not

correlate the verdant pastures with the considerable rainfall to be encountered in West Cumberland.

Some time later, I got used to the weather pattern which seemed to be almost invariable, irrespective of the time of year. I would wake in the morning at around 6:30 and the view through the windows, since the beds were low and the window-sills high, was of a near cloudless blue sky. By the end of the first lesson at about 10 a.m., the sky was overcast, grey and the rain was frequent.

Though the really fine days were few and far between, we did occasionally experience some warmer weather. The recognition of fine weather was not, however, left to individual assessment: a notice would appear (at least, on the Foundation notice board) stating simply, 'It is now officially hot'. That was permission for all ranks to go about without a blazer. I cannot remember what the rules dictated for the resumption of the blazer – probably for lessons, dinner, prep and prayers.

Stephen Edwards (FN 52-57) recently wrote about his loneliness after his father had left him at Meadow House. Mine was a similar experience. With my parents, I was welcomed to Eaglesfield by the Housemaster, Cyril Wood (who taught Chemistry) and his wife. We unpacked my trunk and found my allocated bed in the top floor dormitory (with a view of the Isle of Man on a clear day). We then had tea and cakes together in the Wood's living room and it was soon time for my parents to depart. I well remember looking at the diminishing view of the car as it reached the fork in the road and turned out of sight on the Abbey Road. It was an isolated and lonely moment.

I made my way down to the beach and was fortunate to meet the Rev. Kennedy (the Divinity master and school Chaplain and known by the boys as 'Punch' Kennedy). He introduced himself and spent a considerable time talking to me, explaining various aspects of school life. Other 'new boys' from Eaglesfield joined us and the loneliness was gone. Time for dinner and to get to know each other: those fellow pupils whom we would come to remember for the rest of our lives."

Alan Rice (FS 49-54) has contributed the following piece:

Contact Sports.

"In early September 1949, about a week before I was due to come to St Bees, my sport of that day was 'conkers'. Most trees had been stripped and the last available supplies were high in a tree in a disused local cemetery. The normal technique of throwing up a stick to dislodge the conkers was not working and so I decided to climb and shake the branch. I completely failed to carry out what in modern times would be called a risk assessment.

Having climbed and clambered to the branch, I held on to a higher branch and

jumped on the laden branch to shake down the selected bunch. This technique was flawed: I think that, due to the dry weather, the supporting branch was prone to fracture. It did. I fell something between fifteen and twenty feet making a very dynamic contact with the ground. However, I was lucky to a certain extent: I narrowly missed falling onto the cruciform headstone of a grave.

The injury was a fractured fibula, which resulted in a foot and lower leg plaster cast. I came to school thus encumbered and my introduction to rugby was set back by four weeks.

On the date for the cast to be removed, I was escorted to the school doctor's surgery, in Whitehaven, by the Foundation matron, Sheila Appleyard. After removing the plaster the doctor said 'I'll just check for any adhesions'. He held my lower leg and fiercely jerked (the only appropriate phrase I can think of) my foot up and down to the limit, and possibly beyond, the normal deflection. The pain was intense but fortunately of short duration. As a parting shot he opined that the hospital should have strapped the fracture and that it would have healed quicker and without the need to check for adhesions.

My second appreciation of contact sports came when playing my first game for the First XV - as full-back. I believe it was at the end of the Easter Term in 1953. We were playing Whitehaven RUFC away. As a 'men's team', they had some very capable and fast backs, in particular the left wing, by name Watchorn. He was fast and ran with high lifting knees. Inevitably I came into contact with him in a low head-on tackle. He was stopped in his tracks, which was the whole object - one of the serious things we trained for with Mr Carter and Mr Brown.

However, I was concussed and though I managed to play on, after a short stoppage, the rest of the game seemed somewhat blurred and unreal.

Recovering the next day I found that I was deaf in my left ear and I sought the ministrations of Sheila Appleyard. It was a burst ear-drum and the school doctor had to be consulted. He prescribed that the ear be treated by pouring in, daily, a measure of surgical alcohol. Unless you have undergone this procedure, it is hard to imagine the pain involved. However, it did gradually heal the ear-drum and all seemed well again. About one year later, I was in the process of a medical for the Royal Air Force with the career ambition to fly: I was very quickly ruled out on the basis that a burst ear drum, even though it had healed, could only be regarded a source of weakness and was not acceptable for flying duties.

Since a flying career with the RAF had been my first choice, I was greatly disappointed. On top of the disappointment, I made the mistake of turning down an offer of admission to the RAF programme for Engineering Officers. In those days it was run in conjunction with study for a degree at Cambridge and officer training at Cranwell.

It was a further fourteen years before I gained a private pilot's licence."

SNIPPETS.....

Congratulations to **Charlie Lambert (G 64-68)** on being elected chair of the Norman Nicholson Society. Charlie asks that any OSBs having an enthusiasm for Nicholson and his poetry contact him via the Nicholson Society's website www.normannicholson.org. Nicholson gave lectures at St Bees when Mill Hill School was here in the war and also wrote a poem entitled St Bees.

Congratulations to the **Revd Richard Lee** of St Mary's and St Michael's Church, Egremont, who has been installed as the new High Sheriff of Cumbria. Richard is the father of **Jennifer (L 92-99)**, **Michael (SH 94-01)**, **Andrew (SH 98-05)** and **Peter (SH 98-05)** and he has officiated at a number of OSB functions in the school chapel.

Congratulations to **Jennifer Warren (nee Lee) (L 92-99)** on being selected to represent Great Britain at the Invictus Games, 2016.

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
or write to St Beghian Society, St Bees School, St Bees, Cumbria. CA27 0DS.

Notification of Deaths

(Since the Autumn 2015 Bulletin)

BURLINGTON, R.W. (Bob)	Died 20.02.16	FS 50-53
CHAMBERS, P.G.H. (Peter)	Died 30.12.15	SH 44-48
DOUGHERTY-GRAVES, Mrs H.R. (Helen)	Died 19.01.16	L 90-95
HAGGIE, W.K. (William)	Died 25.02.16	FN 42-44
JACKSON, Dr N. (Neil)	Died 31.03.16	FS 43-46
JOHNSTON, A.R.C. (Arthur)	Died 28.05.16	FN 37-42
THOMPSON, M.J.M. (John)	Died 28.01.16	SH 39-43
WOODS, Professor H.F. (Frank)	Died 31.01.16	G 51-57

OBITUARIES

R.W. (Bob) Burlington (FS 50-53).

Ruth Burlington has contributed the following regarding her late father.

“Bob to his family and friends was born in Whitehaven. He went to prep school in Cockermouth, but with the death of his father when he was ten years old, his family moved to St Helens. It was at this young age he started to develop his passion for cars - reversing the family car out of the drive to help his mother! Bob went to St Bees as a full time boarder. He always spoke fondly of his life at school playing rugby and he especially enjoyed cycling around the lakes, wearing a cycling cape that would become increasingly heavy as it became sodden with the rain.

He left St Bees aged 16 (much to the disquiet of his mother) in order to follow his passion for cars by becoming an apprentice at the Austin Motor Company in Birmingham. At weekends he would deliver new cars to a garage in Whitehaven, returning to the factory with the part-exchange vehicle, travelling via St Helens to visit his family, all along A roads, as there were no motorways. Bob remained a passionate Austin ex-apprentice. Study at night school while doing his apprenticeship enabled him to gain a place at Manchester University to read Mechanical Engineering.

Having gained his degree, he married Maureen in 1961 and returned to Cumbria to work at High Duty Alloys in Workington. In subsequent years he went back to the Midlands to work for BMC at Longbridge, then Adderley Park in Birmingham. He became involved in industrial relations and production engineering. In the early 1970s he was headhunted to Tower Housewares as their Production Director. He left there to set up his own manufacturing business in Coventry. He sold the business in order to move to Southport so that he could renovate a house where he could care for his mother, who had severe rheumatoid arthritis. She sadly died in early 1977 only six weeks after the move. Bob continued to diversify, setting up an antiques business and renovating property for resale.

In 1995 Bob purchased some land in Keswick and fulfilled a lifelong ambition by building a house to his own specifications. He immersed himself in Keswick life, as a member of the Rotary Club and latterly Probus, assisting with the floods in 2009 and ensuring that the Wishing Well in Keswick was made locally from quality stainless steel. He also acquired an Austin 7 chummy that he was often seen driving around or showing at local events.

Ill health meant that he was unable to drive for the last two years of his life, a crushing blow for him. Even during his last illness he maintained his lifelong

optimism, often saying that school and university had taught him that there was no such word as ‘can’t’ as ‘there is always another way of solving a problem’. He died peacefully at Mary Hewetson Hospital in Keswick, leaving his wife Maureen, two daughters and two grandchildren.”

Footnote: Before his death, Bob was about to publish a book on Sir Leonard Lord, Chairman of the British Motor Corporation. His family would be keen to hear from any OSBs with an interest in the history of the motor trade who might like to help with this. Enquiries to the OSB Office please.

Peter G. H. Chambers (SH 44-48).

The following is based on some notes kindly submitted by Peter’s widow Anna.

Peter died in hospital on 30th November 2015 from cancer. He was a language teacher in Germany from 1960-1973 and then travelled to Venezuela to work as a farm assistant for three years before returning to London. He then went on to explore Europe on his motorbike and eventually spent three years teaching in Madrid before moving to teach in Germany where Anna met him for the first time as his pupil! They subsequently enjoyed fifty three years of married life together. Peter had a great sense of humour and laughed a lot. After their son Richard was born they decided to live in Australia and settled in Brisbane in 1973. Both Peter’s father and uncle had attended St Bees School and he always looked forward to receiving the Bulletin.

Helen Dougherty-Graves (L 90-95).

The following is based on the eulogy spoken at Helen’s funeral.

Born in 1977, Helen attended Ashfield Primary School and Stainburn High School before following her sister to St Bees, where she made friends who remained with her for many years. She always spoke fondly of her time at the school. While at St Bees she went on work experience to the West Cumberland Hospital Maternity Unit, and though at the time she was uncertain of where to make a career, it was her experience working there which made her realise what she wanted to do. In the words of her mother, ‘She was smitten’. Although she did not quite achieve the A level grades required to embark on her chosen course of midwifery at Newcastle University, she early showed the tenacity she was to possess throughout her life by immediately travelling to Newcastle to meet the admissions’ staff at the university where she convinced them in her eloquent way that she was right for the course and the course was right for her. They did not refuse, and she finally graduated in 1998 as a midwife, a day she recalled as being one of the proudest of her life. Her first post was at the Countess of Chester Hospital, and in relatively quick succession the management acknowledged her

leadership skills by promoting her to Deputy Ward Manager in 2003, then Deputy Safeguarding Children Midwife in 2006. In this latter year she met her first husband, David, with whom she had a daughter, Freya.

In 2009, a year that was full of milestones and happiness for Helen, she decided that it was time for a change in career and she subsequently enrolled on a degree course that would qualify her to become a Registered Health Visitor. This same year she married Scott, and in 2010 gave birth to a little boy, Harrison. It was a difficult pregnancy yet she still managed to complete her thesis and graduated with a Master's degree a month after her son was born. This epitomised Helen's determination and tenacity and also her skills in organisation. As a colleague of hers said, 'It didn't take me long to realise that she was one of the most organised, lovely, funny people I would ever meet'.

Following her Master's degree she went from strength to strength, working across Cheshire. She was appointed as family Nurse Supervisor for the Warrington area. Relishing the opportunity to manage her own team, build it from scratch, organise the service and control the budget, she was in her element. Not one ever to take the easy route, she did all this while pregnant with Eleanor, who was born in 2014. Helen was so proud of all she had achieved professionally that she would have loved to continue, but the impact of her work will undoubtedly remain for many years to come.

In April 2015 she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She met each and every obstacle with grace, dignity and great courage. Eventually, when she knew it was a battle she could not win, she did not indulge in self-pity but instead decided to organise a farewell party. Every aspect was planned from her bed. Her resourcefulness combined with her infectious passion for the event rubbed off on all who knew her. She passed away before the event could take place, which was heartbreaking for all concerned, but nevertheless it was a testament to her personality that she wanted to gather around her into one place all those who loved and cherished her.

She will always be remembered.

David John Ellis (FS 44-49).

David, aged 84, passed away peacefully on October 11, 2015. He is lovingly remembered by his children, Mike (Selma) and Moira (Mark) and grandchildren Morgan (Ezra), Kevin, Sean and Maggie, brother John (Barbara) as well as numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends. Dave was predeceased by his wife Mary, son Paul and sister Judy.

The following is an edited piece submitted by David some time ago for inclusion in the Bulletin – Ed.

“Almost immediately after leaving St Bees in 1949 I was called up for the mandatory National Service. On discharge, I joined a firm of Timber Agents and Brokers in Liverpool. After 18 months in the Softwood Sales Department specializing in Canadian lumber, I was sent to British Columbia, Canada to work with our suppliers. After a brief return to the UK, I emigrated to Vancouver in 1954 with my wife.

The first ten years were not easy as I worked for five small lumber companies, all of which went broke! I finally got a break and was appointed Export Sales Manager for the largest wholesale lumber company in the US, based in Portland, Oregon. I remained with this company for 15 years, before joining another Portland company that wanted me to open a branch office for them in Vancouver, where I remained for another 15 years. I then formed my own company (which I should have done much earlier) and kept on exporting lumber for a further 17 years. In 2010, I finally decided to retire at the age of 79, just short of working 60 years in the industry. I have visited St Bees a few times, the most memorable of which was as a member of the group of ex 1st XV players who assembled in the mid 1990s for the unveiling of the plaque commemorating our coach T.A. Brown.”

Ian MacPherson (F44-47) adds:

“I am saddened to hear that David Ellis has died. I can remember a boyish face and a great sense of fun and kindness. I coached him on two or three occasions when he played rugby, He always tried hard. I seem to recall his sense of adventure when trying anything new.”

(Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july16bulletin>).

Neil Jackson (FS 43-46).

The following is an edited version of the eulogy read at his funeral by his daughter Susan.

“The best way to describe dad is that he was a true ‘gentleman’, one of the old school but one with a waspish sense of humour.

He was born in Manchester on 10th December 1928 to parents Frances and Leslie Jackson. Leslie, an engineer, worked as an Area Sales Manager for an engineering firm while Frances looked after the home. Dad lived and went to school in Manchester before heading at the age of 14 to boarding school at St Bees in Cumbria. At school he was a keen rugby and cricket player as well as enjoying 1500m track running, which he kept going whilst in the army.

As soon as he was 18 he was drafted into the army where he spent just under two years, much of this time was in Germany. He then headed off to Leeds University where he was rewarded with a first class honours degree. He stayed on to do his PHD. He never said, but I am sure he was very proud of the fact that he was

awarded the highest mark in the PHD class, and his name is engraved on the board in the Engineering Department at Leeds University.

Whilst there, he also played for Ilkley rugby club.

Dad met mum whilst at university and they married in 1954.

Following a short period in Newcastle they settled in Dundee in 1957 when he started his academic career at Dundee University, where he became a senior lecturer in Civil Engineering.

After two years in Thailand we moved back to Dundee in 1967 and dad returned to academic life at the university.

In 1976 he became an editor of a book called 'Civil Engineering Materials'. It was used widely by universities and the fifth and final edition was published in 1996, twenty years later.

Playing Bridge played a large part in my parents' social lives in Dundee. Before Dad went abroad to Dubai in 1977 they went regularly to the University Bridge Club and the Invergowrie Bridge Club.

He was also a keen table-tennis and tennis player at Broughty Ferry, where my father was also a member of the tennis club committee for a number of years. One member once commented to me that dad was a 'calming influence' on the committee.

Around 1977, ten years after returning to Dundee, he moved back abroad to work for around twenty years, firstly in the commercial world in Dubai and Saudi Arabia and then in Oman where he returned to the academia at Sultan Quaboos University in Oman. While there Dad became the Head of Department of Civil Engineering. In 1997 he was offered the post of Dean of the Engineering Department but instead chose to retire; he was after all 69 years of age.

After retiring, my parents returned to life back in Broughty Ferry. Dad was pretty fit and was still playing tennis at age 77 but eventually age took its toll on his body, yet he was still playing bridge just before he went in to hospital five weeks before he passed away.

When it became difficult for mum to walk and she eventually became wheelchair bound, dad was always there for mum loyally pushing her wheelchair everywhere. He cared for mum unselfishly even when he himself was very tired and finding it difficult to walk. He never complained.

I will finish by just saying, thank you dad for being a caring and loving father and for being there for us throughout our lives. We will all miss you."

(Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july16bulletin>).

M. J. M. (John) Thompson (SH 39-43)

On the 28th January John Thompson died at his home in Keswick aged 90. He came to St Bees School in 1939, having previously attended Keswick School in his native town. There followed military service in the Indian Army where he rose

to the rank of acting major. On demobilisation in 1947, he went to Cambridge University from where he graduated with first class honours in Estate Management. While there he gained a rugby Blue in 1950. In 1952 he joined the family firm of Edwin Thompson, Chartered Surveyors, based in Keswick and subsequently rose to become the head of the firm and a nationally known figure in the profession. In that same year he married Alison, the couple subsequently having two children. In 1967 he fulfilled an ambition by taking the tenancy of a 600 acre mixed farm in Berwickshire, which he ran for the next twenty years. He was always a keen sportsman and while playing centre for Kelso had won a Scottish Championship medal and had also represented the South of Scotland. Following this period in Scotland, he became a long-serving player with Keswick Rugby Club being a member of its outstanding teams in the 1940s and 50s. Tennis, field sports, and bridge were other special interests. He was also a keen dog lover. Tributes paid at his funeral emphasised his close family ties as well as his magnetic personality.

John was an extremely valuable member of the Board of Governors of St Bees School from 1964 to 1993 as well as serving as the school's land agent during this period.

Professor H. F. (Frank) Woods CBE (G 51-57)

Ian Crawford (FS 51-53) has kindly submitted the following tribute:

“Frank Woods was my oldest long-standing friend, a man I liked and admired for his hard work and many achievements during a lifetime in the medical world as a Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics. The award of the CBE was richly deserved for his public service as a government adviser on toxicity and the safety of food.

He served as a governor of St Bees School for many years until his retirement in 2007 and then as Chairman of the Board for a two year period that came to an end with the closure of the school in 2015.

Frank and I went to the same prep school in Leeds and we travelled together to join St Bees School in September 1951.

When we arrived he was on Meadow House and then went onto Grindal, where he eventually became Head of House and a school prefect. He was the champion debater for several years and a staff sergeant in the CCF (which particularly pleased him).

The passing of exams was to his enormous credit with long hours of study ensuring success, although he had great difficulty in passing 'O' level French (possibly through poor teaching at our prep school) as he needed ten attempts before he passed for what was a necessity to gain entry to Leeds University. (We may have lost other wonderful doctors because of this requirement!)

Frank studied chemistry and biochemistry in Leeds and then obtained an open scholarship to Pembroke College, Oxford to study medicine with clinical work at the Radcliffe Hospital where he qualified as a doctor. He stayed in Oxford as a clinician, lecturer and research fellow before moving to Sheffield in 1976 with his by then wife and their three children.

Here he became a Professor, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and welcomed on stage for about twenty years many honorary graduates as public orator.

Sadly, his wife Hilary died of cancer at a relatively young age and in his later years he married again, this time to Rosemary, who loved and looked after him to his death in the early part of this year.”

Nigel Gilpin (1933-2014)

Charlie Lambert (G 64-68) adds the following to the appreciation which appeared in our last issue:

“He was a great teacher who could really bring English to life. He also had some unusual methods of making us think (always a challenging task!). I remember very clearly one lesson when he decided to give us clues in the style of a cryptic crossword, the answers to which were all surnames of pupils in the class. The first one was straightforward: 'Panting for cooling streams' which, since we sang a certain hymn on a regular basis, we all immediately solved as Hart (Martyn Hart who became a governor. Martyn was the best place-kicker of a rugby ball I've ever seen, with the possible exception of Jonny Wilkinson). The rest of Nigel's clues provoked a lot of head-scratching. The one relating to my own name foxed me completely but I can still recall it to this day: 'And after you've done that, clout Fred.' Answer, as he gleefully revealed: Lam Bert. Ha ha!”

John West (SH 61-64) adds:

“Mr. Gilpin reignited my passion for English. I was soon back at the top of the form. We had discussions in class - often ranging far outside the lesson. I remember we argued about the morality of the great train robbers, a current event at the time.

I recall his horror when I tried to say that language was strictly for communication! He coaxed us into loving words for their own sake and of course he expanded our vocabularies.

My favourite line of his was written on Tim DeGruyther's prep: 'DeGruyther, you must learn to eschew the glib!' Magic! He helped us grow up.

It takes a special man to infuse a love of English into a group of fifteen year olds, and Mr Gilpin was a very special man.”

200 Club

Membership in June 2016 is 57 and I should like to thank most sincerely those members who have continued to support the Club.

Over the years, the Club has contributed many items for the school among them are:

Curtains for the Memorial Hall, Tools for the 'Kit-Car Club', Canoe trailer, Canoes, Telescope for the Astronomy Club, Interactive whiteboard, Help with the ecological pond, Contributions to both Rugby and Hockey tours, Contributions to junior school trips, Contribution to the climbing wall in the Sports Hall, Purchase of two iPad minis for the P.E department and two TVs (one with Apple TV), Purchase of new jerseys for St Bees School golf and contribution to golf lessons.

The 200 club is continuing and will support the St Beghian Society for the time being.

Currently we have £2412.15 in the bank.

After the June and September prize distributions the amount in the bank will be in the region of £2,000.00.

The latest draw was made on 8th June 2016 in the presence of Darryl Davies, David Lord and Pam Rumney. The results are as follows:

£40	67	C. Metcalfe- Gibson	£20	18	A.J. (Andy) Haile
£40	13	J.D.S. (Tim) Brown	£20	57	J.S. (James) Brindle
£40	70	A.D. (Alastair) Lord	£20	59	F.O. (Frank) Messenger
£40	43	A & C Wilkinson	£20	16	J.E. (Judith) Hunter

Darryl W Davies, 200 Club Secretary and Treasurer.

Contact: darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com or (01946) 831650.

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

Please contact:

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

The School Archives

Following the notice of the school's closure in March 2015, there have been a number of enquiries about the fate of the school archives. The good news is that the archives in their entirety have become the possessions of the Old St Beghian Society, which is now the sole owner of them. The archives are an important part of the school's heritage, indeed many of the items have been donated to the school over the generations by former pupils, and in some respects they are equally significant in terms of the village's history. So it is good to know that they have not been lost.

In general terms the archive comprises paper documents, both ancient and modern, of every description, photographs, framed and unframed, cups and trophies, paintings, old school clothing from different eras; in fact, memorabilia of all kinds. The opportunity was also taken of acquiring ownership of the furnishings and memorials in the school chapel and the seats with their presentation inscriptions in the grounds. As may be imagined, it has taken a considerable amount of sustained effort to assemble and negotiate the transfer of all this material and I should like to thank both Anthony Fox and James Davies for their assistance in this.

Most of the paper documents acquired are on long-term loan in the Whitehaven Records Office as part of an arrangement which has developed over the last decade. This ensures they will be properly catalogued and professionally conserved. Other than this, and excepting the sale at auction of some of the pictures in the teachers' common room to raise much-needed funds for the Society, the rest of the material is presently locked away on the site until the future becomes clearer. In the meantime, the archivist welcomes any requests for information. Please contact Dr Reeve on tony@ajhreeve.plus.com or tel. 01946 822472.

Tony Reeve,
Hon. Archivist.

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 people of such dates as they arise or alternatively do keep checking the Society's website for further information.

www.st-beghian-society.co.uk

The Somme – 1916

This year marks the centenary of the great battle of the Somme, which began on the 1st July 1916. A number of enquiries have come to the archives about Old Boys who were involved in this event. Our school magazines of the period are full of obituary notices and two, taken at random, are reprinted below as a way of commemorating the great sacrifice made by so many of our predecessors.

Lieut. J. W. Robinson.

Yet another Grindal House boy has gone in the person of Lieut. J. W. Robinson who was killed on November 18. He entered the school in 1908 and left in 1911 to join a firm of solicitors in his native town of Hexham, and was studying for his final examination at the outbreak of the war. He then joined the local battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers and was gazetted Second-Lieutenant in September, 1914. He went out to France in April, 1915, and was wounded after being out only a few days. After recovery he was on home duty until November, when he went out again and took part in nearly all the fighting which occurred until his death. He was then in command of his company, and would shortly have been gazetted Captain. A successful attack had been made on the German trenches, which were occupied by his men, and Robinson, as his duty was, went out to reconnoitre and find out where the enemy were, and in doing this he was killed instantaneously. A brother officer writes: "He will be terribly missed in the Regiment, where he was a great favourite with officers and men. He was sterling to the core and that he died gloriously carrying out a most dangerous and arduous duty will not surprise us who have loved and served with him out here."

Second-Lieut. W. O. Forster.

We regret to announce the death of Second-Lieut. W. O. Forster, only son of Mrs Forster of Dene Side, Low Fell, who died of wounds on Sept. 22, 1916, aged 23 years. He came to St. Bees School in 1906, and left in 1909 when he took up law as his profession. In January, 1915, he joined the O.T.C. and received a commission in the Durham L.I. in March. He was wounded on Sept. 20. His Company Officer writes "The Battalion was being relieved from the trenches and your son, who, as my second in command had been left in the transport, had come up to guide the company back to the rest area. He saw all the company clear but refused to go till I had come. I duly arrived and he said he was so pleased to see me alive. Just then a stray shell burst about 50 yards away and a piece of casing, just missing me by a few inches, wounded your son just below the chest. With the assistance of my orderlies and C.S.M. we bandaged him and carried him to the dressing station. I left him full of life and quite conscious, and was very hopeful he would pull through but it seems the shock to the system was too much." His Colonel says of him in writing to his mother "your son was a fine officer and very popular with officers and men and we shall all miss him very much."

Old St Beghians in Asia

As you may have read in the President's letter to Society members, an inaugural OSB Dinner took place in Hong Kong in January, organised by James Rebert (SH 91-98). Despite a modest turnout it was a very enjoyable event and an opportunity for a group of Old St Beghians based in Asia to share memories and reminisce.

On the back of this event, **James Rebert**, who organised the dinner, **Laurence Gribble (SH 02-09)** and **Chris Ma (G 02-09)** would like formally to establish a group for Old St Beghians based in the Asia region under the name, "**Old St Beghians in Asia**". As well as organising an annual dinner in Hong Kong, we hope such a group can connect OSBs in Asia and reconnect those who may have lost contact since leaving St Bees.

We believe the group can provide a strong network for those who are currently studying and working in the region, and in the long term, we think the group could be very beneficial for whatever the future may hold for St Bees School.

Asia, especially Hong Kong and China, has played a vital role in the school. Many past students came from Asia and many others now work and live there.

We would like to invite all Old St Beghians based in Asia, and even those in other parts of the world, to get in touch to help us build this group's members.

We aim to hold an annual dinner in **January 2017 in Hong Kong**, to which all Old St Beghians, plus partners and family, will be most welcome.

Please do get in touch.

Facebook Group: "Old St Beghians in Asia"
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/480912405435555/>

E-mail: OSBinAsia@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you!

Laurence, James & Chris.

St Beghians' Day, 2016

Saturday 24th September, 2016

During the morning, the St Beghian Society **Committee Meeting**
and **AGM** will take place
in the Business Management Centre (Whitelaw Building).

This will then be followed by Lunch
in either Foundation Dining Room or the Whitelaw Building
at a cost of £16 per person

* **Pre booking essential** – please see enclosed form. *

Please complete the **booking form** and return by Friday 2nd September
together, if applicable, with your **cheque** for Lunch.

Further updates regarding the day will be posted on the Society website
nearer the time (www.st-beghian-society.co.uk).

OSB Ties and Bow Ties

A new supply of **Satin Weave Ties and Bow Ties (pre-tied)**
will be available in August.

If you are interested in purchasing either of these,
please see the 'OSB Shop' page in the Bulletin for further information.

OSB Tie - £12
OSB Bow Tie (pre-tied) - £10

BRANCH NOTES

Branch Activities:

A Hong Kong First!

Many thanks to James Rebert (SH 91-98) for organising a dinner, we hope the first of many, for OSBs in Hong Kong:

The inaugural Old St Beghian Hong Kong Dinner took place on the 16th of January at Lan Kwai Fong, Central, Hong Kong. The group met up at 'Stormies' for drinks and then proceeded to the "Bread Street Kitchen and Bar" for dinner. There were a number of OSBs from Singapore, Vancouver and China who had expressed an interest in attending the event, but not all were able to attend. However, we did have Claire Evans, who came all the way from Beijing for the dinner as well as Laurence Gribble, who came over from Shenzhen as well. It was a great evening to meet some old friends as well as make new ones. Some ideas were discussed on how we would manage to get in touch with more OSBs in and around Hong Kong and Asia in general and we will try our best to make some progress on this over the next few months. A message sent by OSB President Dacre Watson was read out and appreciated by the group. It is hoped to make the dinner an annual event and we hope to encourage others in Hong Kong (of which we are sure there are many more!) and other areas close by to attend. It was a great night and we are all looking forward to some more.'

Those attending were Laurence Gribble (SH 02-09), Claire Evans (L 08-14), Chris Ma (G 02-09), Susan Lowrey (L 95-02) and James Rebert (SH 91-98).
(Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july16bulletin>).

Bristol and West of England

The Bristol and West of England Branch of the Old St Beghians Society held its 67th annual dinner at the Prince Of Wales Hotel near Berkeley on June 10th. The new venue proved a success although overnight accommodation was something of a problem. There were twelve Society members and eleven others present, the latter including wives, partners, widows and the daughter of a recently deceased Old Boy. Apologies were received from nine members who have attended previously, including the 104 year old Bill Frankland. We ate well, toasted the Queen (Happy Birthday, Ma'am) and the memory of 'Our School'. Society President Dacre Watson brought us up-to-date about what is happening in and around the school, stressing the importance of the Society in monitoring and helping to direct developments. He also reminded us that we, the Society, were a diminishing band whose active participation was ever more important. For those

with access to the online version of the Bulletin, the photo shows the members present at the dinner; unfortunately the 'others' were not photographed even though they were rather more visually attractive! A question the photo provokes is why the stripes on Alec MacCaig's tie run in the opposite direction to everyone else's!

Those attending:

Old St Beghians - Alec MacCaig (FS 42-46), Ian MacPherson (F 45-47), Ian Jordan (SH 44-48), Bill Affleck (SH 45-51), Gerry Beighton (FS 48-52), Dacre Watson (SH 56-62), Stephen Lees (G 56-62), Stuart Withnall (G 58-63), John Morris (FN 59-64), Peter Lever (G 62-66), David Leathley (E/FN/AC 69-75) & Adrian Peckett (FS/AC 72-77).

Associates - Joyce Affleck, Maggie Beighton, Sue Chambers, Lesley Lees, Sarah MacPherson, Ann Watson, Jane Lever, Jane Emery, Jane Peckett, Mark Lynch & Moira Lynch.

(Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july16bulletin>).

Cumbria (North and West)

Cumbria Dinner - The Castle Inn, Cockermouth on Friday, 22nd April 2016.

The dinner was held at the Castle Inn for the second year running. It really is an atmospheric setting. The room was full and we had guests from Blairgowrie in Scotland, Bristol, Carlisle, Penrith, Keswick, South Lakes, Carnforth, Yealand Conyers near Lancaster and of course West Cumbria. We were delighted that our President Dacre Watson made the long journey from near Bristol to be with us. There was a real mixture of ages this year and it was good to see everyone mixing in. The quality of the food is excellent here and I recommend any visitors to Cockermouth to give it a try. Hopefully we will return next year.

Present were:-

Officials of the Society - Dacre Watson (SH 56-62) (President of the Society); David Lord (SH 60-65) (Secretary and Treasurer of the Society) and Mrs Fiona Lord; Darryl Davies (FS 62-68) (Secretary of West Cumbria Branch) and Mrs Pat Davies.

Alumni - Tim Brown (G 53-59); Douglas Wares (FN 55-59); Edward Thompson (SH 54-59); Alan Crowther (FN 55-60) and Mrs Evelyn Crowther; Anthony Wills (FN 60-64) (Past President) and Mrs Joanne Wills; Mike Brandwood (FS 62-66) and Mrs Kate Brandwood; Peter Lever (G 62-68); David Rowlands (G 63-66); Bill Slater (SH 64-69); Jim Lister (SH 68-74); Sarah George (nee Lyall) (L/G 77-85); Peter Harper (FS 78-82); Patrick Lister (SH 78-83); Joanna Charlesworth (nee Burns) (L 94-01); Laura Ponting (nee Wilson) (L 94-01); Carrie Dhillon (nee Graham) (L 96-99); Claire Rumbold (nee Thompson); Shelley Walker (Nee

McGrady (L 97-01) and Mark George (Trustee). Alastair Lord (Trustee) (SH 90-95) joined us later in the evening.

There were speeches from Darryl Davies and from our President Dacre Watson, who proposed the toast to the Society.

Mark George, who has recently joined the Board of Trustees, spoke about what had been achieved since the new Board was formed, what is happening at the moment and the plans that are underway for the future. Whilst not giving the gathering false hopes, Mark felt that things were moving in the right direction. Thanks to everyone who attended and we hope to hold the 2017 dinner at the same venue. A date will be released in the near future.

Manchester

The Manchester OSB Dinner took place on 14th May and attendees were John Boag (FS 74-81), Mark Rocca (School Board member and Chair) (FS 75-80), Roy Calvin (SH 79-83), Sara Calvin (nee Gough) (School Board member) (G 77-84), Belinda Morvan (nee Gough) (G 79-81), Tim Crossley-Smith (SH 73-78), Matthew Rigby (FS 73-78), Mark George (School Board member), Sarah George (nee Lyall) (L/G 77-85), Dacre Watson (SH 56-62), Rosie Lewis (nee Larkin) (L 77-79), Steve Croasdale (FS 74-80), Andrew Haile (F/SH 76-83), Trent Wallace (FS 73-78), Stephen Mansfield (FS 73-78) and Richard Copsey (FS 71-78), with apologies from a number of the usual attendees, who have promised to turn up next year!

The gathering started at 6 pm at the lively Artisan Kitchen and Bar near Spinningfields, with good wine and service, but the choice of beer a bit suspect! Nevertheless a good night was had by all with Messrs Rocca and Croasdale achieving the last men standing award at the Malmaison bar at 3.45am.

Mark Rocca addressed the gathering giving a brief history of what the Board has been doing since the New Year and included the following points:

- The Whitelaw Building is open for business and a great job has been done by a tenacious and energetic Harry Strong in getting that up and running.
- The Golf Course – we are trying to get to a point where it will break even. We have appointed a full time green keeper and Mark George has done an excellent job liaising with the club. We will shortly be in contact with them again to see if we can assist in increasing the number of members. Any OSBs in the area, from single figure handy-cappers to dabblers in the hallowed game, are encouraged to join as it would greatly help both the school and the club.
- Pool and sport facilities – we have one of the largest sports' sites in West Cumbria, with a variety of facilities, and we will be looking at how we can generate more revenue from these.

- Property – Sara Calvin has been doing a fantastic job liaising with our property consultant Andrew Graham (FN 79-86), visiting Copeland Council and bringing some sense to the raft of assets the school has. We have School House rented out and the flat at Abbots is occupied. The facilities' team has been doing a great job looking after the buildings; the grounds are looking fabulous and we have some interested parties wanting to make use of some of the buildings during the summer.
- Finances are inevitably tight, but with the likely increase in revenue and options for selling off some low key assets that are not crucial for the operation of the school, we should be able to keep our head above water. We also have the full support of the Society, which is assisting the school in meeting some of the costs.

As to the real issue of getting education back into school:

- An advert in the Times Educational Supplement had invited interested parties to signal their interest by 16th May.
- As responses come in, we will follow them up and, calling on specialist educational expertise, scrutinise proposals vigorously.

Mark George is heading up the education team, but the time frame is inevitably lengthy.

Many thanks are owed to fellow Board members and all the staff who have been doing a superb job.

Dacre Watson also addressed the gathering and said the Society is looking at generating revenue/capital from Lonsdale Terrace, which it will apply for the benefit of the school. He thanked the Board and staff for all their efforts and encouraged all OSBs to keep attending the dinners and keep interest in the school alive and to look forward to a successful outcome.

Manchester Dinners will continue – John Boag and Mark Rocca having organised them over the last eight years have now handed over the baton to Roy Calvin. As for London, Tim Crossley-Smith is on the case for organising a dinner in the Autumn – no pressure Tim!

(Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july16bulletin>).

North East

North East Branch Dinner – Wednesday, 11th November, 2015.

Once again the North East Branch chose Northumberland Golf Club as a venue for their Annual Dinner. The plush bar area and the well-appointed dining room make excellent surroundings for memorable events. Although the current situation at the school cast something of a shadow over the evening, thirty-seven OSBs attended and made the best of it all. Judging by the banter on the night,

reviewing the photographs and subsequent emails of appreciation, the evening was highly successful.

Society President Dacre Watson and Secretary/Treasurer David 'Fred' Lord were the evening's Guests of Honour. They sat at the top table with Chairman Don Williams, Secretary Bill Dove and past Branch Chairman George Robson. Bill had organised this, his forty-first Branch Dinner, from his new home in Yorkshire and stayed over for the event with Don and Linda Williams at their home in nearby Stannington. Meeting and greeting in the bar was followed by an excellent meal. After dinner, George Robson presented a half hour video entitled 'St Bees in the 1960s'. This film had been produced over a three year period by OSB Richard Taylor and his father. Scenes of the village, school, pupils and staff of 1962, 1963 and 1964 are historically featured. George added some commentary and occasionally paused the film to highlight points of particular interest. The showing of this film was well received and it evoked many delightful memories. Before making a toast to the St Beghian Society, President Dacre Watson spoke candidly about the current 'mothballing' of the school and plans for the future. Together with Secretary 'Fred' they fielded a number of questions from the floor. Following this, the evening was rounded off nicely by everyone returning to the bar where happy chat continued. That is to say until 11pm, closing time, when most left with beds as destinations. However, still in high spirits, the younger crowd known as 'The Pitchford Lads', departed in a fleet of taxis heading for Newcastle's clubland!

Those present were (* OSB Past Presidents):

Top Table – D.H. Williams* (FN 61-64) (Chairman), D.F. Lord (SH 60-65) (OSB Hon Secretary/Treasurer), W.E. Dove* (FN 57-60) (Secretary NE Branch), George Robson* (FN 57-64), and D.R. Watson (FN 61-64) (President of St Beghian Society).

Table 1 – J.F. Bullock (FN 44-48), F.O. Messenger (SH 50-55), I.D. Nimmo (FN 52-57), N.C. Wakefield (G 53-57), A.H. Dobson (G 53-58), J.D.S. Brown (G 53-59), W.M.H. Dix* (FN 55-58), J.M. Southern (FN 55-59), A.M. Carstairs (FN 57-62), J. Mosgrove (SH 60-63) and G.L. Spencer (G 61-64).

Table 2 – J.M. McBryde (G 58-61), G.M. Burn (G 58-61), A.O. Burn (G 62-65), N.W. Adams (FN 68-71), M.P. Windle (FS 68-71), K.D. Rangecroft (FN 73-78), D.G.W. Reed (FN 75-78), S.G. Walker (G 75-77), Mrs R.V. Lewis (nee Larkin) (L 77-79) and P.A. McAteer (FN 83-85).

Table 3 – 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), J.R.A. Woodhouse (SH 99-02), D. Rowlands (SH 99-06), D. Rhodes (SH 04-11), A. Littler (SH 04-11) and R. Carlill (SH 04-11).

(Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july16bulletin>.)

Annual Dinner and Other Dates:

Hong Kong

It is hoped to hold an annual dinner in **January 2017** in Hong Kong, to which all Old St Beghians, plus partners and family, will be most welcome. Please contact: OSBinAsia@gmail.com.

North East

Don Williams looks forward to welcoming honoured guests, old friends, and new members to the next Branch Dinner. This will be on **Wednesday, 9th November 2016**, 7.00pm for 7.30pm at the Northumberland Golf Club, High Gosforth Park, Newcastle, NE3 5HT. Cost: £25 per head, exclusive of wine. For details please contact Bill Dove on (01274) 585147 or williamdove15@yahoo.co.uk.

Scotland

It is intended to hold the Annual Dinner at the Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh on **Friday, 25th November 2016** (7 for 7.30 pm).

For details please contact David Parker on (01854) 655300 (after 9 pm) or parkyatdeanst@yahoo.co.uk or by writing to Broomview Cottage, Ardcharnich, Loch Broom, By Garve, Ross-Shire, IV23 2RQ.

Yorkshire

For details of forthcoming functions relating to the Yorkshire Branch of the Society, please contact the Branch secretary, Steve Crossley-Smith on: 01943 830640 or crossleysmith@btinternet.com or Garth Cottage, Moor Park Way, Addingham, West Yorkshire, LS29 0PZ.

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.**

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.

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

Manchester:

R.P. Calvin (Roy),
The Lymes, Priory Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire. WA14 3BS.
Tel: (0161) 928 9812. Email: roycalvin@gcorner.co.uk

London:

A.K.L. Crookdake (Adam),
5 The Deerings, West Common, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 2PF.
Tel: (01582) 461406.

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:

D.M. Parker (David),
Broomview, Ardcharnich, By Garve, Ross-shire. IV23 2RQ.
Tel: (01854) 655300. Email: parkyatdeanst@yahoo.co.uk

East Europe:

J. Anderson (John),
ul Dziecieliny 3 M81, Miedzylesie, 04-745 Warszawa, Poland
Tel: 0048 (0)22 8127779. Email: andersonwarsaw@vp.pl

GOLF

Texas Scramble - Seascale Golf Club – Sat 6th August, 2016

The Old St Beghians' Golfing Society is holding an event at Seascale
to which **all OSBs are invited.**

For further information, contact **Stuart Hemmings:**

07882 306201 or stuart@qdgolf.co.uk.

*** Please see enclosed flyer. ***

The Old St Beghians' Golfing Society, which is self-administering but operates under the umbrella of the main Society, is involved in a number of Old Boys' competitions, including the Halford Hewitt Cup at Royal St George's and Royal Cinque Ports in April each year; The Grafton Morrish Tournament, where annual qualifying takes place each spring at Huddersfield; in the autumn the Queen Elizabeth Tournament in Edinburgh, and for those over 50 the Cyril Gray Tournament, at Worplesdon in Surrey.

Every year the Society holds *The Critchley Cup* in memory of the Society's founder, Brigadier General Critchley. This year it was due to be played over the Jubilee Course at St Andrews but had to be postponed.

We are hoping to hold the event next year in June on the same course.

We would encourage any OSBs who would like to participate in any of these events to contact Michael Coffey at the address below.

For details of how to join the Golfing Society please contact:

Michael Coffey on 01255676727 or Michael@golfclubsec.co.uk

Whole School Photographs

There are now 30 Whole School Photographs from a variety of decades displayed on the website. In addition, many of these have been numbered and part-named in order to help with the identification of all the pupils.

Please do take a look and let us know of any names that you can put to faces.

<http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/miles/wholeschool/index.html>

If you have any old whole school photos lurking in your attic that do not appear on the website and would be willing to lend them to us for scanning purposes, please do get in touch - **(01946) 828093** or **osb@stbeesschool.co.uk**

SOCIETY WEBSITE

Please remember the St Beghian Society website at

www.st-beghian-society.co.uk

Please take time to have a look at it 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.

REMINDER: Change of Society Email Address

The St Beghian Society has had to change its email address
It has been changed from **osb@st-bees-school.co.uk** to

osb@stbeesschool.co.uk

Please do start to use the new address. Many thanks.

OSB SHOP

Badge - Cloth	£7.50
Badge - Silver Wire	£13.00
Bar Brooch	£15.00
Bow Tie (Pre-tied) – Satin Weave - New	£10.00
Buttons - Chrome (Large & Small)	£1.50 each
Car Badge	£7.50
Ladies Silver Emblem Pendant (no chain)	£10.50
Picture Prints – Quadrangle, Terrace, General View	£1.50 each
Scarf - College Wrap (Wool)	£16.50
Scarf Ring - Ladies	£4.00
Square - Material	£3.50
Sweater (Navy blue courtelle with embroidered OSB badge) Sizes 36/38/40/42/44/46 (small fitting)	Reduced to £5.00 (Originally £16.40)
Tie - Acrylic	£5.00
Tie – Satin Weave - New	£12.00
Tie Tac	£3.50

Please now make cheques payable to ‘St Beghian Society’ and send to:
 St Beghian Society, St Bees School, St Bees, Cumbria. CA27 0DS.
 Tel: (01946) 828093 or Email: osb@stbeesschool.co.uk

The OSB Golfing Society Silk Tie and Sweater are obtainable from:

James Doggett, 18 Yew Tree Close, Launton, Oxfordshire. OX26 5AE.
 Tel: 07930 510086. Email: james.doggett@hotmail.co.uk

For Prices & details contact James Doggett at the above address
 or view at www.st-beghian-society.co.uk (OSB Shop section).

SOCIETY OFFICERS:

President:

D.R. Watson (Dacre)
(SH 56-62)

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:

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

Committee:

R.P. Calvin (Roy) (SH 79-83)	R. Hall (Richard) (F 64-68)
Mrs S.J. Calvin (Sara) (G 77-84)	A.T. Johnston (Andrew) (G 68-73)
D.W. Davies (Darryl) (FS 62-68)	A.D. Lord (Alastair) (SH 90-95)
T.J.E. Doggett (James) (SH 97-99)	A.J.H. Reeve (Tony) (M 89-08)
J.M.W. Dunn (John) (FS 64-69)	M.N. Roberts (Mark) (SH 93-95)
A.P. Fox (Anthony) (G 62-67)	A.J. Wills (Anthony) (F 60-64)
A.J. Haile (Andy) (F/SH 76-83)	

Trustees:

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

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

The next St Beghian Society Committee Meeting will be held in the Whitelaw Building on Saturday, 24th September 2016.

The AGM and St Beghians' Day will take place on Saturday, 24th Sep. 2016.

Copy Deadline: As the target month for the next issue of 'The Old St Beghian' is **January 2017**, the Editor would be most grateful if Branch Secretaries and other contributors would let him have their notices and reports by **Nov. 2016**.

**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**