



# The Old St. Beghian

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Editor: Dr. A. J. H. Reeve, 6 Abbey Farm St. Bees, Cumbria, CA27 0DY. (Tel: 01946 - 822472)

No. 173

JANUARY 2008

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## From the Head's Desk

The School is always looking for ways to broaden the educational experience on offer to our pupils and this past Christmas term has seen some exciting new opportunities being made available, especially for those in the Sixth Form. I have picked out three to expand upon in this letter.

In September the Charity Committee decided to raise funds for the RNLI St. Bees Lifeboat Appeal through holding a Fashion Show in the Memorial Hall. Two girls from the Upper Sixth volunteered to be the Show's Organisers and Promoters. They quickly set to work on a wide range of tasks which ranged from persuading two local shops to provide the clothes to training a large group of our pupils to be models for the evening. The event was well supported and a great success, raising £850 for the Lifeboat appeal. The following week, a small group of pupils was offered an amazing opportunity to participate in an offshore sailing adventure in Scotland, on the River Clyde, over a long weekend in October. The crew travelled to Largs, where they picked up a chartered 37 foot Jenneau Sunfast yacht. The pupils then sailed under the watchful eye of two members of staff to Rothsay, passing a Royal Navy submarine and several seals on the way. The following day was spent enjoying glorious sunshine, sailing through the Kyles of Bute to Kames Bay. A good variety of weather was experienced throughout the three days, with rain and strong wind providing a very speedy return to Largs harbour on the final day. Finally, this year for the first time, the School has entered a team into the Shares4Schools Competition. A group of Sixth Form pupils has been busy learning about the 'ups and downs' of the stock market. The team was credited with £1500 (real money!) to invest on the London Stock Exchange and the aim of the competition is to increase the value of the portfolio by as much as possible over the academic school year. Currently the group has invested in construction, oil and mining stocks and in a falling market has seen the value of their shares drop by approximately 20%. The pupils have learnt a great deal in the time they have been participating in the competition - and have quickly realised that it is not easy to make money in the stock market!

I have enjoyed attending two Branch Dinners this term - the first in Newcastle and the second two days later in Edinburgh.

Two senior pupils, the Heads of Lonsdale and School Houses, were invited to attend the North East Branch Dinner and had the opportunity to address the assembled OSBs on life as a pupil at St. Bees in 2007. Both enjoyed swapping stories about life on a Boarding House pre and post central heating! I was also delighted to support a new initiative, aimed at the younger members of the Society, which consisted of a social evening arranged at the Revolution Bar in Manchester. This event was supported by approximately twenty OSBs and is, I believe, certainly worth replicating, not only here but in other parts of the country.

On a personal note, I have been awarded a Walter Hines Page Scholarship by the English Speaking Union to spend two and a half weeks in the USA promoting the exchange of educational ideas between British and American schools. I will be visiting schools and colleges on the eastern side of the USA, including Philadelphia, Columbus, Louisville, Chattanooga and Orlando from the end of January through to the middle of February 2008. I wonder if I will encounter any St. beghians on my travels?

Please do not forget that if you find yourself in the vicinity of St. Bees, please come in and introduce yourself to our Receptionist, Emma Graham. You are welcome back at any time. We will always do our best to find someone to show you around those parts of the School remembered from your time here as well as giving you the chance to view more recent developments. If you visit at the present time, you will find School House encased in scaffolding as we work at making the roof watertight with all the gullies and gutters functioning as they should. We are also taking the opportunity to remove redundant chimneys as well as repainting and restoring all the sash windows.

Finally please put into your diaries the date of the next Autumn Ball, which takes place on Old St. Beghians' Day - September 13th. Further details are available from the Marketing Office (01946 828010). I look forward to seeing you there.

Wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

*Philip Capes*

# Date for your diary - Autumn Ball 2008

Following the success of the Autumn Ball 2006, a similar event has been planned for this year, which will be open to all parents, friends of the School and past pupils. A total of 400 guests attended the Ball in 2006 and many Old St. Beghians took the opportunity to organise a table of friends. The maximum number that can be accommodated this year is again 400 and we would recommend that you book early to guarantee a table! A maximum of 10 guests per table is the preferred number with someone acting as lead contact and money collector!

The Autumn Ball 2008 will take place on Old St. Beghians' Day - Saturday 13th September 2008.

For further details or to make a booking, please contact either Helen Miller or Cath McMullen in the Marketing Department at the School:

Telephone: 01946 828010 or 828012

E-mail: [helen.miller@st-bees-school.co.uk](mailto:helen.miller@st-bees-school.co.uk) or  
[catherine.mcmullen@st-bees-school.co.uk](mailto:catherine.mcmullen@st-bees-school.co.uk)

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## OSB NOTES

JOHN WILKINSON (FS 68-73) writes:

I am putting together a Fives Team to take on the School on Saturday, 13th September (Old Boys Day) or if the School are unable to raise a team we will organise a round robin tournament. Male and Females are welcome. Please contact myself John Wilkinson (FS 68-73) on 0161-351-7888 or e-mail [j\\_a\\_wilkinson2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:j_a_wilkinson2002@yahoo.co.uk). Lets have a great day and enjoy ourseleves and re-live the game.

F. CECIL FINLAY (G 20-21)

We are glad to record the 100th birthday of Mr. Finlay, which occurred on 22nd September last year. Gordon Finlay wrote at the time to say that:

"We have of course booked his message from Buckingham Palace and have discovered that he can claim a Centenarian's Bounty from the President of Ireland provided that his Birth Certificate proves that he was born somewhere in all of Ireland. That of course is the case and he should receive 2,540 Euros! That opportunity may be of interest if you have any other former pupils approaching their hundredth and having origins in Ireland! He is no longer very mobile and some of the time, his conversation is somewhat confused, whilst at others he is remarkably lucid. He is currently resident in Room 15 Mullaghboy Nursing Home, 86 Warren Road, Donaghadee, County Down, BT21 0PQ.

A couple of weeks ago he was visited by Rotary International's District Governor of Ireland along with the President of his own Rotary Club in Bangor, County Down."

MIKE LOCKHART (FS 61-66) writes:

"Seeing some familiar names and in particular reading of the retirement of Daz Davies (surely he is too young for that?) made me think I must bring my own notes up to date before retirement looms and all I can write about is the weather in Wiltshire.

I last wrote some 10 years ago when I was working for the national oil company in Kuwait. Almost immediately after that I moved back to the UK to be one of many commercial managers/negotiators for BG in its oil and gas exploration business. I spent 4 years based in Reading involved, with varying degrees of success in projects in the UK, Bolivia, Argentina, Egypt, Russia and Kazakhstan, an interesting time and useful for frequent flier miles. Then to live in Mumbai for 2 years as director commercial for BG's Indian oil and gas exploration and production activities. After that back to the UK to a project to work on the development of a gas field BG had discovered in Palestinian waters offshore Gaza. My main role was to try and agree terms to sell the gas to the Israelis. This involved spending almost a year based in Tel Aviv with frequent trips to the West Bank as BG's country manager for Israel and Palestine - whatever else, that was not a boring job. Now I am in Bangkok where the pace of life is somewhat different, but the traffic worse!

Home is a small village in N. E. Wiltshire, still married, no children but an ambition to get a dog in retirement, which cannot be far away."

JOHN HEWITSON (SH 52-57) says that:

"As a frequent visitor to South East France, I made a point this month of looking up Mike Slowther (FN 71-76) on my way to the Rugby World Cup Quarter Finals in Marseilles. Mike and his wife Val run an exceptionally fine *chambres d'hote* in Pepieux midway between Narbonne and Carcassone. The 5 bedroom house with swimming pool provides a good base for exploring the Languedoc. I must say that Mike's previous experience in the catering trade coupled with Val's business experience seem to make for a winning combination and further details can be found on their website: [www.levieuxrelais.net](http://www.levieuxrelais.net). They even welcome OSBs from School House!"

STEPHEN DOWNHAM (G 61-65) has written to say:

"I have just retired after 31 years with Degussa. My last 6 years were spent as a Regional Director based in Singapore. Kornelia

and I returned to Kendal in September leaving behind many good friends including Duncan Merrill (G 53-56) and Ken Davis (G64-68).

My youngest daughter, Christine is now in her final year on Lonsdale, her elder sister, Clare (L 91-93), continues to lecture at Aberdeen University and published her first book in November entitled Viking Kings of Britain and Ireland."

PETER BROWN (FS 50-56) writes from Norfolk that:

"After School I attended Bolton Technical College and obtained a Diploma in Electronics in 1958 and then joined the Royal Air Force as an Air Electronics Officer and served on Shackletons with 42 Squadron at St Mawgan in Cornwall and 224 Sqdn. Gibraltar, leaving Gibraltar in 1966 when I was posted to Victor Tankers at Marham in Norfolk. I served on 214, 57, 55 Squadrons, and 232 O.C.U. The last two years of my career, I spent teaching in the Air to Air Refuelling School at Brize Norton and then retired from the Royal Air Force in 1992 as a Squadron Leader. I enjoyed my time in the Royal Air Force and travelled all over the world.

My wife Pamela and I moved to Weasenham in Norfolk in 1967 and we subsequently adopted two boys Matthew and Simon. Sadly Matthew died last November. I became a Reader in the Church of England in 1982 and am involved in many local activities. In the New Years Honours List 2007 I was awarded the M.B.E. for services to Weasenham; this was presented by Her Majesty the Queen in February 2007 at Buckingham Palace, a most memorable occasion."

W. N. HEWITSON (SH 53-58) lays claim to a cricket bat from the school:

"I read with interest that it is traditional to award a cricket bat to any pupil who scores a century in a school match. As I scored a century against Rossall exactly 50 years ago is it too late to apply for my bat?"

Next year it will be 50 years since I left school and have not seen or heard from the majority of fellow pupils who left at the same time. Would it be possible to ask whether there would be sufficient interest in a reunion at the Old Boys Day in 2008?"

S. N. HERRON (AC 84-87) sends an update on his career:

"I have been married to Catherine Mcintee for 5 years and am now living in Oxfordshire. After leaving St Bees in 1987 I then spent 8 years in Vickers Shipbuilding Engineering Ltd where I gained my BA Hons in Business and Finance. I then spent eleven years at Ericsson, most recently in the position of Sales Account Director. I have recently joined Logica CMG and am currently Support Sales Manager for Europe, Middle East and Africa."

DONALD HEATON (F 42-47) says:

"In connection with Gordon Peel's article in your July 2007 issue and the missing Wisden's Almanacs:

I was contacted by a Mr. Collinson, a former master at St Bees. He said he had a collection of Wisden's Almanacs which he would like me to have. I collected them from his house in the village in the Summer of 1947. I was captain of cricket at the time and the Almanacs were a personal gift to me. If I remember correctly there were about 20 of them.

I took my cricket bag to his house and brought them back to the school and put them in the library. I had previously

contacted V. W. Blake-Dyke who was librarian at the time informing him of my intentions. It was late in the Summer term and I was to start at the Medical School in Newcastle in the Autumn so my feeling was to keep them in the library rather than put them on a shelf at home. That was the last I saw of them. I went to the library on Old Boys' Day in the early 60s but could not find them.

My cricket bag in which I collected the Wisden's was given to me by a former master at St Bees called R.B. Brown. I used it throughout my entire cricketing career."

JOHN HESLOP (SH 40-45) writes from Canada with reminiscences of rugby:

"I have just received and read partially the Old St Beghian No. 172 and was saddened to see the demise of two of the great rugby players who were members of that famous 1941/42 1st XV, namely Percy Baxter and Roger Brockbank.

That team was almost completely victorious, losing only to Stoneyhurst 7-6. Eight out of the XV were colts including the full back H. G. Vincent, who was also eligible for the under 15 side. The team from full back forwards, (c) denoting colt, was H. G. Vincent (c), H. C. Armstrong (c), M. J. Thompson (c), D. S. Nicholson, "Shag Wright", J. Brown, G. B. Jones (c), forwards were Joe Noble (c), "Butch" Berry (c), Roger Brockbank No. 8, John Craston (Capt), Arthur Johnson, Stephen Shillitoe, Perry Baxter (c), Stan Maitland (c).

Sadly Joe Noble died in May 2006; I don't know how many others survive.

I remember we beat Sedbergh that year, the only time during my five years (40-45) at St Bees. H. C. Armstrong opened the scoring with a penalty from just inside our own half; in those days the balls were much heavier compared with those today."

DAVID WILLIAMS (GH 57-60) says:

"I would take this opportunity to tell my old friends from St Bees that I am still alive and living in the Yorkshire Dales. On leaving St Bees at 16 I joined an accountancy practice in Hartlepool and over the next 42 years rose from articled clerk to Senior Partner and then a consultant. The firm itself went through various changes and is now part of Horwath Clark Whitehill. I left in 2002 to practise in a small specialised field on my own but more particularly because I was invited to join the main Board of a client, Yuill Group Ltd. a substantial North East company with interests in housebuilding and property. In 2006 we sold the housebuilding side while retaining significant property interests and they still keep me busy. I am also Chair of Governors of the village school, which is very time consuming, and Vice Chair of Governors of Barnard Castle School. My particular responsibility at the latter is boarding and welfare. Boarding is very different to our old comfortless dormitories. Some are even en suite!

Another serious call on my time is running a junior football club which I founded 10 years ago and continue as chairman. As I was sadly invalided out of sport at school this may sound strange but I generally keep strictly to the telephone or the sidelines not knowing one end of a football from the other.

Some day I might be allowed to retire but what would I do then?"

ERIC MIDDLETON (M 58-59) has sent details of his new book:

"Just keeping in touch with Old St Beghians - I was Head of Chemistry from '58-69. The Templeton Foundation Press has

agreed to publish my book for an American readership. To my amazement, they have in fact put the new revised edition of the book on the cover of their 10th Anniversary Catalog.

'We are proud to lead our catalog with *The New Flatlanders* by Eric Middleton', writes the Executive Director. 'A unique look at the scientific and theological questions that arise in response to the new science. Equally exciting is ..' etc.

Copies of the book have now arrived, and the editor writes, 'If you will be travelling to the US in the Fall, please let us know so we can discuss the possibility of speaking engagements'. I would welcome advice from any Old St Beghian in the States, particularly on the East coast/ Pennsylvania on how to manage this- I should love to go there and give a lecture tour, even perhaps illustrated talks on television? (eric.middleton2@btinternet.com)."

IAN SCOTT (G 60-63) writes:

I was the other day boy Scott referred to in Don Williams's news in the July issue. My family lived in Holmrook and I used to travel into school by train from Drigg Station. My junior house was Meadow under Philip Lever and my main house was Grindal under Sam Parkinson and later Tony Cotes. When my family moved to Dorset I became a boarder. Grindal at the time was known for its cross country and I did obtain my Athletics Colours for cross country.

I worked for the Midland Bank for 34 years at various branches in the South of England and Channel Islands, finally in several managerial positions. I retired early in 1999 and now work 3 days per week as an accountant to a precision engineering firm making components for Airbus (including the giant A380) and Boeing as well as the gearboxes for the remote handling arms at Sellafield!!

I have been married to my French wife Arlette for 31 years (both PL and Sam P, God rest their souls, would be relieved that my French has improved slightly).

We have two children, Claire an eye specialist and David a graduate mechanical engineer. Incidentally, in 1997 when at Freshers at Liverpool University with Claire we sat opposite Hugh Redway((G 57-61), who was there with his son. He recognised me first and when he said his surname I responded with his full Christian names, even though we hadn't seen or heard of each other since I left in 1963 !!"

DR. KENNETH HO (FS/AC 79-82)) wrote to his old friend David Lyall (M 52-91), who kindly forwarded the letter, for inclusion in the Bulletin:

I have returned to the school only once since I left, probably around 2001 or 2002. I was back in Manchester for a business trip and had the weekend all by myself, so I rented a car and travelled to St Bees. I met my house mate Jim Craig and my Chemistry teacher, Mr Barratt and my Physics teacher, Mr Chris Robson at the Sunday Church.

I used to keep in touch with my old House Master at Abbots Court, Mr Broadhurst, but we lost touch with each other after a few years.

Well, I suppose I should tell you a bit about what I have done since I left school. I am afraid I have not achieved much over the years in terms of wealth, fame or recognition although I think I have had some unusual experience and met some very interesting people during that time.

I went to Bristol University in 1982 after leaving St Bees and did

my first degree in Civil Engineering. I have to say that I enjoyed my university life too much and that I did not do too well academically for my 1st degree.

However, I didn't let that deter me; instead I went on to pursue something I had a passion about, Computer Science and in particular the subject of Artificial Intelligence (or AI). Basically AI is trying to make a computer think! I enrolled for an MSc at the Department of Engineering Mathematics at Bristol. I managed to join the group and built a Snooker playing robot. It was documented by the BBC QED programme, which was broadcast in 1986. I was on national TV for about a couple of minutes talking with the World Champion Steve Davis. At the time, computer games weren't taken seriously, at least not in academic circles, and the work that we did was quite ahead of its time. Only very recently did I manage to publish a paper on that project at an international conference on computational intelligence and games.

Instead of finishing my MSc degree, I managed to get employed as a Research Assistant at the same department and worked on a project funded by the Ministry of Defence. Although I had finished all my theoretical and experimental work in 2 years, it took me another 3 years to write up my PhD thesis. Writing was never my strong point. I was very happy to hand in my thesis on the very last day and to receive my doctorate from Bristol in the summer of 1991.

After that I managed to receive a Royal Society/STA fellowship to work in Japan at a Japanese national laboratory. During that time I met my future wife Miki and I decided to stay in Japan. We married in 1996 in Canada where my parents now live after they retired. We have two sons, Henry (age 9) and Thomas (age 6). They both studied in the local primary school in Japan. Unfortunately I did not manage to bring them up to speak more than one language. They can only manage to speak broken English at the moment. However, I remember I couldn't speak English very well when I entered St Bees in 1979.

Japan has a very different culture. Although I was brought up in Hong Kong, Japanese and Chinese culture are very much like French and English. Japanese is probably one of the hardest languages to master.

Although I worked for a few more years in a different laboratory in Japan, I eventually left my academic career after Henry was born. I joined the British Council in Japan as their Assistant Director, heading the Science and Technology section. It was quite an interesting time working for the British Government, representing UK interests in Japan. During that time I had the privilege of meeting some amazing people, including most of the living British Nobel Laureates, government ministers, politicians and royalty from both Japan and the UK. The most memorable time was probably talking privately with the Nobel Laureates Sir John Sulston and Dr Tim Hunt. I managed to learn something new from their views and insights. As part of the management team, I also had the pleasure to meet and dine with the Chair of the British Council, Neil Kinnock. Working for the British Council also meant that I worked to promote British education in Japan.

I left the British Council around 2 years ago and returned to work in a technical role for a small Japanese company for a short time and eventually I went back to research with my old Japanese laboratory earlier this year. My speciality is computer vision and artificial intelligence.

A couple of months ago, I accepted a position at the Australian Embassy in Tokyo working as the Deputy Director of Australian Education International, part of the Department of Education Science and Training, so I am back in the diplomatic world yet again, but this time promoting our Commonwealth cousin Australia instead. I am usually in the UK at least twice a year."

JOHN T. WALLACE (FS 73-78) writes:

I have been remiss for many years now in letting the school know my whereabouts, basically I'm alive and kicking, happily married for the second time, and dearly love my three children (from my first marriage). I work and live in London these days in the employ of Bovis Land Lease as a Project manager (basically I build very large buildings year in year out). My weekends are spent in Margate where we have a property."

## New Contact Details

### Pam Rumney - Assistant to the Secretary

Pam commenced employment on Monday 26th November 2007 and is already proving her worth in the day to day operation of the Society.

She is based in the Society Office in Foundation and is working on a part-time basis, Monday to Thursday 09.30 - 14.30.

Any member wishing to contact her with regard to Society matters can do so by:-

1. Telephone - 01946 828093.
2. Email - [pam.rumney@st-bees-school.co.uk](mailto:pam.rumney@st-bees-school.co.uk).
3. By letter - Mrs Pam Rumney,  
The St Beghian Society,  
St. Bees School  
St Bees,  
Cumbria, CA27 0DS

## DEATHS

R. B. JOHNSTON (F 54-58). Mrs. A-L Johnston writes:

Family and friends were very saddened by the sudden death of Mr. Richard Bertram Johnston of Skirwith Abbey, who died suddenly at home on Saturday 9th June aged 66.

Bert was born in Whitehaven in 1941 and grew up on the family farm in Sandwith, West Cumbria. From an early age he held strong interests in all country pursuits, in particular horse-racing and hunting. Such activities often led him to the Penrith area and in 1967 he came to Skirwith with his parents and took on the tenancy of the Abbey and of Home Farm, which had both been in the Parker family for over 150 years. Both the house and farm needed considerable attention and restoration, and Bert devoted his life to the revitalisation of the estate. In this task he was supported initially by his parents and then by his wife, Christine, whom he married in 1970. Christine (nee Nixon) was herself a farmer from

Langwathby and she played a huge role in helping him develop the farm and restore the Abbey to its current state. As a result of Bert's vision the farm underwent continual modernisation. More recently, as a response to the more challenging times in agriculture, the original Home Farm was replaced by the new Abbey Farm development, incorporating a modern, automated milking parlour allowing the dairy herd to increase to 500 cows.

Bert and Christine enjoyed a strong and happy marriage. Away from farming they enjoyed many years breeding and racing their own horses. They also took great delight in regularly entertaining their many friends at Skirwith Abbey. Sadly Christine passed away in 2000 aged 58 after a long and brave fight against cancer.

Bert leaves behind his children, Joanna and Christopher, his brother, Robin, and four grandchildren. Both his family and his many friends shall miss him dearly.

D. G. M. WATSON (SH 36-41) died on 5th July 2007. The following notice was supplied by his friend and colleague, Iain Marr.

David Watson attended St Bees from September 1936 until April 1941, where he was in School House. He became a distinguished member of the post-war generation of outstanding Scottish naval architects who further enhanced the Clyde's reputation for designing and building great ships.

David George Martin Watson, D.Eng, B.Sc. C.Eng, FRINA, FIMarE, FIESS, was born in Kilmarnock, and attended Lenzie Academy before winning a scholarship to St Bees. His education then continued at Glasgow University, where he graduated with first class honours in naval architecture. After university he enlisted and was commissioned in the army, and during the latter years of the war he served in India with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) and in the 4th Indian Division, rising to the rank of Major.

On his return from military service David Watson rejoined the Glasgow shipbuilding firm of Alexander Stephen at Linthouse and spent more than twenty years there, designing a wide range of commercial ships and earning a deserved reputation as a highly capable and meticulous naval architect. In 1971, soon after Stephens became part of the ill-fated Upper Clyde Shipbuilders, he accepted an offer to join the board of YARD Ltd. the marine engineering consultancy subsidiary of naval shipbuilders and engineers Yarrow & Co Ltd.

David remained with YARD for the rest of his career until his retirement in 1989, leading an experienced team of skilled naval architects and marine engineers in dealing with many complex problems relating to ship design and performance. Throughout his career he was a loyal supporter of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland (IESS), and was awarded several medals for his learned papers published in technical journals. His greatest accolade came in 2000 when his alma mater, the University of Glasgow, awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering, an honour of which he was immensely proud.

After his retirement David set about achieving his long-held ambition to write a definitive instruction manual on modern naval architecture, covering every aspect of both merchant

and naval ships. After several years of detailed research, strict discipline and sheer hard work his magnum opus "Practical Ship Design" was published in 1998. The work was immediately acclaimed and welcomed by colleagues in the profession, and is now accepted world-wide as the standard text book for all students of naval architecture.

Away from his busy professional career David Watson found time for many other interests and worthwhile activities. As befits a son and grandson of the manse, he was a committed member of the Church of Scotland. He was an elder for almost fifty years at St Brides and then at the West Kirk, both in Helensburgh, and also served as Presbytery elder. He actively supported several favourite charities, including the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and the Glasgow Lodging House Mission, which his grandfather had been instrumental in setting up.

In his youth David was a keen rugby player, and after his playing days were over he seldom missed a Scotland International at Murrayfield. He always enjoyed energetic outdoor pursuits, and indulged his great love of Scotland by exploring with his family the north-west Highlands and Islands, and especially the Outer Hebrides. He and his wife Marion also enjoyed many walking and cycling holidays in France.

But David's great life-long passion was sailing, and for many years he spent as much time as he could on the water. A long-time member of the Royal Northern Yacht Club, he was a skilled helmsman who won many trophies, competing first in Flying Fifteens and for the last thirty years in the Piper O/D class. In fact he was still competing and winning when in his eighties!

David was also a music-lover with a great interest in classical music. He and Marion were regularly to be seen at Royal Scottish National Orchestra concerts in Glasgow, and he was a generous supporter of the orchestra.

David Watson was without doubt a man of great intellect, many talents, wide interests, and strong faith. He will be sadly missed by his wife Marion and son Alasdair, by his four nieces with whom he was a great favourite, and by his many cousins, friends and former colleagues.

J. H. M. KENNEDY (F 51-55) died on 26th July 2007, aged 70. His wife, Anne, sent the following appreciation:

"Harry, being born in March 1937, was just 70 when he finally succumbed in St. Catherine's Hospice in Crawley where he was looked after in the most compassionate and wonderful manner. He was born in Penang to Eva and Jim Kennedy. Jim was a rubber planter and when war became inevitable, Harry together with his mother and sister Elspeth were evacuated to Australia.

After the war his parents returned to Malaya (as it then was) and Harry eventually went to Crawford House prep school in Scotland. His principal memory of that school was not academic, but lovely holidays in Bamburgh on the Northumberland coast with the headmaster and his family. From there he went to St Bees School in Cumbria where his sporting talents were given full rein. He was captain of tennis

and more importantly as it later transpired, golf.

One of the highlights of his public school career was a great interest in amateur dramatics, culminating in the lead in Shakespeare's Henry V. Even then a Scotsman could take the lead in an English production! He became so enthused with his thespian prospects that he was giving serious consideration to a career on the stage. However, some family members involved in the acting profession put him off by informing him that he would probably have to exist on a diet of cold kippers and cornflakes!

After leaving school he did his National Service and after Eaton Hall, joined the Royal Scots Fusiliers and was posted to Malaya during the height of the emergency. At one point, in North Malaya, he found himself only 90 miles from his home, his parents having returned to planting near Penang. One of his proudest memories of his army days was being the officer bearing the regimental colour during the parade in honour of the Duke of Edinburgh.

During National Service he met Ian Hornell-Scott and they were to remain very close friends for the rest of their lives. It was through Ian's family that Harry joined the Hong Kong Bank after his two years' army stint.

During his two years in London office he played rugby for the Hong Kong Bank at their ground at Beckenham and also played fly half for the United Banks with his great friend Kim Robertson at scrum half. United Banks fielded a very strong side in those days and the Bank provided more than their expected complement. Harry had as good a pair of hands as many a top class fly half and maybe with another yard of pace might well have made the highest levels of the game.

In April 1961 probably the most important event in Harry's life occurred. He met Anne Linton and they became engaged later that year. Because of the bank rules they were unable to be married until the 24th October, 1964, more than three years after becoming engaged, in St. Mary's Cathedral in Kuala Lumpur. However, before they were married, Harry managed to win for the first time, the Morse Cup in Hong Kong. This an annual Bank golf tournament, played at Fanling, arouses a fierce competitive spirit and I do not think anyone has won it more than the four times that Harry did.

In the years 1962-64 Harry was in the bachelor's mess in Singapore, and then after marriage and leave, back to Hong Kong where Peter was born in 1966. It was back to Kuala Lumpur in 1968 and on Tuesday, May 13th, 1969 violent racial riots broke out.

Harry retired from the Hong Kong Bank in 1980 to his home in Ashdown Place in Forest Row. He then worked for Young Ridgway which entailed many trips to the Middle East visiting clients and which became increasingly unpleasant due to the worsening political situation.

One of the greatest joys of Harry's life, second only to his family, has been his membership of Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club, which he joined in 1972 some 35 years ago. Not only was he an exceptionally good golfer, but he was a very

convivial and social member of the club. Above all, for all categories and standards of golfers, Harry was an absolute joy to play with. If you put him in the heather "Oh bad luck" - if you put him on the fairway "great shot!" He never criticised but always encouraged a fellow player and always considered that golf and all sports were there to be enjoyed: the sign I think of a gifted and true sportsman. Right up to his last days he could always be found on a Saturday or Sunday morning in the corner of the spiked bar enjoying a pint of Harveys and discussing in considerable detail golf scores of current tournaments. He will be much missed in the club.

Harry won one of the club's major competitions, the Founders Cup played every Easter weekend, in 1981 and it was a source of great pride to him when Andrew won it in 1992. They were only the second father and son to have won the Founders. He won several cups and competitions at the club and much enjoyed having his photo in the bar as a member of the winning Cyril Blake Cup team in 1999.

Harry had many friends and the tributes which Anne and the family have received all emphasise and rejoice in his kindness and great sense of humour.

He never said a malicious word and was always, even when things seemed to be going against him, the greatest optimist. He will be greatly missed.

ALAN FRANCIS (M 1961-1988). Peter Broadhurst (M 57-87) has kindly provided the following obituary:

"Many former pupils will be saddened to learn that Alan Francis, who taught mathematics at the school, and who was more popularly known as "The Major", died on the 14th September 2007 aged 79 after two weeks of intensive care in Carlisle Hospital. Alan's main contribution to the life of St Bees was his connection with the School Combined Cadet Force. He was Commanding Officer and led three CCF Expeditions to the Atlas Mountains. By the time Alan retired in 1988, he had attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and had been awarded the Territorial Decoration.

Alan was born in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, on the 29th July 1928. He attended Hanley High School and in 1946 was accepted for teacher training at the newly established Loughborough College for Physical Education. At this time, shortly after the 1939-45 War, there was a great shortage of teachers and Alan qualified as a trained teacher on the 9th July 1948. He was almost immediately conscripted into the Army and sent for Officer Training to Eaton Hall, Cheshire.

After receiving the King's Commission, Alan saw service with various infantry regiments in the British Army of the Rhine. On his return to the U.K. late in 1949, he applied for further training at Loughborough College and it was here, together with his life-long friends John Disley and Jeff Butterfield, that they formed the Loughborough College Mountaineering Club. It would be about this time in the early 1950s that I first met Alan at Loughborough. He was playing squash with his personal tutor, Major Duffy M.C. late of the S.A.S, who was nearly blind. We all reckoned that Duffy played squash by radar such was the quality of his quite impossible returns!

After post-graduate training at Loughborough, Alan was appointed to the staff of "St Alfred's Wantage", and it was during this time that he met his future wife Maureen, then an officer in the W.R.A.C. Maureen tells me that they first met in a male-only "Climber's Club" hut in North Wales; she being admitted only on sufferance to take charge of the cooking arrangements! They were married in 1953 before Alan accepted a new appointment as an assistant master, taking charge of the CCF at Heversham Grammar School near Kendal, Westmorland.

In 1961, after two years as an instructor on HMS Conway in North Wales, Alan was appointed by the then Headmaster, James Wykes, to the staff of St Bees. I well remember my first visit to their new home, "The Hill", at Thackwaite, where Alan and Maureen were to live for most of their married life. The 17th century hill farm, perched high overlooking the Lorton Valley, was an idyllic setting for a man who loved mountains. The farmhouse and cluster of outbuildings was reached by a tortuous mountain track and it enjoyed breathtaking views over the surrounding Lakeland hills. This place was well-suited to Alan's penchant for independence: a life he could lead removed from the more cloistered environs of a public school.

However, Alan soon set about the transformation of the St Bees C.C.F to his liking and brought his organisational skills to bear on what had been an offshoot of the O.T.C. Alan arranged for the army to construct classroom huts, supply suitable off-road vehicles and to refurbish the Armoury. The Border Regiment provided modern weaponry training and built a new .22 calibre shooting range. All this, combined with regular trips into the fells, replaced the old O.T.C "Platoon-in-Attack" mentality, so beloved of previous generations. Tuesday afternoons were transformed! These amenities, together with even wider outdoor training, culminated in Alan leading three School C.C.F Expeditions to Morocco and the High Atlas in 1967, 1969 and 1971.

After retirement in 1988 Alan continued to rock-climb, and to ski whenever possible, but he began to turn his attention more to game shooting and crewing on ocean-going yachts. It was on one such adventure in April 1995, whilst crewing on a yacht in the Mediterranean en route from Marseilles to the Greek Islands, that Alan narrowly escaped death by drowning. His boat foundered on rocks in a severe storm off the coast of Corsica. The captain, Arthur Shepherd, who hailed from Cockermouth, tragically lost his life. Details were widely reported in the national press and Alan was badly shaken by the experience.

Game shooting and fly-fishing now took over more of Alan's time and by 2005 he and Maureen had sold "The Hill" and moved into a barn conversion in Bewaldeth near Bassenthwaite. Here they could concentrate their attention on the creation of a new garden and the rearing of chickens. Alan by now belonged to various shooting syndicates and he became more and more recognisable as the "Sporting Country Gentleman." Widely respected in the locality, Alan further cultivated his sense of rural responsibility, and I believe he was a member of "The Country Land Owners' Association."

Alan was one of the most well-read persons I have ever known and he was for some-time a tutor with the Open University, having previously completed an Honours Degree in Philosophy. He and I often climbed and skied together and for more than 50 years we relished and shared good humour and companionship in both the British mountains and the Alps. On one of our more recent trips to Switzerland, we were able to revisit some favourite old haunts. Especially memorable, was the pleasure of some off-piste skiing on the Morteratsch glacier below Piz Bernina and a descent of the Parsenn-Kublis Run near Davos. This latter, a skiing classic, long famous for its eight mile downhill tour, we had skied together some 40 years previous on solid wooden skis! Our shared love of mountains and our similarity of interests were such that I have lost a most valued friend for, in truth, we both talked the same language.

Alan is survived by his wife Maureen and by his children, Ian, Claire and Jamie, who have our deepest sympathy and sincere condolences.

#### **CORRIGENDA:**

*In our last issue Tony Sharp (G 44-47) should have read A.G.H. Sharp (G 52-54). Apologies to all concerned - Ed).*

## **The St Beghian Society**

Minutes of 14th (99th) Annual General Meeting of the St Beghian Society Held in the Whitelaw Building on Saturday 15th September 2007 at 11 a.m.

### **1. The minutes of the 98th Annual General Meeting were accepted.**

### **2. The Election of Officers for 2007/08**

a) Secretary/Treasurer: Mr.D.F. Lord was proposed by W.M.H. Dix and seconded by W.E. Dove.

b) Committee: The three retiring members were re-elected: Messrs J.M.W. Dunn, R.Hall and M.N. Roberts were proposed by A.D Lord and seconded by A.S McCaig.

c) Golfing Secretary: Mr. A.T Johnston was proposed by A. J. Wills and seconded by A.P. Fox.

### **3. 200 Club**

Mr. D.W. Davies circulated his report.

The draw had taken place at the earlier Committee Meeting producing the following winners:

£130 A.S. McCaig	£20 J.H. & J.E. Hunter
£40 D.G. Beeby	£20 N.&C. Holliday
£40 D.K. Fiddes	£20 N.A. Halfpenny
£40 A.A. Cotes	£20 M.S. Binns
£40 J.D.S. Brown	£20 P.&A. Strafford
£40 J.E. Bell	£20 A.R.C. Johnston
£40 F.O. Messenger	£10 A.T. Johnston
£40 G.L. Spencer	£10 D.W. Davies
£40 A.&C. Wilkinson	£10 J.M.W. Dunn
£40 H.L. Plummer	£10 E.S. Holmes
	£10 T.W. Lowrey

### **4. Grant to the Golfing Society**

It was agreed that the grant should be increased from £400 to £500. Those members present expressed their appreciation of the contribution made by Mr. Andrew Johnston to the Golfing Society over many years.

### **5. Society Accounts 2006-2007**

#### **a) General Account**

The accounts for the year ended 31st January 2007 showed a profit of £4,628 compared with a loss of £976 the previous year. The fact that Life Subscriptions were now being collected from pupils in two instalments of £25 in one year rather than six payments of £8 as was the case previously, increased the level of annual profit. There had also been a delay in the collection of one tranche of subscriptions in the previous year thus inflating the 2006/07 figure.

The Treasurer was asked the question as to why Life Subscriptions were only £50, as a figure of say £250 would be more realistic. The subject would be researched by the Treasurer before the next AGM.

#### **b) Scholarship Fund: Dividend income and interest increased to**

£6,567 (£6,035 2005/06) with £8,835 (£4,100 2005/06) being paid to the School to cover St Beghian Society Scholarships/Bursaries in respect of sons and daughters of former pupils.

#### **c) Consolidated Trust Fund**

The value of the Trust increased by £437 during the year. This was after making a contribution of £300 to the School towards prizes. In 2005/06 £120 was handed over.

#### **d) Guarantee Trust Fund**

The School continued to pay an annual rent For the use of Lonsdale Terrace, all properties being owned by the Society except for No. 8.

The mortgage on No. 4 Lonsdale Terrace was fully repaid during the course of the year and a small mortgage was outstanding on No.7 as at the 30th April 2007.

### **6. Branch Activities**

Dinners had been held during the year in Newcastle and Bristol.

#### **Forthcoming Dinners:**

Newcastle - 12th November 2008.

Bristol - 9th May 2008

Edinburgh and West Cumbria to be arranged.

### **7. Autumn Ball**

The next Ball would take place on Saturday, 13th September, 2008.

### **8. Date of next AGM and Old St Beghians' Day 2008**

Saturday, 13th September, 2002.

The meeting closed at 11.55 a.m.

*D.F. Lord*

## **Nominative Governor**

Mr. Anthony Fox will complete his term of office as a Nominative Governor on the 13th September 2008. Mr. Fox is willing to serve a further term of 4 years until September 2012 should he be re-elected at the AGM in September.

Notice is hereby given that nominations should be submitted in writing by any member of the Society (accompanied by the name of a Seconder) to reach the St Beghian Society office by the 14th March, 2008. Please address correspondence to:

The Secretary

The St Beghian Society

St Bees School

ST BEES

Cumbria CA27 ODS

Please telephone the Secretary, Mr. David Lord, on 01946 828093 should you require any further information.

## **St Beghian Society Website**

The Society Website, [www.osbonline.co.uk](http://www.osbonline.co.uk), designed by OSB Rob Merritt and his company "Pulse", is now operative. The site is not yet fully complete as there are further elements to be built, but there is enough content at this stage to create interest. The launch of the website is seen as an important step in moving the Society forward and it is hoped will result in more members making contributions.

At the present time only two members are able to update the website, but it is the intention that others will be trained in due course.

While the photobase is growing, more photographs will be most welcome. These can be forwarded to the society either via email or in the post for scanning and return. Members are able to email the Society through the website.

*Alistair Lord (SH 90-95)*

## 200 Club Report

The 200 club continues to raise money for worthwhile projects at St. Bees School. Recently we have provided a screen printer for the Art Department and an interactive whiteboard for the School. Our next aim is to fill the canoe trailer (purchased for the School by the 200 Club a few years ago) with canoes. To do this we need your support. It costs £24.00 per annum and this hasn't changed in all the time I have been running the club. The more members the bigger the prizes. PLEASE JOIN and help the School and at the same time have a chance of winning some money. E-mail me at [darryl.davies1@bopenworld.com](mailto:darryl.davies1@bopenworld.com) and I will attach an application form.

I have been running the 200 Club for a number of years now and I get a great deal of pleasure seeing the monies raised being put to good effect. There have been problems over the years which have been resolved and have not really been my fault. Unfortunately, one such arose after the March meeting when the draw was made. The results' sheet was mislaid. I tried to blame as many people as possible but unfortunately the finger pointed at one person - ME! I do apologise for this error and I assure the committee that whilst I cannot guarantee it will not happen again, I will make every effort to ensure that it does not. John Bell was the only person to be paid out.

With the permission of the committee, I made a special draw at the September meeting and we used the money that should have been paid in March in prize money. Once again please accept my apologies.

Good luck to all our members and hopefully to our new ones!

### Prize winners in September

£130	A.S MacCaig	£20.00	M.&C. Holliday P.&A. Strafford
£40.00	D.K Fiddes		N.A Halfpenny
	H.L Plummer		J.H&J.E. Hunter
	J.E Bell		M.S Binns
	A.&C. Wilkinson		A.R.C Johnston
	F.O Messenger		
	A.A Cotes	£10.00	T.W.&G.B Lowrey
	D.G Beeby		D.W.&P.M Davies
	J.D.S Brown		A.T Johnston (returned)
	G.L Spencer		W.E Dove
			E.S.&R. Holmes

*Darryl W Davies, Secretary 200 Club*

## OLD ST. BEGHIAN'S GOLFING SOCIETY

### Fixtures for 2008

<b>HALFORD HEWITT CUP</b>	10-13 April
Royal St. George's and Royal Cinque Ports	

<b>GRAFTON MORRISH</b> (Qualifying)	11 May
Huddersfield G.C. Fixby Hall	
<b>THE CYRIL GRAY</b> (over 50 yrs)	20-22 June
Worplesdon G.C.	
<b>THE CRITCHLEY CUP</b>	12 September
Silloth on Solway G.C.	
<b>OSBGS V. ST BEES</b>	13 September
St. Bees Golf course	
<b>THE QUEEN ELIZABETH CORONATION SCHOOLS TROPHY</b>	19-22 September
Royal Burgess G.C., Barnton	
<b>GRAFTON MORRIS</b> (Finals)	26-28th September
Hunstanton G.C. and Royal West Norfolk G.C.	

## Critchley Cup

### Report September 2007

The Critchley Cup was held at Silloth on the 14th September to try and move the event around the country and also to try and resurrect a match against the school and link the Critchley cup to Old St. Beghians' Day.

Although the number of people who eventually turned up was not so great as anticipated it was good to see some new faces and also others who had not been to the Critchley Cup for a number of years.

Silloth was in beautiful condition and the sun shone with only a gentle breeze blowing, making for a very pleasant afternoon's golf after soup and sandwiches in the Club House. Silloth as usual did not give in lightly and nobody tore the course apart, as was evident in the discussion in the bar and over dinner after the game.

#### *The prize winners were:*

CRITCHLEY CUP	Ron Whatley	41
FARQUIES FORTIFIER	Richard Crummev	40
BILL FOX CUP	Adrian Peckitt	Gross 73
KEN CASE TANKARD (over 60 years)	Michael Coffey	38
DICK HARRISON CUP (over 12 handicap)	David Johnston	34
DORMAN SALVER (under 25 years)	John Currie	38

Other members competing and enjoying the day were Peter Bloomer, Richard Copsey, Anthony Fox, Michael Gillman, Andrew Johnston, Alec McCaig and Mathew Rigby.

## Old St. Beghians v The School September 2007

This year we resurrected the match against the school on Old St. Beghians' Day, which was greatly appreciated by the school, where golf is beginning to be played more seriously again after being in the doldrums.

The St. Bees' course proved as difficult as ever and the rough

was considered by some to be too punishing, as the grass was very thick and long even when very close to the fairway (there are no sheep on the course) or just through the back of the greens.

The match, which the Old St. Beghians won, was played as single games over 9 holes after lunch and before tea. It was perhaps a pity, but also fortunate for the Old St. Beghians, that Nicola Rossler was not at school that weekend as she was competing in the Solheim Cup in Norway at the time for Germany!

Peter Bloomer	beat	James Barnes	5 and 4
Andrew Johnston	beat	Ethan Spedding	5 and 4
Alec McCaig	lost to	Kai Reemers	2 and 3
David Johnston	halved with	Mathew Reid	
Michael Gillman	halved with	Simon Graham	
Alastair Lord	beat	Ricky Bewsher	5 and 3

It is hoped to maintain this fixture and if anybody would like to play in 2008 please let me know.

The Old St. Beghians' Golfing Society would like to thank the Old St. Beghians' Society for their continued support towards the mounting cost of entering the National Competitions and also for the increase in the grant approved in September.

*A. Johnston*

## The Cyril Gray Worplesdon June 2007

The portents for this year's competition did not bode well when we discovered, just six weeks before the event, that our normal accommodation had been sold last December and that the new owners knew nothing of our booking! Fortunately, our card was 'marked' by the Secretary of West Hill Golf Club, Iain McColl, who pointed us in the direction of The Rowbarge in nearby Woking, which turned into a candidate for 'Pub of the Year'.

We had planned an extra fixture this year as part of our warm-up, a game at Sunningdale on Tuesday. This escalated into a 'match' between ourselves (without Stamper M., who had a prior engagement with Sir Mick in Lisbon) and some locals.

Charlie Crummey and our ever-loyal reserve, Neil Morton, lost narrowly to Charles Dimpfl (Stowe) and Donald Longmuir (handicap 1). Adrian Bagott and Michael Coffey were soundly beaten by the host Secretary, Stephen Toon, and the long-hitting and afore-mentioned, Iain McColl, but they rallied to make a good showing in the bye. Nonetheless it was a worthwhile and very enjoyable exercise.

Tim and Brian Morrison joined the rest of us the following day at Worplesdon in the annual Dinner Match against Glenalmond, last year's beaten finalists. We all produced some encouraging golf in tight and exciting matches.

Tim Morrison and Mike Stamper beat Tim Bull and Andrew Thomson - 2 holes. Adrian Bagott and Charlie Crummey lost to Gordon Thorburn and John Gordon - 1 hole. Brian Morrison and Michael Coffey beat Donald White and David James-Duff - 2/1.

Therefore we went into the competition proper with a good win and a free dinner under our belts. Despite the weather forecast the day dawned bright and so was our start. First off against Epsom, whom we had beaten a couple of years before. Our top pair put in a solid performance and remained in front. In the second and third games, too many visits to the

trees let the early advantage slip and both pairings were narrowly beaten in matches they knew they should have won.

Morrison and Stamper beat Ford and Crawford - 1 hole. Baggott and Crummey lost to Nunn and De Haan - 1 hole. Morrison and Coffey lost to Naisemith and Warlock - 2/1.

Thus in the afternoon we were forced back onto the course to play, surprisingly, Stowe in the first round of the Plate. Our disappointment in the morning's performance definitely showed and we were given a golfing education, with our opponents playing solid foursomes golf whilst we were less than steady.

Morrison and Stamper lost to Choyce and Palmer - 7/5. Bagott and Crummey lost to Silver and Durrant - 6/5. Morrison and Coffey lost to Dimpfl and Wood - 4/3.

Again, it was a repeat performance from last year, which was a great disappointment. Next year we are back in our old accommodation, the Hillside Hotel, and we will be searching for some new 50+ blood to give the team, in this marvellous tournament, where we have previously done so well, a transfusion.

*M.W.A. Crummey*

## Old St. Beghians' Day 2007

The Annual General Meeting, for which the minutes appear elsewhere, was followed by a service in the chapel conducted by the school's new chaplain the Rev. Lars Nowen. Having introduced himself as "your chaplain", Lars went on to speak warmly of the relevance of the school prayer and the strong roots which can provide secure bases for later life. A buffet lunch was followed by a number of sporting activities in the afternoon. In the rugby match, the under 23s defeated the over 23s by 29 points to 23, while at hockey, a school XI lost 0 - 2 to the OSBs. The newly revived golf fixture is reported above.

The afternoon's events concluded with a reception by the Head and Mrs. Capes in the Memorial Hall. This year it was especially pleasing to see an informal reunion of the 'Class of 97.'

Those who signified in advance that they were attending during the the day are listed below, although many others were also present:

Beighton G.M.	FS 48-52	Holliday D.G.	SH 46-52
Bell J.E.	FN 55-60	Holmes E.S.	SH 45-50
Bloomer P.G.A.	SH 44-49	Hope J.A.	G 69-76
Brandwood P.M.H.	FS 61-66	Ingledow A.B.	FN 45-47
Brindle J.S.	G 49-53	Jackson J.H.	SH 44-49
Bullock J.F.	FN 44-48	Johnston A.T.	G 68-73
Calvin G.	G 47-51	Johnston D.T.	FN 41-44
Chaytor J.	F 50-55	Lord D.F.	SH 60-65
Crossley-Smith S.	SH 47-52	Lyll D.E.	M 52-91
Dalzell T.	FN 49-53	MacCaig A.S.	FS 42-46
Davies J.M.Q.	G 55-60	Makins R.M.	FS 55-61
Davies N.R.	G 57-62	Mathison W.H.G.	FN 48-52
Dix W.M.H.	FN 55-58	Mayne T.F.	SH 47-52
Dove W.E.	FN 57-60	Merrin D.S.R.	G 53-56
Downham S.A.	G 61-65	Messenger F.O.	SH 50-55
Dunn J.M.W.	FS 64-69	Nicholas I.	SG 44-49
Gillman M.J.	SH 68-73	Reeve Dr. A.J.H.	M 89-08
Gough W.F.	SH 52-56	Reid D.	FN 75-80
Graham J.A.	FN 53-55	Robson G.C.	FN 57-64
Haigh J.P.T.	FS 54-58	Smith F.	G 75-80
Heslop W.J.M.	SH 40-45		

# Branch Activities

## North East

On November 7th, the Annual Dinner was again held at the Northumberland Golf Club, Gosforth. Forty-two guests assembled in the imposing hall and there was much conviviality before moving into the dining-room where Chairman George Robson offered the time-honoured St. Bees' Grace.

After an excellent meal the Chairman gave a special welcome to seven guests from St. Bees/West Cumbria and then highlighted the splendid work Mr. Daniel Pitchford had done in arranging the attendance of fourteen recent 'leavers'. Coming from Manchester, Leeds, Edinburgh, West Cumbria as well as the North-East, these young gentlemen had booked into a local hotel for a reunion and were taking in the Branch Dinner. The Chairman's comment that the 'infusion of younger blood' to the Branch was both impressive and welcome was echoed by the regular attenders.

There was a further development that the Chairman remarked on - a 'first' in the history of Branch Dinners in that the current Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy were present and were to propose the toasts to the School and to the Society.

Miss Kim Brough gave an excellent speech, very confidently delivered, on pupil-related events at the school and this was followed by the Headmaster who once again gave a positive report on a range of issues and developments at the School. Mr. James Mullinder then spoke equally impressively - referring to how fascinating current pupils find the reminiscences of past pupils and explaining the resurrection of inter-House competitions. His audience much admired his humorous style of speaking. The President of the St. Beghian Society, Malcolm Dix, responded to the toast to the Society by outlining and commenting on developments within the Society and describing events that he had attended during his first year in office. The Chairman then closed the formal part of the evening and guests returned to the Hall for a further hour's socialising.

Those attending were: W.M.H. Dix (FN 55-59) (President of the St. Beghian Society) P.J. Capes (Headmaster) and Mrs. Helen Capes Mrs. Helen Miller (Director of Marketing and Admissions). J. Mullinder (Deputy Head Boy) Miss K. Brough (Head Girl) D.F. Lord (SH 60-65) and Mrs. F.E. Lord (retired staff of the School). G.C. Robson (FN 57-64 and Chairman of the North-East Branch), J.F. Bullock (FN44-48) P.D.G. Hopley (SH 47-52) T. Mayne (SH 47-52) F.O. Messenger (SH 50-55) I.D. Nimmo (FN52-57) N.D. Clothier (FN53-57) A.H. Dobson (G56-62) J.M. Southern (FN 55-59) C.R. Kennedy (FN 55-59) C.J. Cummins (G56-62) J.R. McBryde (G58-61), G.M. Burn (58-61) J. Mosgrove (SH 60-63) D.H. Williams (FN61-64) G.L. Spencer (G61-64) A.O. Burn (G62-64) M.P. Windle (FS68-71) Mrs. R.V. Lewis (L 77-79) D.J. Pitchford (G95-02) P.J. Drysdale (SH95-02) N.J. Mainey (SH95-02) J.D. Madrick (SH 95-02) A.J. Booth (SH 96-03) J.S.T. Tsang (SH 96-03) G.L. Lewis (SH96-03) M.S. Bagshaw (SH97-02) J.P. Nickson (SH98-04) KA Marshall (SH 98-05) J.R.A. Woodhouse (SH99-02) J.B. Kelly (Grindal 01-06) W. Lenton-Brooke (SH03-07) A. Sewell (04-05).

*G. Robson*

## Scottish Branch Reunion Dinner

This was held at the Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh, on Friday, 9th November, with David Parker, the Branch Secretary, presiding. A very pleasant evening was enjoyed by members

and guests and it is hoped that a similar event can be organised next year.

Those OSBs attending were:

D.M. Parker (G 64-68)	D. F. Lord (SH 60-65)
A. J. Wills (F 60-64)	W.H.G. Mathison (F 48-52)
T.H. MacKay (FS 68-73)	T.F. Mayne (SH 47-52)
J.E. Bell (FN 55-60)	M.J. Stewart (G 45-48)
N.I.C. Hunter (SH 63-67)	H.C. Hunter (G 97-04)
I.M. Hunter (SH 96-03)	K. Hunter (L 00-06)
J. Tsang (SH 96-03).	

The Headmaster and Mrs. Capes were also in attendance. In his speech the Rev David Parker paid tribute to those St. Beghians who had served, and in some cases given their lives for their country in the two World Wars and subsequent conflicts. David Lord recalled his times at the school as both pupil and Bursar and the importance of his enduring friendships, before proposing a toast to the school. Philip Capes described the many activities the school now offers and also toasted the Society.

## Annual Dinner Dates

### North East

The 2008 Branch Dinner will be held at the Northumberland Golf Club, Gosforth Park, on Wednesday, 12th November 2008, at 7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m.

Contact: W.E. Dove (01670 - 517786).

### Bristol and West of England

The Annual Branch Dinner will be held on Friday, May 9th, 2008 at the Ship Inn, Alveston. Alveston is easily accessible from the M5 and M6 or by rail and taxi via Bristol Parkway. There is accommodation available at or near the Inn. We look forward to welcoming our St. Beghian Society friends, old and new, whether local or from further afield. If you would like to receive details and be advised of booking arrangements please contact the branch secretary:

Dr. W.S. Affleck, preferably by e-mail:  
william.affleck@btopenworld.com  
Phone 01453-832619 or by mail to Barley Hill, Watledge, Nailsworth, GL6 OAS.

## OLD ST. BEGHIAN'S DAY

Will be on Saturday,  
13th September, 2008

All details will be in the July issue.

### Bursary Fund Reminder

The school has a bursary to assist Old St. Beghians with the education of their sons and daughters.

In this respect, the Bursar would be pleased to hear from anyone who is considering sending their child/children to St. Bees

## Branch Secretaries

After leaving School, many members use their parents' address for several years while at University or moving around the country from post to post.

It would be helpful if such members were to contact the secretary of a local branch if this exists and a list of branch secretaries is therefore given below:-

### **Bristol & West:**

Dr. W. S. Affleck, Barley Hill, Watledge, Nailsworth, Glos. GL6 0AS. (01453-832 619).

### **Cumbria (South):**

N. J. V. Curry, Holme Park School, New Hutton, Kendal, Cumbria, LA8 0AH. (01539-721245).

or (during School Holidays):

95 Appleby Road, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 6HE. (01539 728808).

### **Cumbria (North):**

Position vacant.

### **Cumbria (West):**

D. W. Davies, 67 Coronation Drive, Whitehaven, Cumbria. (01946-828000).

### **Liverpool:**

I. J. Braithwaite, Bramble Grange, Belle Vue Lane, Guilden Sutton, Chester CH3 7EJ. (01244-300565).

### **Manchester:**

R. P. Calvin, 15 Belgravia Gardens, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA 15 0JT. (0161-928431).

### **London:**

Secretary: A. K. L. Crookdake, 5 The Deerings, West Common, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2PF. (Day: 0171-4181267).

### **North-East:**

W. E. Dove, 71, Pinewood Drive, Lancaster Park, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 3ST. (01670-517786).

### **Yorkshire:**

Position Vacant.

### **Scotland:**

D. M. Parker, 24 Fettes Row, Edinburgh, EH3 6RH. Day (0131-5593700), Evening (0131-5578464).

### **East Europe:**

J. Anderson, ul Dziecieliny 3 m81, 04-745 Warszawa, Poland. Tel (048) (22) 812 7779.

## Deadline

As the target month for the next issue of The Old St. Beghian is January, the Editor would be most grateful if Branch Secretaries and other contributors would let him have their notices and reports by 31st May, 2008.

## SCHOOL SHOP

Silk Tie	12.50
Terylene Tie	5.00
Badge (silver wire)	13.00
Badge (cloth)	7.70
Chrome Buttons (large or small each)	1.20
Square	3.60
Cuff-links	15.00
Tie Tac	3.50
Ladies' Silver Emblem Pendant	10.30
Ladies' Scarf Ring (new)	4.00
Bar Brooch (new)	4.00
Car Badge	7.70
Plaque of School Arms	25.00
College-wrap style scarf (wool)	16.50
Navy blue courtelle sweater with embroidered O.S.B. Badge 36"-48"	16.40
Prints: (Quadrangle, Terrace, General View) each	1.75

Cheques should be made payable and addressed to St. Bees School Shop, St. Bees, Cumbria CA27 0DS

The Golfing Society Silk Tie is obtainable from Andrew Johnston, Red House, Boustead Hill, Burgh-by-Sands, Carlisle, Cumbria CA5 6AA. Tel. 01228 576745  
Price £15.00 inc. p.&p. Cheques payable to O.S.B.G.S.

## OFFICERS:

### **President:**

W. M. H. Dix

### **Committee:**

Mrs. S. J. Calvin	J. M. W. Dunn
Mrs. C. A. Hunt	A. J. Haile
Mrs. A. M. Strafford	R. Hall
Messrs. R. P. Calvin	A. D. Lord
D. E. Lyall	D. F. Lord
D. W. Davies	A. J. H. Reeve
M. Roberts	A. J. Wills

### **Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:**

D. F. Lord

### **Trustees:**

D. F. Lord	W. F. Gough
J. G. Craig	N. A. Halfpenny
R. P. Calvin	

**The next Committee Meeting will be in the Whitelaw Building at 9.45 a.m. on Saturday, 13th September, 2008.**