



# *The Old St Beghian*

July 2018

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

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## **From Our President Peter Lever (G 62-66)**

Dear Old St Beghians,

In some respects life at St Bees has changed little in half a century despite all the comings and goings. The crease still floods, the cricket square usually remains green, the rough on the golf course is thick, the school buildings are majestic on bright sunny days but foreboding on wet ones. The trains running the coastal route to Carlisle however no longer belch smoke, they do run slower and the heavy gates on the level crossing are long gone! This year the coastal path along the sandstone cliffs on the golf course has been deemed unsafe due to coastal erosion and a new diversion route is planned. Time does have an impact after all!

However there is rarely a quiet moment on the St Bees School campus as plans proceed to reopen in September. Activity levels are high and at last it seems to be becoming recognised that there is going to be education on the St Bees School site again.

The school is not merely being reopened, it is being reinvented, and this is necessary if it is once again to enjoy the prestigious position that it once held. This has been a major challenge to the school's Senior Leadership Team, The Trust and the Joint Venture Company.

Few schools have closed to be reopened again successfully and for this, Full Circle Education have to be commended for their determination and their financial investment in St Bees.

The expectation for first year pupil numbers has been significantly scaled back and the school will now reopen with only year 7 (1st form) children. Further year groups will follow. However the level of varied commercial activity now taking place on the site, including sporting, cultural and business, is significant and reflects the sense of optimism and momentum at St Bees.

Those of you who were on School House (every OSB that I meet since I took office seems to have been on School House. Where are the rest of you?) might like to know that the whole School House building is being refurbished. It will become the principal boarding facility on site for the foreseeable future, providing accommodation for the school and for a variety of proposed residential courses. The building works are now largely completed.

There will be a Cumbria Dinner at school on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September on the evening preceding St Beghians' Day on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>. The Chapel service on St Beghians' Day will be a special memorial service to remember those Old St Beghians who served in the First World War, this year being the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ending of those particular horrors.

On St Beghians' Day last September I launched the Grindal Society New School Foundation Appeal. The purpose of the appeal was to support the St Bees School Charitable Trust in helping to finance its share of the Joint Venture refurbishment and reopening costs. These costs have escalated significantly since September last year and the Trust is now expecting to have to raise funds considerably higher than the £1.2m originally forecast. Ultimately the Trust's share of refurbishment costs alone is likely to exceed £2m.

The St Beghian Society's assets, primarily the Lonsdale Terrace properties, are held within its Guarantee Trust Fund. As these properties are now not required by the school for boarding accommodation and the estimated cost of refurbishment could exceed £500k, the GTF has decided to convert the Terrace back to individual properties, for which they already have planning permission, and to sell the houses individually. If and when appropriate the GTF would consider making funds available to the School Trust, from the property sales, to support the Joint Venture Company.

Despite there having been little to see at school until now, with the exception of 'scaffolding', the Grindal Society Appeal has already raised £95k including Gift Aid. May I thank all those who have given their support to the appeal thus far and

I hope that when the school reopens, and the doubters convinced, that there will be an even greater level of interest and support for this initiative.

In connection with the Appeal, one of the great joys of being President is the contacts that you make with your old school friends. Some months ago Jonny Turnbull (FS 62-65) contacted the Society to make a contribution to the Appeal. He had a question to ask about his donation and he was given my phone number. Jonny Turnbull was a contemporary of mine at school, I think he used to assist me with my Latin prep from time to time! Jonny rang me and we had a long conversation which meandered all over the place. He advised me that he had recently discovered that he had cash in a frozen Northern Rock deposit account and that it was doing no good there and would be best put to use in the Grindal Appeal. What a generous gesture! I hope you are in good form Jonny and thank you for helping me with my prep!

The search is now commencing for my successor. It proved very useful for me to have a year's experience alongside my predecessor before taking on the mantle of President in September last year, and to this end the Society is looking for the next President to run alongside me and to take over the reins in September 2019. This would mean liaising with me from September 2018. Please contact myself and/or Pam Rumney if you would like information about what is involved in this position. It is a very rewarding way of helping to contribute to the school and the Society in a variety of ways at this very important time.

Recent attendances at OSB events have been tailing off I feel, yet this is the time when the school needs our support and enthusiasm more than ever. Please engage with the Society; come along to the St Beghian Society weekend in September; see what has been done to regenerate the buildings; and meet the Senior Leadership Team and Trustees. We will be celebrating in a variety of ways and I look forward to seeing you at school on that occasion.

**Peter G. Lever (G 62-66),  
President.**

**St Beghians' Day 2018  
Saturday 29th September**

Please see Page 23 for further information.

## **From The New Headmaster Gareth Seddon**

Hello. I am delighted to join the new team at St Bees School and to have the opportunity to push on with opening and establishing the school once again. It has been wonderful to meet so many friends of the school both old and new, and I look forward to us all celebrating our successes together.

I have come from my native Staffordshire, but my family and I have been regular visitors to West Cumbria (and St Bees in particular) for some thirty years now. We have always loved the area and admired the school, so the opportunity to be part of both the school and the community was one not to be missed.

To give you some background. I studied Modern Languages at university, including a year as a student at the *Université de Lyon II* in France, before going into sales and marketing in the textiles and home furnishings industries where I was based in Lancashire but worked extensively abroad. For me, it was important to have some 'wider world' experience before going into teaching. I subsequently taught in schools across the West and East Midlands for 29 years, during which time I was a Regional Trainer for KS2 Languages, managed Languages provision across all age groups for a local authority, and did significant work with and on behalf of the British Council promoting internationalism in education. I also have significant experience as an examiner for French.

I have a passion for First World War history, which saw me gain an MA in Modern History and took me into teaching History at A level. Ten years as a local councillor (IND) assisted me in teaching Government and Politics at A level where I am also an examiner. I am now looking forward to putting my experience to good use in working with Full Circle to ensure the best possible opportunities for all concerned with St Bees School. I wish you all the best for the summer and look forward to meeting you in due course.

(A full length interview with Gareth can be read in Issue 2 of the 'Full Circle', as below.)

### **'Full Circle'**

#### **The New Weekly Newsletter of St Bees School**

is being produced by the St Bees School Leadership Team and may be viewed weekly via the school website at [www.stbeesschool.co.uk](http://www.stbeesschool.co.uk).

## OSB NOTES

### **Bill Affleck (SH 45-51) writes:**

“Dacre Watson’s account of his visit to Ypres was evocative. I took my father there, at his request, in 1969. We looked amongst the names of the war dead on the wall of Tyne Cot Cemetery and he found some he recognised as one-time colleagues.

My father (Johnson M. Affleck) was born in Gateshead in 1886; he was at St Bees from 1900-1903 and, after a period learning ‘pioneering’ skills, went out to Canada in 1906 where he was when WWI was declared. He joined up in British Columbia but was told his eyesight would probably preclude active service. He resigned and travelled under his own steam to Europe where he enlisted in King Edward’s Horse as a cavalryman. In 1916 he was selected for officer training and at the end of 1916 was commissioned into the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, with whom he saw service around Ypres and Passchendale, service for which he was awarded the Military Cross. After the war he stayed in the army escorting German POWs on their marches back to Germany. He was discharged late in 1919 and made his way back to Canada in 1920. He was a survivor, a veteran. His name, like thousands of other survivors, isn’t carved into any war memorial. We don’t use the word sacrifice with the veterans; destined to live out their lives with memories of mud, blood and death which few chose to share. St Bees was a different matter. He was determined that my brother and I should be sent to St Bees. He was amongst those who supported the school in 1938. He sold the orchard in British Columbia and the family started for England on VJ Day. Six days by train to Quebec and seven days by ship to Liverpool. Train(s) to Pickering in North Yorkshire and then, after a few days recovery, by train via York, Newcastle and Carlisle to St Bees for me to start the school year in September 1945.”

### **Robin Brooksbank-Pearcy (SH 57-60) has supplied the following update.**

“After thirty-four years in banking, finance and insurance, I officially retired aged 52, but, unlike Margaret Thatcher, I did a U turn and went on to plumbing and electrics, which were more my style and a lot more enjoyable. Now, at 75, I am having a good time and continue to mend and restore vintage valve radios. Age has resulted in my giving up golf, but I am still a social member at Turnberry. Margaret and I enjoy a pensioner way of life by going out and about instead of waiting at the window hoping that people will call. We often visit St Bees and the Lakes and are actively looking to move house. Still very adventurous, we often

find that there are not enough hours in the day. I don't like football as in soccer, but enjoy watching both codes of rugby."

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july18bulletin>.**

**Eric Middleton (M 58-69) writes:**

### **'SPECIAL PLACES'**

"Now almost 84 and once Head of Chemistry at the school for eleven years (do you remember spider diagrams?), I used to coach cricket, boxing, violin and ran the Science Society and Copeland Society. This is a challenge to Old St Beghians to contribute to my third book.

You may have experienced a 'special place' in your life - perhaps more than one - places where you experienced a particular feeling of peace and calm. The Celts called these 'thin places' where heaven and earth are very close - 'almost spiritual' as some of my friends would say. These may be waterfalls, stone circles, rivers, lakes, the Cumbrian seashore or even in a plane over the Atlantic Ocean.

If you have experienced such feelings in any particular location, I should be delighted if you were to email me with the details to:

[eric.middleton2@btinternet.com](mailto:eric.middleton2@btinternet.com).

It would be wonderful to have some special places from a number of OSBs, from my own entry point in 1958 to the present day.

What did your special place feel like, perhaps in another dimension?

With every good wish."

**Sam Robson (G 79-81) recalls women's rugby.**

"Sport was one of the many reasons why I loved my two years on Grindal House and why I was desperate to study at Loughborough University. On my pre A level visit there, I was shown round by the captain of its women's rugby team and, suddenly, a whole new sport opened up to me. On my return to school, I proudly announced my plans to play the women's game, to much hilarity from both teachers and fellow pupils.

With a wry smile, I accepted the invitation to attend the St Bees School 1st XV Dinner at the end of the 1987/88 season. In the intervening seven years I played for Loughborough University, Wasps, Great Britain in the inaugural women's rugby international match against France in 1986, and England.

I may have had my fifteen minutes of fame but I was outshone by Stuart Lancaster many years later, though I am still proud to have shared the same St Bees rugby heritage and platform with him that evening thirty years ago!"

The programme for the evening, including the guest list may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk> under 'School Picture Gallery', 1987-1988.

On a recent flight north, our former President, **Dacre Watson (SH 56-62)**, took some photos while flying over St Bees.

They can be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july18bulletin>.

As part of his trip he passed through Kirkbride to refuel and came across some people who know Clive Milburn (F 58-63), who was at school with him and who also went into flying.

**This prompted Dacre to send in the following commentary:**

“I thought that OSBs of a certain age might be amused by this photo taken at Carlisle Airport on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1962. On the left is Clive Milburn, myself in the middle and Mike Harrison on the right.

**Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july18bulletin>.**

The occasion was CCF Day and we had just returned from doing a two-ship flypast over St Bees for the Inspecting Officer as he took the salute at the top of the Terrace steps by the War Memorial there. In fact this was the second time that Mike and I had done such a flypast at St Bees in 1961, so in theory we were ‘old hands’ at this. Nothing could have been further from the truth and I would say that the foolishness of youth mingled with a carefree disregard for any common sense whatsoever was well to the fore. Personally, I blame St Bees for giving us a confidence far beyond our true capabilities.

We had the use of two Austers (paid for by the school) that day and we decided that Mike would lead since he was more experienced, having flown some 38 hours to my 36; we had no radios on either aircraft so Clive and I followed Mike down to the beach just off St Bees where we would circle and wait for the signal to commence the flypast.

The idea was that a cadet with a radio would monitor the progress of the Inspecting Officer out of School House, alerting another cadet located on the beach that the show was about to start; once the inspecting party reached School House Lane a further call to the beach was made whereupon the cadet there would fire a green very light, which Mike in the lead Auster would hopefully see, and we would then start our run-in in line astern towards the school with the intention that we should cross the crease just as the band started and the Salute was being taken: 80 mph at 800 feet.

To our surprise and, indeed, I think to everyone’s, it worked, though I would imagine that luck played a greater part in the exercise than judgement. I can’t remember who the Master was who drove us up to Carlisle, but when we landed he did not seem to be in a rush to get back, so our return to St Bees was well after the day was over and there was no danger of any formalities; I never did care much for marching round in circles.

They were good days and I doubt that it would be allowed today.”

**Following the previous Bulletin we now print the third and final of the tributes to the three OSB winners of the Victoria Cross. By doing this, we do not in any way wish to diminish the contribution and sacrifice made by all those former members of the school who served their country at that time.**

## **LEST WE FORGET**

### **Captain William Leefe Robinson VC**

**(14 July 1895 – 31 December 1918) (Eaglesfield 1909-1914)**

William Leefe Robinson was born in Coorg, India on 14 July 1895, and raised on his parents' coffee estate. He attended Bishop Cotton Boys' School, Bangalore, and the Dragon School, Oxford, before following his elder brother Harold to St Bees in September 1909. He succeeded his brother as Head of Eaglesfield House in 1913, played in the Rugby 1st XV and became a sergeant in the school Officer Training Corps.

At the outbreak of war, aged 19, he entered the Royal Military College, Sandhurst and was gazetted into the Worcestershire Regiment in December 1914. He subsequently transferred to the newly formed Royal Flying Corps and in March, 1915 went to France as an observer. After having been wounded over Lille he then underwent pilot training in Britain, before being attached to No. 39 (Home Defence) Squadron, a night-flying squadron at Sutton's Farm airfield near Hornchurch in Essex.

Lieutenant (later Captain) William Leefe Robinson was the first man to shoot down a German rigid airship over Britain. On the night of 2/3 September 1916 over Cuffley, Hertfordshire, Lieutenant Robinson, flying a converted B.E.2c night fighter, sighted a German airship – one of 16 which had left bases in Germany for a mass raid over England. The airship was a wooden-framed Schütte-Lanz SL 11 (a contemporary of the famous Zeppelin). Robinson made an attack at an altitude of 11,500ft (3,500 m) approaching from below and closing to within 500ft (150 m) raking the airship with machine-gun fire. As he was preparing for another attack, the airship burst into flames and crashed in a field behind the Plough Inn at Cuffley, killing Commander Wilhelm Schramm and his 15-man crew.

This action was witnessed by thousands of Londoners who, as they saw the airship descend in flames, cheered and sang the national anthem, one person even played the bagpipes. The propaganda value of this success was enormous to the British Government, as it indicated that the German airship threat could be



countered. When Lieutenant Robinson was awarded the VC by the King at Windsor Castle, huge crowds of admirers and onlookers were in attendance. Robinson was also awarded £3,500 in prize money and a silver cup donated by the people of Hornchurch. His citation read –

*“For most conspicuous bravery. He attacked an enemy airship under circumstances of great difficulty and danger, and sent it crashing to the ground as a flaming wreck. He had been in the air for more than two hours, and had previously attacked another airship during his flight”*

In April 1917, the now Captain Robinson was posted to France as a Flight Commander with No. 48 Squadron, flying the new Bristol F.2 Fighter. On the first patrol over the lines, Captain Robinson's formation of six aircraft encountered the Albatros D.III fighters of Jasta 11, led by Manfred von Richthofen, the famous Red Baron. Unfortunately four British aircraft, including that flown by Captain Robinson, were shot down. Captain Robinson was wounded and captured. He was not well treated by the Germans and imprisoned at Zorndorf and Holzminden, and kept in solitary confinement as punishment for his escape attempts.

At the end of the war Captain Robinson was repatriated but his health had deteriorated to such an extent that he succumbed to Spanish Influenza and died on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1918 at the age of 23. He was buried at All Saints' Church in Harrow Weald and a memorial to him was later erected near the spot where the airship crashed.

### ***September 1916***

***From:*** Lieutenant Leefe Robinson, Sutton's Farm.

***To:*** The Officer Commanding No. 39 H. D. Squadron.

*Sir:*

*I have the honour to make the following report on night patrol made by me on the night of the 2-3 instant. I went up at about 11.08 p.m. on the night of the second with instructions to patrol between Sutton's Farm and Joyce Green.*

*I climbed to 10,000 feet in fifty-three minutes. I counted what I thought were ten sets of flares - there were a few clouds below me, but on the whole it was a beautifully clear night. I saw nothing until 1.10 a.m., when two searchlights picked up a Zeppelin S.E. of Woolwich. The clouds had collected in this quarter and the searchlights had some difficulty in keeping on the airship.*

*(continued over)*

*By this time I had managed to climb to 12,000 feet and I made in the direction of the Zeppelin - which was being fired on by a few anti-aircraft guns - hoping to cut it off on its way eastward. I very slowly gained on it for about ten minutes.*

*I judged it to be about 800 feet below me and I sacrificed some speed in order to keep the height. It went behind some clouds, avoiding the searchlight, and I lost sight of it. After fifteen minutes of fruitless search I returned to my patrol.*

*I managed to pick up and distinguish my flares again. At about 1.50 a.m. I noticed a red glow in the N.E. of London. Taking it to be an outbreak of fire, I went in that direction. At 2.05 a Zeppelin was picked up by the searchlights over N.N.E. London (as far as I could judge).*

*Remembering my last failure, I sacrificed height (I was at about 12,900 feet) for speed and nosed down in the direction of the Zeppelin. I saw shells bursting and night tracers flying around it.*

*When I drew closer I noticed that the anti-aircraft aim was too high or too low; also a good many shells burst about 800 feet behind-a few tracers went right over. I could hear the bursts when about 3,000 feet from the Zeppelin.*

*I flew about 800 feet below it from bow to stern and distributed one drum among it (alternate New Brock and Pomeroy). It seemed to have no effect; I therefore moved to one side and gave them another drum along the side - also without effect. I then got behind it and by this time I was very close - 500 feet or less below, and concentrated one drum on one part (underneath rear). I was then at a height of 11,500 feet when attacking the Zeppelin.*

*I had hardly finished the drum before I saw the part fired at, glow. In a few seconds the whole rear part was blazing. When the third drum was fired, there were no searchlights on the Zeppelin, and no anti-aircraft was firing.*

*I quickly got out of the way of the falling, blazing Zeppelin and, being very excited, fired off a few red Very lights and dropped a parachute flare.*

*Having little oil or petrol left, I returned to Sutton's Farm, landing at 2.45 a.m. On landing, I found the Zeppelin gunners had shot away the machine-gun wire guard, the rear part of my centre section, and had pierced the main spar several times.*

*I have the honour to be, sir,  
Your obedient servant,*

*(Signed)*

**W. Leefe Robinson, Lieutenant  
No. 39 Squadron, R.F.C.**

**Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july18bulletin>.**

## **‘We Will Remember Them’**

The school’s War Memorial volume of 1921 contains a comprehensive record of all those OSBs, some 940 of them, who answered their country’s call. Of this number, 920 were former pupils of whom some 180 were killed, along with four of the fourteen Masters who served. The book includes the Address which was delivered in June 1919 by the Rev. Canon H.A.P. Sawyer, who had been Headmaster of the school from 1903 to 1916, its ‘Golden Age’, to a packed Priors at a special Memorial Service for those who fell in the Great War. The following are some extracts from his memorable speech on that occasion.

‘It is inevitable that at a notable gathering of Old St Beghians like this, the predominant note should be a note of sadness. My one object in speaking is to turn, if I can, that note of sadness into a note of joy, and pride, and thanksgiving – into a shout of victory. The difficulty of speaking is not so much the sadness, as the obviousness of it all. “Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend.” There is so little to add to that. And yet we want to bring those deaths into the house of God, and into the presence of Christ. There we shall find the reason why those deaths speak with such simple eloquence ... simply because such deaths make those who died something like Christ Himself. ... He gave his life as the best thing He had to give. And they – they could not give spotless lives, like His, but they gave their best. They gave lives full of youth and health and promise ... lives which they enjoyed, lives full of enthusiasm and gaiety and laughter.

This brings us still nearer to the cross of Christ. For what did they die? They died, as Christ died, for truth: they died, as Christ died, for others. They died ... for the eternal principle that right is right, and wrong is wrong, and a lie is a lie, call it by whatever name you like; and that an agreement between man and man, or nation and nation, is something more than a ‘scrap of paper’ – it is a sacred obligation to which God as well as man is a witness, and that no stress of circumstance, no military necessity, no difference of race or climate can justify its violation. Again, they died for others – for us, that we might have in abundance and security the life they loved so well and sacrificed ... But especially they died for the weak: that no nation, no matter how insignificant, and no human being, however humble, should be bullied by the stronger.

And we who remain, what are we going to do for them? ... Surely, that we should live and sacrifice ourselves for those principles for which they died. ... If we fight simply for justice and integrity ... we are fighting side by side with our brothers who have died for the truth ... and ‘whose bodies were broken for you.’

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ proves that those twin principles of love and duty, carried to the point of sacrifice, have won – must win.’

# ARMISTICE AND REMEMBRANCE DAY 2018

Readers may like to know that there will be a special service in the Priory at St Bees on the morning of 11<sup>th</sup> November to mark the centenary of the ending of the First World War, at which there will be an input from OSBs. All are welcome.

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july18bulletin>.**

## Notification of Deaths

(Since the July 2017 Bulletin)

<b>BARRON, P.</b> (Paul)	Died 15.04.18	FN 50-53
<b>BEAL, J.J.</b> (John)	Died 10.05.18	FN 51-56
<b>BOYD, N.</b> (Neville)	Died 27.10.16	FN 44-48
<b>BROWNE, B.G.J.</b> (Barry)	Died 22.09.17	FS 42-47
<b>EDWARDS, S.J.</b> (Stephen)	Died 17.12.17	FN 52-57
<b>HAWORTH, P.</b> (Patrick)	Died 19.05.09	G 46-50
<b>HOLMES, E.S.</b> (Stan)	Died 31.03.18	SH 45-50
<b>JACKSON, L.</b>	Died 27.11.16	F 42-45
<b>JARRETT, M.A.</b> (Michael)	Died 27.02.18	FS 47-50
<b>MAWDSLEY, A.J.B.</b> (Basil)	Died 11.05.18	G 43-47
<b>PRIESTLEY, E.J.</b> (Edgar)	Died 23.08.15	SH 41-45
<b>RANDALL, G.B.</b> (Bernard)	Died 22.11.17	SH 55-60
<b>RICKERBY, A.D.</b> (Douglas)	Died 22.01.18	FN 34-38
<b>SCOTT, W.G.</b> (Walter)	Died 01.02.18	G 46-48
<b>SMYTH, R.C.W.</b> (Richard)	Died 10.02.17	FS 42-44
<b>STAMPER, J.K.</b> (Ken)	Died 08.05.18	G 54-56
<b>WEST, D.G.</b> (Donald)	Died 05.03.18	F 39-44

## OBITUARIES

**Paul Barron (FN 51–54).**

**We thank Ian Homersham (FN 51-55) and Suzy Barron for the following notice:**

“Paul died on the 15th April 2018 after a long battle with Alzheimer’s. The final years of his life were spent in Haddenham with his wife Suzy after a life-time travelling the world, primarily with the Coca Cola Company, in which he was appointed a Corporate Vice President in 1981, the first Briton to be so. Paul grew up in St Aidans Road, Carlisle, a quiet cul-de-sac overlooking playing fields and Rickerby Park in which there was a popular prep school which provided a ‘feeder’ for St Bees, a path followed by Paul and several others, myself included. It was a safe environment for children and included a tennis club where Paul, encouraged by his two elder sisters Dulcie and Maureen, was to develop an ability leading to his successful participation in the Junior Cumberland Lawn Tennis Championships. At St Bees he played in the 1st Tennis VI. Paul was left-handed, an advantage on the football pitch at Rickerby, where he dazzled on the left wing. He was a strong and aggressive runner reluctant to release the ball, which put him in good stead when he went on to play rugby at St Bees and won his 1st XV colours. GCE ‘O’ levels proved a less stimulating challenge to Paul, who considered a future in journalism but, not surprisingly, Jane Austen lost out to Hank Jansen and Paul exchanged school for the advertising world of Proctor and Gamble and the bright lights of Carlisle and Newcastle.

Shortly afterwards, he liaised with Mick Potts in Carlisle to bring the latter’s Gateway Jazz Band, a New Orleans group, to play in the newly finished Memorial Hall. I was the jazz club’s secretary. The Headmaster and Paul Williams kindly allowed us an inaugural evening and we played to a full house at a shilling a head which paid for the band’s train fare. It was a wild success, the band encoring ‘When the Saints go marching in’ several times to a cheering, stomping audience.

Paul’s musical taste owed much to the American bands and singers, in particular Spike Jones and his City Slickers thus his nickname for many years of ‘Spike’ Barron.

National Service in the Middlesex Regiment followed, from which he was discharged on medical grounds - his back - before returning to play for Carlisle RUFC!

The advertising and PR world provided the sort of highly competitive workplace in which Paul prospered. He worked hard and played hard, marrying Joanne in 1963, who bore him three sons, Guy, Simon and Tim. His early background in soccer came in useful in the USA, where to have an English coach with a boys’

team carried some kudos, particularly one who rubbed shoulders with Sepp Blatter and FIFA.

His CV is spattered with leading companies, including McCann-Erikson and other famous names, reaching the zenith of his career with Coca Cola and sponsorship of the World Cup in 1975 promoting the world famous name to all corners of its empire. Paul and his family lived and worked in South Africa, Japan, the USA, and Atlanta, the company's headquarters, a term of fourteen years in all.

In 1986 Paul left the USA to work independently in London. Joanne returned to Georgia within a reasonable distance of the boys, who were now producing grandchildren. Paul and Suzy married and lived in London for two years before buying a house in Buckinghamshire, returning to Cumbria regularly.

He was eighty-one when he died and had led a full and colourful life in which St Bees was a happy chapter."

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july18bulletin>.**

### **J.J. (John James) Beal (FN 51-56)**

#### **John died in May and his wife has kindly sent in the following:**

"John always spoke fondly of his schooldays at St Bees.

His time was much concentrated on sports, which he seemed to perform very well – rugby and golf in particular.

Religious Studies and Chapel involvement were a great part of his school life; apparently he opted to clean the Chapel silver – no doubt avoiding other more menial tasks!

Recently, I discovered in his wallet that he had carried the school prayer about with him for all these years, completely stuck and difficult to read, and I arranged for this to be read at his cremation service.

We only attended one or two OSB reunion meetings. One remains vividly in my memory – a golf weekend up to Islay, enjoying the marvellous hospitality of Tim Morrison. Tee time at 9.00am was a sight to behold, I recall!

After school, he commenced work with John Hines in Newcastle – developing a career on the sales side, with moves to Wadenhoes, then Polycell at Welwyn Garden City, then on to Norwich and finally Glasgow, where we lived in Bridge of Allan, Stirling for more than twenty years.

He finally retired when 75 years of age, when we returned to Norwich."

### **Neville Boyd (FN 44-49)**

#### **Neville's son, Neville (FS 72-77), has written about his father:**

"Born in Sunderland in 1931 Neville arrived at St Bees in 1944. He thoroughly enjoyed his time at St Bees where he enthusiastically took to the outdoor activities, including swimming, golf, CCF and rugby.

After leaving in 1949 he did his National Service in the UK and then went into the family baking business, becoming a Master Baker. Later he went into the wholesale world, starting with confectionary and progressing into the whole gamut of the cash and carry business.

In 1957 he married Pat Cunningham and in 1959 they had their first child, Neville (FS 72-77), followed two years later by Wendy.

In 1987 Pat and Neville upped sticks and moved along the coast to Warkworth, Northumberland, a place where they had spent many happy times with friends and family. In Warkworth Neville and Pat spent happy, hardworking years running a very successful tea room. While there they made many good friends and became part of the village.

In 1995 they retired, sold the business and moved to the 'top' of the village, and dived even further into the social life of the area.

Neville had always had a love of rugby, playing initially for Ashbrooke in Sunderland before he became a referee, which took him all over the North East. After retiring he took up golf again and would play two or three times a week, and although he was very modest about it, he did manage to 'hole in one' on two occasions, which pleased him no end.

Neville died peacefully on 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2016, and is sorely missed by Pat, Neville and Wendy, grandchildren Ben and David and the rest of his family."

### **B.G.J. (Barry) Browne (FS 42-47)**

**The following has been supplied by his wife Jennifer:**

"'Barry' died on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017 following a lengthy illness. Following his time at school and a period of National service, he took his place at Keble College, Oxford where he read Geography. On graduation he travelled to Nigeria and worked for the John Holt Trading Company, before becoming managing director of the Bisco Manufacturing Company. Having spent twenty five years of our married life in Nigeria, we came home and bought a Post Office and shop before eventually retiring to Malvern in 1998."

### **J.D. Evans (M 1995-2014)**

**Jon Mellor (M 1994-2013) has kindly contributed the following:**

"Jeffrey Evans arrived at St Bees School as Head of English and Housemaster in September 1995. He moved into School House with his springer spaniel Max and they were soon affectionately dubbed Wallace and Gromit.

For nearly two decades, Jeff shared his love of his subject with St Bees pupils. He could inspire the brightest to stretch themselves further and also wring examination success from the most unpromising raw material. For those possessed of a desire to learn, he would always go the extra mile, irrespective of their ability.

He was a man of strong opinions, as those who clashed with him can testify. Compromise and moral relativism were not for Jeff. The integrity that underpinned a sometimes censorious stance was evident to all who knew him, and he rarely, if ever, took the line of least resistance. His principles derived in no small measure from his Christian faith, which underpinned so much of his life and service to the school.

Jeff admired the ideal of the complete Renaissance man, and his school life was certainly multifaceted. He sang in the choir, coached rugby in his first years at St Bees, produced plays, counselled debaters and public speakers, oversaw the school magazine, was an officer in the CCF and eventually led the contingent in his last few years at the school.

He was justly proud of the way the CCF developed under his leadership, particularly when it enabled so many pupils to gain their Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards. He was passionate about the value of the Corps for young people and fully deserved the award of the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate in 2008 for his dedicated service.

His productions for the Drama department were rich and varied. His crowning achievement as a director and conductor was a co-production, with Hugh Turpin, of Stephen Sondheim's monumentally ambitious 'Sweeney Todd' - a tour de force few amateur groups would dare to attempt, let alone with a cast of secondary school age.

Jeff loved teaching. He carried on beyond retirement age and bowed out just before his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. Devastated when the school's closure loomed six months later, Jeff offered a year's teaching for no salary if it would help the rescue attempt. Sadly, he did not live to see the school's doors reopening later this year. He leaves behind a legacy of young people whose love of the spoken and written word was nurtured by an inspirational teacher."

### **E.S. (Stan) Holmes (SH 45-50)**

#### **Richard Holmes (SH 85-88) writes:**

"Stan died on Saturday, 31st March 2018 after admission to hospital for leukaemia just a week before. He had been involved in St. Bees in many ways over the years, having been a long-serving Governor of the school and President of the St Beghian Society from 1996-1998.

Stan was brought up in North Shields and, like many pupils during and just after the Second World War, travelled to St. Bees by train. St. Bees was where, along with some great lifelong friendships, Stan developed two passions that were to stay with him throughout his life, fell-walking and rugby.

He would ride to Ennerdale at the weekend and explore the Western Fells of the Lake District, often climbing Pillar, Great Gable and Scafell, sometimes all in the same weekend.



He fondly remembered his school climbing exploits and would recount stories of carrying heavy bicycles, climbing in hobnailed boots and using hessian rope in the time before harnesses. He would even recount occasions when he took shelter in the Mountain Recue stretcher boxes when bad weather set in.

He met his wife-to-be, Rosemary at college in Durham and, in her, found a fabulous walking partner. Whether climbing Helvellyn in the Lakes or on more adventurous expeditions like Kilimanjaro and Annapurna Circuit, walking was a major part of both their and their children's lives.

Rugby was also a major part of Stan's life. He had a real passion for the competitive nature of the game and could describe details of matches, with Sedbergh and other schools, in remarkable detail throughout his life. After playing at school he captained Durham College and Percy Park, as well as playing for Northumberland in the late 1950s.

Stan went on to spend his working career with Esso where, over a 30-year period, he held a wide variety of jobs, primarily in sales and marketing. Later in his career he was fortunate enough to get some overseas positions, finally finishing with a stint in Bahrain, running Esso's business in the Middle East and Africa.

In 'retirement', Stan joined the South Lakes Community and Mental Health Trust as Chairman and spent a number of years helping transform them, which included a move to a new centre at Furness. After he stepped down due to illness in 2001, he continued to chair mental health appeals, having to use his judgement and compassion in coming to balanced decisions.

Stan used to say that he always enjoyed the many varied things he had done in his life, whether at work or in his personal life. It is for his positive outlook and the way he embraced life that provided inspiration to his friends and family, and for which he will be fondly remembered."

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july18bulletin>.**

### **Michael Andrew Jarrett (FS 47-50)**

**The following is based on information supplied by his widow, Josephine.**

"Michael died on the 27<sup>th</sup> February following a fall. In 2009 he had suffered a stroke, which had left him slightly impaired, though he had made some progress in recovering from the effects of this.

He thoroughly enjoyed his time at school at St Bees, where he was something of an all-rounder: playing rugby for the first XV, being a keen long-distance runner, a member of the dramatic society, and a singer in both the school and Priory choirs. In later life he cherished a fond memory of a visit to see the late Anthony Dearle, who had been his Housemaster. After St Bees he spent his national service with the army in Cyprus before embarking on a medical career in general

practice, and even after retirement from this he kept active by engaging in forensic consultancy work.

Michael was very well travelled, spending lengthy periods in Hong Kong, Jamaica, and Portugal. His keen interest in amateur boxing led him into judging tournaments, particularly in the west country. He had become a member of the Unitarian Church in 1996 and spent six years as a lay reader.”

## **Basil Mawdsley (G 43-47)**

### **Sheila Pugh has contributed the following:**

“Arundel James Basil Mawdsley was born in St Helens on 22 April 1930 to Sybil a teacher, and Arundel, a Prescott District Council rate and rent collector, and church organist. During his early life, Basil recalled enjoying the company of three of the family’s Cairn terriers, all called ‘Jock’, a fondness which he retained into later life.

It was whilst he was at St Bees that Basil’s aptitude for numbers and a love of sport were nurtured. It was also during this time there, spanning the Second World War, which saw the untimely death of his father.

In the late 1940s he played rugby at Waterloo RUFC, where E.G.R. Millais (F 44-49) played. L.D. Hayward (FS 42-47) and Basil also played for Liverpool Leopards, a scratch, 7-aside team of those articled to chartered accountants in the Liverpool area - they were thoroughly trounced by the solicitors’ equivalent, most of whom played at Waterloo RUFC.

On leaving St Bees, Basil spent the next five years articled with a medium-sized firm of chartered accountants in Liverpool, qualifying in early 1953. This enabled him to defer his National Service until September of that year, when he joined the British army.

He initially spent a few weeks at Catterick, then at Mons Officer Cadet School, Aldershot, during which time he and others were ‘polished’ by the famous Sergeant Major Brittain. On return to Catterick, Basil was commissioned as troop commander, 6 Training Regiment, The Royal Signals, at Beverley, East Yorkshire, where he took up cricket again, becoming captain of the regimental side. He was disappointed not to have joined a front line unit abroad, eventually leaving the army in September 1955. However, the army had not done with Basil, and he was obliged to remain in the Territorial Reserve for two years, the highlight of which was being put on ten days’ notice to fly to Cyprus amid the Suez crisis of 1956.

In April 1955, Basil married Enid, and three children - Gillian, Elaine and Alistair - soon followed at two-year intervals from 1957.

Out of the army, Basil joined a small firm of accountants in St Helens before embarking on a career in commerce that began on Merseyside before his first major posting to Ford’s in Dagenham in 1963, requiring a move to Essex.

A series of management roles culminated in his becoming one of two finance managers at the company's new works at Halewood, coincidentally only a few miles from where he grew up.

After a year in management consultancy at Tyzack and Partners, the next big move was to Fife in 1966 to Nairn Williamson, the floor and wall coverings company, where Basil forged business contacts that he took forward in his later career, and where the seaside life saw him develop his interest in dinghy sailing at Lower Largo sailing club (he made his own wetsuit). A fourth child, Timothy, arrived just in time for the move north. His children fondly remember running through the dunes separating their house and the sea just yards away, and Tim grew up with a Scottish accent.

A journey south to Surrey saw Basil join the construction materials specialist Tunnel Holdings in 1971 as Group Finance Director for the next decade. In 1982, he became Finance Director at International Thomson Organisation, and then in 1984 at the House of Fraser group, overseeing among other operations, Harrods, eventually working for the Al Fayed's after their successful takeover of the group. After this, a role at the National Heritage Memorial Fund rounded off his working life as the 1980s came to a close. In the mid-1970s Basil met Sheila, who was to become his Partner for the rest of his life.

Basil was far from idle after his business career came to an end, and he embarked on the project of renovating a late 17c. farmhouse south of the Lot Valley in South-West France, installing a swimming pool and enough modern conveniences to make it a happy holiday home of which both he and Sheila could be proud. And what better place could there be for someone who knew and enjoyed wine and the delights of French gastronomy to spend his retirement? The pages of the information book that they left in the house for visitors were full of details of local restaurants, at which they were well known and welcomed patrons.

And throughout this period he had time to pursue his other interests, which included top-class rugby, visits to the opera, ballet, the Chelsea Flower Show, fine restaurants, and collecting antique maps. He also engaged actively with London Branch OSB functions, and particularly enjoyed his involvement with the 1997 Dinner in the pavilion at Lord's Cricket Ground, which marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his membership of the MCC and the 50th anniversary of his leaving St Bees. Also, of course, as a member of the MCC, he could regularly be found under his panama sporting his egg and bacon tie, at the end of the same row of the upper deck of the Warner Stand at Lord's, typically playing host to friends and family with a three-course lunch, a chilled white and a decent claret.

Sadly, over the last few years these pleasures began to be denied him due to increasing health problems but thanks to Sheila, and with the help of good carers, he was able to remain at home.

He himself would no doubt look back and say they were all ‘marvellous’ and evidence of a full life well lived.”

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july18bulletin>.**

**Tom Sharp (G 44-47) submitted the following memories:**

“Basil Mawdsley and I were on Grindal House together from 1944-47. We were good friends and kept in touch for a few years until Basil moved south.

Our main mutual interest was golf and we played together at my home golf club, Daveyhulme Park, on several occasions. I remember we played with ‘Pop’

Ogden, a Lancashire county rugby player. A member of Fylde, ‘Pop’ Ogden was the first goal kicker to place the ball upright and strike with his instep. His

nickname ‘Pop’, recognised how regularly he ‘popped’ the rugby ball over the posts to convert the try. ‘Pop’ taught Basil and me to lean the ball right when

kicking from the right of the posts and vice versa from the left. This creates a late swerve through the posts depending on the wind and the angle when placing the

ball. ‘Pop’ nick-named Basil Mawdsley ‘Samson’ when ‘Samson Mawdsley’ struck his drive 220 yards to carry the lake at the third hole at Davyhulme Park.

My other memory was the reunion in London organised by Gerald Tyler and attended by twelve ‘Grindal’ Old Boys including Jack Pyle with his one leg. Jack Pyle lost a leg when an infant but he refused to stop playing games. His remaining leg was remarkably strong. He loved the Eton Fives in the Grindal Fives court, and stationed himself in the Pepper Pot.

One Three Quarter Day a party of seven set off on bicycles, roped together with Jack Pyle at the back to help up the hills. All went well until close to home, where a long straight downhill length of road turns sharp left over a narrow bridge and Jack Pyle ended up in the water – happy days – 100 lines to Jack Pyle for irresponsible behaviour!”

**Douglas Rickerby (FN 34-38)**

**Anthony Rickerby (F 60-64) has kindly supplied information to allow the following to be compiled:**

Douglas Rickerby died on 22 January 2018 aged 97. He was educated at St Bees School, where he was a boarder on Foundation North from 1934 to 1938. As a talented rugby and cricket player, he represented the North of England Public Schools at both sports, and in 1938 also played rugby for Cumberland and Westmorland. Following his time at St Bees he went on to Brasenose College, Oxford to read Law.

At the outbreak of World War Two he joined the army and was commissioned into the Border Regiment in 1940 and subsequently posted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in India early in 1941. For four years he served in the Far East; first in India, where he was awarded the Military Cross for displaying outstanding courage in the

battle of Imphal in 1944; then in Ceylon and Burma, where he was twice mentioned in dispatches.

After the war Douglas joined the old established family firm of Rickerby Ltd and following the early death of his elder brother Joseph, he became its Managing Director and Chairman. In addition to his business activities, he was for nine years a member of the Special Area Committee which administered the hospitals in Cumberland under the aegis of the Regional Authority in Newcastle.

But his main interest was undoubtedly in St Bees School where he served as a governor for more than thirty years including ten as Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Golf was another sport in which he was actively involved, being a member of both the Carlisle and Silloth-on-Solway clubs for many years. Indeed he was a Trustee, a Vice-President, life member and former captain of Silloth as well as holding membership of the Royal and Ancient at St Andrews.

In 1945 he married Patricia Semple, who predeceased him. He leaves three sons, all of whom attended the school, Anthony (F 60-64), John (F 62-67) and Patrick (F 68-73), and nine grandchildren.

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july18bulletin>.**

### **Joseph Kenneth (Ken) Stamper G 54-56)**

**Duncan Merrin (G 53-57) has submitted the following notice:**

“Well-known farmer, golfer, rugby fan, raconteur and family man Joseph Kenneth ‘Ken’ Stamper, late of Blencarn Hall, Blencarn died peacefully at his home on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018, aged 78.

Ken lived and farmed at Blencarn Hall for more than 50 years with his wife Jill, after taking over the farm in 1961.

He was born at Ivy House, Culgaith. He first attended the village school there, moving on to Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Penrith and then to St Bees School, where he made many lifelong friends and represented the school at rugby. After leaving school he entered further education at Newton Rigg Farm School where he trained to gain the technical skills for what became his lifelong work and passion – his farm, the beautiful local landscape, his cattle and going to the farmers’ auction in Penrith on a Monday.

The year 1961 was a momentous one for him as, at the age of 21, he married Jill (nee Pickersgill), who originated from Bowes, and together they moved into and started farming at Blencarn Hall. From that start, Ken built up and expanded the farm business to create a successful enterprise and at the time of his death was farming more than 500 acres at Blencarn and Culgaith.

Ken was an entrepreneur too. In 1976 after the drought, he embarked on a remarkable project which will stand as his legacy – the creation of Blencarn Lake,

which became a byword for beauty and tranquillity, set against the backdrop of Cross Fell and the northern Pennines.

In 1981 the lake opened to fly fishermen and Ken spent many happy hours in this remarkable place.

In recalling him, one of the Blencarn Lake fishermen recently wrote in a letter to Jill ‘in creating Blencarn Lake, Ken became one of those rare people who had truly enhanced his environment, creating a beautiful and peaceful place, enjoyed by both people and wildlife, which hopefully will continue to be appreciated for years to come.’

Another venture, perhaps less known to some of us, was his attempt to create a ski resort on the East fellside. Given his love of skiing and Alpine life, his plan was first to create snow, using a snow-making machine, then to create a ski lift and finally a mountain restaurant. As it didn’t hit minus four degrees for some years after, the ski resort project never did take off. The concrete platform for the restaurant still stands as a memorial to this grand design.

Alongside his successful farming career, Ken loved life and people and he had a unique gift for making everything fun, generously entertaining his friends and family.

He had many other interests, which included a longstanding membership of Penrith Golf Club where he was a regular player until recent times; he loved rugby, cowboy movies and country and western music.

He was above everything else a family man. He leaves his wife of 57 years, Jill, daughters Angela and Helen, sons-in-law Dave and Nick, and grandchildren Thomas, Robert, Charlie and Annie.

Dave and Angela continue the farming activities at Blencarn, while Helen and Nick work together in their Penrith estate agency.”

## **Donald (Doug) Gordon West (F 39-44).**

### **Peter West writes:**

“My father passed away on 5<sup>th</sup> March this year aged 91. After his time at school he served in the royal navy during the final years of the World War Two before a working life which was spent with two electrical manufacturers, Volex and GEC. He was always keen on sport, being a season ticket holder with Liverpool AFC for about eighty years. Indeed his grandfather, Joseph West, was one of the founder members of that club in 1872. He was a regular golfer and tennis player with several clubs in the Liverpool area and helped found the ‘Bohemians Tennis Club’ in the 1960s. He and his wife, Olive, who died in 2012, were seasoned travellers at home and abroad and spent many holidays in North Wales where they had a caravan.

Doug and Olive had two children and four grandchildren.”

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july18bulletin>.**

# St Beghians' Day 2018

## Saturday 29th September

### Timetable for Day

**09.45am**    **St Beghian Society Committee Meeting**  
In the Business Management Centre

**11.00am**    **St Beghian Society AGM**  
In the Business Management Centre

**12.15pm**    **Chapel Service**  
Special Remembrance Service

**1.15pm**    **Lunch** – In Foundation Dining Room  
Pre booking essential – see below

**10.00am**    **Fives Day** – Including Matches and Coaching  
**- 4.00pm**    All Welcome – see below

**Friday 28th**    **Cumbria Dinner – In Foundation Dining Room**  
All Welcome - see Branch Activity Section or below

\* Please complete the **enclosed OSB Day booking form** \*  
and **return by 7<sup>th</sup> Sep, 2018** together, if applicable,  
with your **cheque for lunch**.

Also, please contact Darryl Davies about the **Cumbria Dinner**:  
darryl.davies1@bopenworld.com or (01946) 831650.

If interested in **Fives**, please contact John Wilkinson for more information  
or just turn up on the day: (j\_a\_wilkinson2002@yahoo.co.uk).

Further updates regarding the day will be posted on the Society website  
nearer the time (www.st-beghian-society.co.uk)  
or telephone for information (01946) 828093.

## DATA PROTECTION

Would OSBs who have not yet returned the option form recently sent to them regarding the new Data Protection Law, please do so immediately either by post or email.

Should anyone require a new form, please contact Pam Rumney:

osb@stbeesschool.co.uk

(01946) 828093

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

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.**

## SOCIETY WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

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

**[www.st-beghian-society.co.uk](http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk)**

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

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

We would certainly welcome any comments that you may have.



## BRANCH NOTES & EVENTS

### Branch Activities:

#### **Hong Kong**

#### **OSB in Asia Annual Dinner, Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

After drinks in the local hostelry, The Dickens Bar, the third annual dinner in Hong Kong saw us return to the Modern China Restaurant for a second time. From five in the first year, nine in year two, to thirteen OSBs this time around, the number was certainly moving in the right direction! (We are hoping to reach twenty in 2019). We were also joined by Danny Wang, Managing Director of Full Circle, and Michael Wong's (SH 87-92) wife and daughter. Danny and Laurence Gribble (SH 02-09) gave updates on the developments at St Bees and fielded questions about the future of the school. We look forward to seeing you at next year's dinner; please help us break the twenty mark!

Feeling that a dinner was not enough to satisfy OSBs' reunion cravings, an inaugural OSB hike and BBQ was organised in May. Five OSBs hiked from Tung Chung to Mui Wo on Lantau Island. After the exercise, a meat feast awaited and a very enjoyable afternoon and early evening was spent under the Hong Kong sun.

**Attendees:** Kenneth Lee (G 06-09), Bevis Chan (SH 03-08), Anni Ding (L 05-09), David Chan (SH 05-08), Kenny Choi (SH 05-08), Kelvin Wong (SH 08-11), Laurence Gribble (SH 02-09), Peng Wan (SH 01-02), Susan Lowrey (L 95-02), James Rebert (SH 91-98), Kitty Wai (L 01-05), Danny Wang (Managing Director of Full Circle), Chris Ma (G 02-09), Michael Wong's daughter, Michael Wong's wife & Michael Wong (SH 87-92).

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july18bulletin>.**

#### **London**

#### **London Dinner, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

The President's Room of the RAF Club once again played host to the London OSBs annual dinner on 18<sup>th</sup> May. A total of 40 members and guests enjoyed an excellent evening, and tribute was paid to two former OSBs (William Leefe - Robinson and Sir Gus Walker) who served in the RAF with such distinction. The President, Peter Lever, gave a detailed account of the journey that the school had been on leading up to the re-opening in September, thanking all those involved for their continuing support. As usual, fond memories of everyone's time at the school were shared as the evening wore on.

**Attendees:** Tim Crossley-Smith (SH 73-78) and Patricia Crossley-Smith, Dacre Watson (SH 56-62), Peter Lever (G 62-65)(President) and Jane Lever, Peter Ainsworth (FS 78-85), Steve Crossley-Smith (SH 47-52) and Patricia Crossley-

Smith, Richard Crummey (FS 71-78), Jeff Ellis (SH 72-79) and Tracey Ellis, Michael Hayward (FS 74-78), John Hewitson (SH 52-57) and Penny Hewitson, Einar Jorstad (SH 77-78) and Mrs Jorstad, Nadia Khan, John McAdam, Duncan Merrin (G 53-57) and Yati Merrin, David Moffitt (SH 79-87), Richard Moffitt (SH 76-82) & Sue Moffit, Stephen Murray (SH 63-68) and Gillian Murray, Rob Page (F 86-91), Dharma Paul (FN 73-78), Tilak Paul (FN 71-76), David Pearson (SH 90-97), Jonathan Pollock (SH 73-78), Paul Raddon (SH 90-97), Vashti Ragoonanan, Nicola Shannon (nee Metcalfe-Gibson)(G 78-85), Mark Spencer-Ellis (SH 62-66), Bulent Tugal (FN 76-83) and Trent Wallace (FS 73-78). A more informal event (as mentioned below) is planned for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October at the Samuel Pepys (Stew Lane, London EC4V 3PT) and for details of this and future OSB events in London, please contact Tim Crossley-Smith (tim.crossley-smith@gva.co.uk) or Nicola Shannon (nicmetcalfeshannon@gmail.com). **Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july18bulletin>.**

## **Shenzhen**

### **OSB Gathering, Friday, 26th January 2018.**

Shenzhen played host to the first official mainland China OSB Dinner in January of this year. Seventeen OSBs gathered in the Hilton and were warmly welcomed by the Full Circle team, co-hosts for the evening. The Old St Beghians were joined by Mr Lou, a long-standing partner-agent of the school. In fact, a majority of those present at the dinner had been sent to St Bees by Mr Lou himself. Danny Wang, Managing Director of Full Circle, and Laurence Gribble (SH 02-09) gave updates on the recent history of the school since the closure, and explained the journey to date.

The private dining room was decked in table clothes bearing the St Bees School crest; roller banners showed off the school's stunning scenery, and the recently shot aerial video gave everyone the opportunity to relive their school memories. All were presented with flasks engraved with the school crest and the Lucky Draw winners took home packets of Grasmere Gingerbread. If it was not for the brilliant lights of the Shenzhen CBD sparkling through the window, we could very much have been back in St Bees!

A WeChat group dedicated to OSBs in China has since been set up and contains over one hundred ex-pupils from across the country.

More dinners, in Shenzhen and other cities, will be scheduled for the future.

**Attendees:** Jun Pan (G 09-11), Ken YU (G 10-13), Richard Qian (SH 06-09), Anthony Chiu (G 10-12), Mr Lou (Studylink), Silvia Huang (L 10-13), Arron Chen (SH 10-13), Amy Cui (L 07-10), Roger Sinnett (Director of Education, Full Circle), Yuki Liu (L 06-09), Laurence Gribble (SH 02-09), Danny Wang (Managing Director, Full Circle), Chris Ma (G 02-09), Aryan Pan (L 07-09), Scott Fang (SH 99-02), Christina Chen (L 10-11), Steven Xia

(G 99-03), Iris Zhu (L 06-10), Jason Wong (SH 08-10) & Marina Deng (L 03-05).  
**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july18bulletin>.**

## **Singapore**

### **The second Singapore Annual Reunion of Old St Beghians.**

The reunion was held at the Singapore Cricket Club on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and enjoyed on the club terrace overlooking a cricket match in progress on the Padang, until rain stopped play. Perhaps this was Singapore's way of making us feel we were once more back at school witnessing an all too common occurrence! From an area within a thousand-mile radius of Singapore, ten OSBs, none looking a year older, managed to attend:

John Hewitson (SH 52-57), Duncan Merrin (G 53-57) and Yati (wife), Peter Wharton (G 58-62), Ken Davis (G 64-68) and Fumiko (wife), Ian Sibson (SH 74-81), Philip Yuen (FS 78-82), David Ng (SH 84-91), Dickon Smart-Gill (SH 85-92), Nick Hunter (AC 87-94) and Laurence Gribble (SH 02-09).

Past President Dacre Watson (SH 56-62) sadly was unable to attend. The new President, Peter Lever (G 62-66), had sent his apologies together with an emailed update to lunch participants regarding the school's reopening this September. One difference this year was that each member was asked to pay S\$100 towards the cost of the lunch. The remainder will be given as a donation to the school. This was Duncan's initiative (as an ex accountant) but one that other OSB Regional Dinners may wish to adopt.

At 12 pm on the dot Duncan commenced the afternoon by saying it was primarily a reunion to reminisce about our time at St Bees, reacquaint ourselves with old friends, make new ones and to enjoy the day.

He did point out that as there had been dramatic changes taking place at school during the last three years, a further update would be included on the progress of the school's reopening.

He introduced Laurence Gribble, who very kindly had travelled from China to Singapore, to give us that update.

Laurence gave an articulate and clear report on developments and obstacles to date including the repairs required to some of the buildings, the recruitment of a team to run the school, including a Commercial Manager, one of whose duties will be to maximise current revenue sources. This development was enthusiastically endorsed! Also mentioned was the envisioned pupil ratio of British to the rest of the world.

Laurence's update and his fielding of subsequent questions were greatly appreciated and we thank him sincerely for coming so far to attend the reunion. In discussions regarding the future of Singapore reunion lunches, Duncan asked John Hewitson to give his views on the matter as he and Duncan had discussed this issue previously.

Before addressing that particular subject John summarized and commented on the events that lead to the closing of the school. He said that he had formed his opinions after detailed discussions with the last Chairman of Governors, the late Frank Woods, and the long-time OSB Clerk to the Governors, the late Bill Gough, and that he had been delighted and encouraged to hear from Laurence the details of the financial and operational structure of the new venture.

John continued, 'I believe history will record that the decision to close the school (rather than let it fall into liquidation) has probably been the single most important decision ever made. It was this decision that enabled it to survive and reopen in a different guise with the support of the Full Circle Educational Group'.

He was concerned, however, to ensure that the knowledge and experience of OSBs regarding business in this part of the world be made available to the JV Board. He suggested that it might be worthwhile establishing a new regional OSB Branch for China and South East Asia.

Such a branch would not supersede but supplement existing OSB branches in the region, such as Hong Kong and Singapore. In his view, a regional Branch could be a more effective conduit for harnessing the views of OSBs throughout the region regarding the implementation of the joint venture. The meeting of this new branch could be held anywhere in the region and would need an Executive Committee of say at least three OSBs to make sure it fulfilled its purpose.

Dickon Smart-Gill emphasised the importance of recognising and adapting to changing circumstances as quickly as possible. He considered that this was something the school had failed to do in recent years. He felt a regional branch office of the kind proposed would be a useful vehicle for communicating the thoughts and ideas of experienced OSBs regarding the plans and operations of the joint venture - not seeking to inspect the workings of the company but out of a spirit of interest in seeking its success.

After further discussion, it was agreed unanimously that the proposal to establish a regional branch be forwarded to the OSB President for consideration.

Strengthening this proposal is the fact that already attendance in Singapore has been 10 OSBs, Hong Kong 13 OSBs and Shenzhen 17 OSBs. These numbers could be expected to increase significantly once the joint venture was fully operational. Though much further away from school these numbers are already not far below the attendance numbers of some UK Regional Dinners.

The majority of guests reluctantly departed at seven pm. This was wise, perhaps. Such events are thirsty work, especially in the tropics, and Duncan's idea was to give a reasonable donation to the school, not an excessive one to the brewery!

Many thanks to Duncan and his lovely wife, Yati, for organizing this reunion – a wonderful day was had by all and we look forward to meeting again in 2019.

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july18bulletin>.**

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

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

Old St Beghians in Asia will, once again, be holding Hong Kong and Shenzhen Dinners in 2019. All Old St Beghians, plus partners and family, will be most welcome to attend the events, which will most probably take place in **January/February** next year.

Please do get in touch with 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).

### **Cumbria**

The Cumbria Dinner will take place in the Foundation Dining Room at school on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2018** the evening before St Beghians’ Day.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Darryl Davies on darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com or (01946) 831650.

### **London (Informal Gathering)**

An informal social event for OSBs in the City of London will be held at the The Pepys pub/restaurant (Stew Lane, EC4V 3PT) on **Friday 12th October, 2018** from 6.00pm onwards.

If you wish to attend or require further information, please contact: Nicola Shannon (nee Metcalfe-Gibson) at nicmetcalfeshannon@gmail.com or (01582) 467058 or 07766195468 or Dacre Watson at dacrewatson@btinternet.com or (01367) 252384. Feel free to drop in on the night, we would love to see you there!

### **North East**

This will be on **Wednesday 7th November, 2018** (please note, one week earlier than normal), 7.00pm for 7.30pm, 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**

We would like to arrange a function later this year and we would be pleased to hear from any member who feels they could help organise such an event.

Please contact the OSB Office at osb@stbeesschool.co.uk or (01946) 828093 if interested in attending or able to help.

## **Singapore**

It is hoped to hold a 2019 Singapore OSB Lunch at the Singapore Cricket Club in **early May**. If you are interested in attending or would like further information, please contact Duncan Merrin on [duncan.merrin@fullcircle.biz](mailto:duncan.merrin@fullcircle.biz).

## **Yorkshire**

A Yorkshire lunch is planned for **Sunday, 9th September 2018** at a venue to be announced, but most likely The Boars Head, Ripley ([www.boarsheadripley.co.uk](http://www.boarsheadripley.co.uk)). The Boars Head is situated close to the A1, just north of Harrogate, and is owned by Sir Thomas Ingilby of Ripley Castle ([www.ripleycastle.co.uk](http://www.ripleycastle.co.uk)), which is just next door to the hotel.

Further details may be obtained from the Branch secretary: Steve Crossley-Smith, Garth Cottage, Moor Park Way, Addingham, West Yorkshire, LS29 0PZ on (01943) 830640 or [crossleysmith@btinternet.com](mailto:crossleysmith@btinternet.com).

**Please reply to indicate an interest.**

**Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july18bulletin>.**

### **Thomas Froggatt Memorial Match 2018**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> December: Egremont RUFC**

The fourth annual match will take place at Egremont Rugby Club on Friday, 28th of December (2018) with a kick off around 13.30. An invitation is extended to OSBs from all eras to support this increasingly popular and now firmly established event. Contacts for those who may wish to play in the game are Jonathan Garrod and Simon Edwards via their Facebook pages. Should any OSB sportswomen be interested in becoming involved with women's sports on that day, please contact Stuart Mcnee, again via Facebook.

Following last year's highly successful auction of items donated by sports stars and business people, Egremont Rugby Club hopes to run a similar event this year.

We would be grateful if OSBs will use their collective contacts to help source attractive items which could be donated to this auction, if possible signed, packaged or with an interesting provenance. Likewise the club would be delighted to receive any donations or offers of sponsorship from OSBs who may be unable to attend in person on the day.

The three matches so far have raised nearly £5000 for charity and it would be wonderful if that level of support can be maintained, both financially, and of course socially, on the day.

## **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.

### **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:**

Currently Vacant.

## **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](mailto:osb@stbeesschool.co.uk) or (01946) 828093 or by post.**

**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 and Facebook pages for further information.

**[www.st-beghian-society.co.uk](http://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](mailto:osb@stbeesschool.co.uk)



# Golfing Society (OSBGS)

## Old St Beghians' Golfing Society

The Society has had a mixed year so far. In the **Halford Hewitt** 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, but in two crucial games we were pipped at the 19<sup>th</sup> in one and robbed by an outrageous pitch-in from an impossible lie right of the 18<sup>th</sup> green in the other. A win would have been a great morale booster; we will return next year all the more determined. We need everyone who is eligible to come and play or support the OSBGS, with next year's event taking place from the **10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> April, 2019**.

The **Cyril Gray (six 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 21<sup>st</sup>, around 8 pm. The following day, with a late start, we overcame Eastbourne with the decider again going to the 20<sup>th</sup>; 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 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> June** and the Cyril Gray takes place annually at **Worplesdon in Surrey**. **Photograph of the 'winning' Cyril Gray team - Stephen Moss, Michael Coffey, Mike Stamper, Adrian Peckitt, Jeff Ellis and Andy Crummey may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july18bulletin>.**

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 should that be 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 very good time (particularly when you win).

The **Critchley Cup**, the OSBGS's own event, is being played on home turf at Seascale Golf Club on **Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> July**. Come and join us? Every golfer is very welcome - £50 for those over 25 and £25 for younger OSBs – contact Tom or Michael for further details.

Then there is the final team event of the year, The **QE in Edinburgh**, again on an enjoyable course in the heart of one of the UK's great cities.

## **The Queen Elizabeth Coronation Schools Tournament (6 aside scratch foursomes)**

at Royal Burgess Golf Club – Edinburgh,

**22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2018.**

**Contact:** Andrew Goodwin at [andrew@trulyonline.co.uk](mailto:andrew@trulyonline.co.uk).

### **For any further information on the OSBGS please contact**

Michael Coffey (OSBGS President): [Michael@golfclubsec.co.uk](mailto:Michael@golfclubsec.co.uk) or (01255)

676727 or Tom Wright (Hon. Sec.) [tomosbgolf@hotmail.com](mailto:tomosbgolf@hotmail.com) or 07745 764 043.

## **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.

## **200 Club**

Congratulations to our winners of the March 2018 draw. I hope you enjoy your winnings and thanks to those who wrote to me.

<b>Prize</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Prize</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Winner</b>
<b>£40</b>	57	James Brindle	<b>£20</b>	67	Chris Metcalfe-Gibson
<b>£40</b>	2	Gavin Spencer	<b>£20</b>	24	Steve Downham
<b>£40</b>	37	Michael Brandwood	<b>£20</b>	33	Lynne Plummer
<b>£40</b>	6	Philip Etchells	<b>£20</b>	45	John (J.J.) Beal

The next draw will be made in September at the AGM on St Beghians' Day when the top prize will be at least £150.00. Remember the more members we have, the greater the prize, so let me know if you would like to join.

### **What does it cost?**

£2.00 per month or £24.00 per annum. You can pay by cheque to the '200 Club' or better still, fill in a direct debit form.

This figure has not changed since the Club was formed.

Do get in touch at [darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com](mailto:darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com) or **(01946) 831650**.

**Darryl Davies, Secretary & Treasurer, 200 Club.**

## 2018/2019 Calendar of Events:

<b>2018</b>		
<b>September</b>	Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Yorkshire Lunch
	Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	Golf – The QE Coronation Schools Tourn.
	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Cumbria Dinner
	Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup>	St Beghians' Day 2018
<b>October</b>	Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	Golf – Grafton Morrish Final
	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	London Informal Social
<b>November</b>	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	North East Dinner
	(tbc)	Scottish Dinner (tbc)
<b>December</b>	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Thomas Froggatt Memorial Match
<b>2019</b>		
<b>January</b>	Jan or Feb ?	Shenzhen Dinner
	Jan or Feb ?	Hong Kong Dinner
<b>February</b>	Jan or Feb ?	Shenzhen Dinner
	Jan or Feb ?	Hong Kong Dinner
<b>March</b>		
<b>April</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	Golf – Halford Hewitt
<b>May</b>	Early	Singapore Lunch
	Third Sunday? (tbc)	Golf – Grafton Morrish Qualifier
<b>June</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup>	Golf – Cyril Gray

### 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](http://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:

### President:

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

### President-Elect:

Currently Vacant

### Treasurer:

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

### Secretary:

Mrs P.J. Rumney (Pam)

### 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)
J.M.W. Dunn (John) (FS 64-69)	A.J.H. Reeve (Tony) (M 89-08)
A.P. Fox (Anthony) (G 62-67)	M.N. Roberts (Mark) (SH 93-95)
A.J. Haile (Andy) (F/SH 76-83)	A.J. Wills (Anthony) (F 60-64)

### 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 - Sat 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2018**  
**The AGM and St Beghians' Day, 2018 - Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2018.**

**Copy Deadline:** As the target month for the next issue of 'The Old St Beghian' is **January 2019**, the Editor would be most grateful if Branch Secretaries and other contributors would let him have their notices and reports by **30<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2018**.

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

**(01946) 828093 or [osb@stbeesschool.co.uk](mailto:osb@stbeesschool.co.uk)**

**Website: [www.st-beghian-society.co.uk](http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk)**

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