

# St Bees School Trustees Newsletter

No. 1, Feb 2016



## Welcome .....

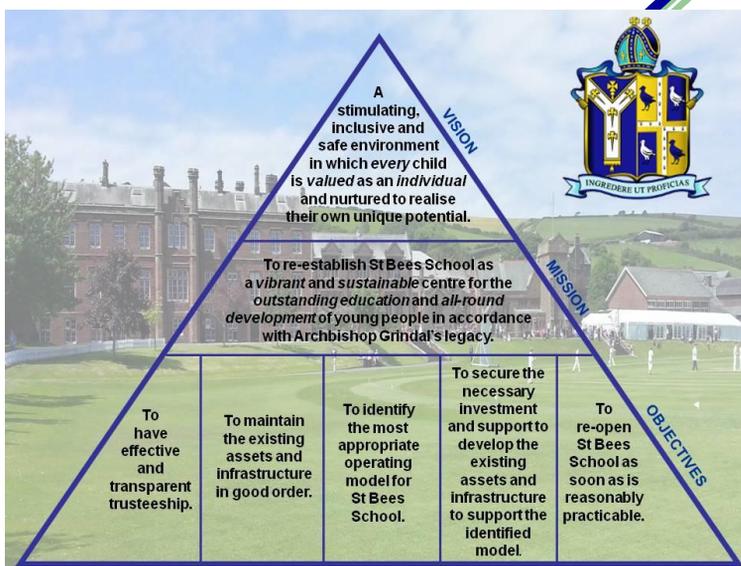
We the trustees of St. Bees School are developing an extensive communication strategy that is designed to maintain communications with all its key stakeholders during this critical period as we seek to bring an educational establishment back to the school campus. Our intention is to communicate all our activities and issues in an open and transparent manner and we would ask you to work with us by opening up dialogue on any issue that is you feel is relevant to the work we are doing.

This newsletter, which is first of what will be a routine communication is lengthy as we seek to give you a complete picture of the trusts activities, its people, its assets and the contact details of the individuals connected with the school.

## Our Mission is:-

The school was founded in 1583 by the then Archbishop of Canterbury Edmund Grindal. The trustees' goal is to return an educational institution onto the St. Bees campus in alignment with Edmund Grindal's principles.

***' To re-establish St. Bees School as a vibrant and sustainable centre for the outstanding education and all-round development of young people in accordance with Archbishop Grindal's legacy'.***



## As a Board, our current priorities are:-

1. To maintain the existing assets and infrastructure.
2. To generate the income needed to sustain our necessary maintenance activities.
3. To identify the most appropriate operational model for the school.
4. To secure the necessary investment and support to enable movement to the chosen school model.



*We are.....*

## The Trustees of St Bees School

In January/February 2016 a newly constituted Board was appointed with the trustees as listed below:

Mark Rocca ( Chair )	<a href="mailto:Mark.Rocca@stbeesschool.co.uk">Mark.Rocca@stbeesschool.co.uk</a>
Mark Roberts	<a href="mailto:Mark.Roberts@stbeesschool.co.uk">Mark.Roberts@stbeesschool.co.uk</a>
Shaun Kelso	<a href="mailto:Shaun.Kelso@stbeesschool.co.uk">Shaun.Kelso@stbeesschool.co.uk</a>
Alastair Lord	<a href="mailto:Alastair.Lord@stbeesschool.co.uk">Alastair.Lord@stbeesschool.co.uk</a>
Sara Gough ( Calvin )	<a href="mailto:Sara.Gough@stbeesschool.co.uk">Sara.Gough@stbeesschool.co.uk</a>
Mark George	<a href="mailto:Mark.George@stbeesschool.co.uk">Mark.George@stbeesschool.co.uk</a>
Robert Miller	<a href="mailto:Robert.Miller@stbeesschool.co.uk">Robert.Miller@stbeesschool.co.uk</a>
Adrian Simper	<a href="mailto:Adrian.Simper@stbeesschool.co.uk">Adrian.Simper@stbeesschool.co.uk</a>
Harry Strong	<a href="mailto:Harry.Strong@stbeesschool.co.uk">Harry.Strong@stbeesschool.co.uk</a>
Tom Kelly ( Clerk )	<a href="mailto:Tom.Kelly@stbeesschool.co.uk">Tom.Kelly@stbeesschool.co.uk</a>

The reformation of the Board is now almost complete. We are fortunate that a prominent educationalist and previous head of the school has supported the board in its discussions with prospective partners. Their addition to the board of trustees would with the inclusion of a communication professional complete the transformation.

'St. Bees School' is a registered charity. Charity number 1129534

**There are two other bodies which are essential to the delivery of the trusts mission :-**

### 2. The St Beghian Society ( OSB )

The management of the Society is vested in a Committee comprising the President, Past Presidents, the Hon Secretary and Treasurer, the Secretaries of Society Branches including the Golfing Society, the editor of the Bulletin and not more than 12 elected full members. The Committee may co-opt not more than 2 associate members but who would not have voting rights.

Current Committee members are :-

President	Dacre Watson
Secretary & Treasurer	David Lord
Past Presidents	Bill Affleck, James Brindle, Malcolm Dix, Bill Dove, Stan Holmes, Arthur Johnston, Alec MacCaig, George Robson, Don Williams, Anthony Wills.

Branch Secretaries, Golf Secretary, Editor and Elected Committee

Roy Calvin, Sara Calvin, Anthony Fox, Darryl Davies, James Doggett, John Dunn, Steve Crossley-Smith, Andy Haile, Richard Hall, Andrew Johnston, Alastair Lord, David Parker, Tony Reeve and Mark Roberts

Society Administrator: Pam Rumney

To contact the society please Email

The Society - [osb@stbeesschool.co.uk](mailto:osb@stbeesschool.co.uk) - David Lord - [davidflord@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:davidflord@hotmail.co.uk) - Pam Rumney [osb@stbeesschool.co.uk](mailto:osb@stbeesschool.co.uk)



### 3. St. Bees Enterprises Limited

St. Bees Enterprises Limited is a limited company incorporated in August 1997. This company is essentially the commercial arm of the school and manages a number of assets across the St. Bees School campus e.g the Whitelaw Management Centre and the golf course. In a similar way to the reformation of the trust, this company is currently undergoing a change of officers.

Tom Kelly is however the company secretary and you can make contact with him using the e mail address [Tom.Kelly@stbeesschool.co.uk](mailto:Tom.Kelly@stbeesschool.co.uk)

#### The relationship between the 3 Organisations

All three bodies are absolutely aligned in their desire to achieve the mission as stated. Routine communications between the groups is paramount and to further aid this alignment a number of officers are now common to all bodies.



#### Who Owns the Assets?

Assets are distributed between the three bodies as follows:-

##### A. St. Bees School ( The Trust )

Foundation Building, School House & the Headmasters Residence, The Whitelaw building, Memorial Hall, Swimming pool and Gym, Science Block, Stackyard Barn, CCF Huts, Grindal House, Abbots Court, the Chapel , the Library, Fox Music School (Barony) and The Sportshall

In addition to the grounds in front of The Foundation and Memorial Hall, the trust does own various parcels of land.

In summary these are made up of:

the land behind Abbots Court,

the land behind Monkscroft,

the land behind the rifle range and the science block,

land adjacent to Peckmill and the golf course, and land on the Whitehaven road and Meadow House paddock

*The trust does have various other assets in the form of mineral leases, wind turbines etc .*

## B. The St. Beghian Society ( OSB )

The assets of the Society, which have been purchased by the Society over the last 60-70 years through the Old St Beghians' Guarantee Trust Fund are listed below. For ease of administration, the assets are now registered in the name of OSB Nominee Ltd

### St Beghian Society Assets

- a) Lonsdale Terrace numbers 1 - 11
- b) Memorial Field (Roadside and Wallside)
- c) Land at Wood Lane (also known as School House Lane)

## C. St. Bees Enterprises Limited

St. Bees Enterprises Limited has no assets but is used as the operational company for the purposes of contracting with suppliers and employing staff etc.



## Preserving the Site

The buildings that make up the school have been successfully mothballed since the schools closure in September. Security is high, and routine and emergency maintenance activities are being carried out. The condition of the assets therefore remains reasonable, but the trustees acknowledge that significant investment is needed to bring the facilities up to modern educational standards.

The school buildings form a fundamental base on which to develop an operational educational model and there is no intention of making any wide-spread sale of the school's properties. The School and the Society will however carry out the sale of an asset if it is in the best interests of the achievement of the mission and subject to restrictions of confidentiality will keep the Parish Council, the community and the Old St Beghians informed.

A possible sale of assets that is currently going through the planning process is a proposal to revert the school accommodation at Lonsdale Terrace back to individual houses. The OSB will, with the trust, consider the sale of these assets if their sale is needed to support the overall school mission.

Sara Gough is developing a small group that will be responsible for the management of the school's assets and they will provide the focal point to planning authorities and any general enquiries relating to the properties listed.

Contact [Sara.Gough@stbeeschool.co.uk](mailto:Sara.Gough@stbeeschool.co.uk) but please be understanding if there is any delay to your communication. The group are currently working to fully understand the breadth and detail of all assets.



## Our staff

The school continues to employ a number of local people to maintain the school assets and manage school business. The trustees are appreciative of their dedication during the difficult months since school closure, and hope that the reopening of some of the facilities will provide a more vibrant and satisfying working environment.

James Davies, the former headmaster of the school leaves the campus in March and the trustees thank him for his dedication in helping with the essential school closure activities required since the final cohort of students left the school in the summer of 2015.



## Use of school facilities

Clearly the maintenance of assets and staff costs ensures that our monthly balance sheet shows a significant loss of school funds every month that the school is closed. In an attempt to redress that loss a working group has been formed that is charged with the realisation of greater revenue from the school's assets. Sara Gough, Robert Miller, Tom Kelly and Harry Strong form the basis of that working group and are actively seeking appropriate, short and longer term, commercial opportunities for the site while the team seek an appropriate educational model for the school.



We are seeking to work closely with the St Bees Golf Club committee and Aquasplash to maintain the golf course and swimming pool for the use of the school and community as a whole. The sports hall has regular bookings and we are delighted that there will be a Springfest and two Summerfest children events at the school this year. For details of these events please go to the schools website.



As we open more of the school facilities to the village and its wider community please engage with us and we will make every attempt to satisfy a need if we can. We are being approached for a wide and diverse use of school facilities including weddings, cricket matches etc., and we are happy to discuss any such enquiry with you.

For any queries regarding the use of school facilities please contact [lettings@stbeesschool.co.uk](mailto:lettings@stbeesschool.co.uk) or ring 01946 828000, or contact a member of the working group above. ***We are very keen to work with our local businesses and community in a collaborative way*** to open our facilities to the public. If you think that there is a business opportunity to work with us please make contact as above.



# The Educational Options

Mark Rocca, Mark Roberts, Mark George and Shaun Kelso form the working group that are leading the trusts primary activity. That being the identification of the most appropriate educational model for the school going forward.

Over the last six months several options have been considered some of which were suspended and a number of which remain active possibilities. Given this critical point in our mission the trustees have decided to continue discussions with the active options, re-examine the previously suspended options and opened a work stream that is charged with identifying new options. To that end the trustees are engaging with a professional company to identify any appropriate partners within the UK and across the globe.

If you believe an educational option exists that satisfies our mission which you would like the trustees to consider, please email a member of the working group. Your input will be very welcome.

## The Schedule of Events

The schedule of events published at School closure remains the same save for identifying an educational option which has been extended to September 2016:-

- December 2015 Mothball the school facilities.
- September 2016 Identify the educational option
- September 2017 Partial or total opening of the school



## Learning from the past

The school has witnessed many highs and lows during its four hundred year history and will use it to help form the future model. The trustees are of the view that it is the future of the school that is of paramount importance and all resources will be applied to that rather than, dwelling on the circumstances of the school's closure last year.

# Prospective parents

The trustees do fully sympathise with the parents and children impacted by the schools closure last year and all the trustees (some of whom were in the rescue team) wished that circumstances would have been different. Moving forward however prospective parents are contacting the school requesting information on the nature of the school that may be re-established and when the school opening is likely to occur. In an effort to keep this critical dialogue open we are maintaining a 'prospective parent's directory'.

The directory has a number of uses:-

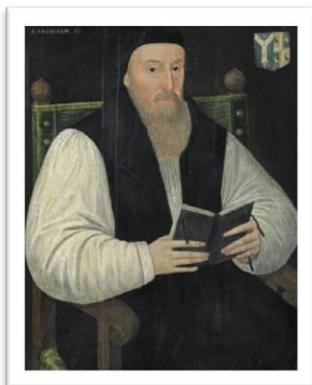
1. As the structure of the school model develops and the trustees are faced with educational options, we will use this directory as the primary source of individuals through which our consultations will be based.
2. We will use the data in the directory to underpin the reasoning for the type of educational facility chosen, and use the numbers of children in the directory as indication of the demand for the school.

If you would like your name to be added to this directory please send:-

- Your name
- Your contact e-mail address
- And the age range of prospective school child ie
  - Primary ( age 5 – 11 years )
  - Secondary ( age 11 – 15 years )
  - Sixth form ( age 16 + years )

To [admissions@stbeesschool.co.uk](mailto:admissions@stbeesschool.co.uk)

Please be assured that your details will remain confidential, and your enquiry does not in any way commit you to the future use of the school.



# Website Communications

Increasing routine communications will be issued through the trust's website and we encourage you to monitor it if you wish to be kept informed of latest developments with the school.

[www.stbeesschool.co.uk](http://www.stbeesschool.co.uk)

The St Beghian Society updates its members via its website at

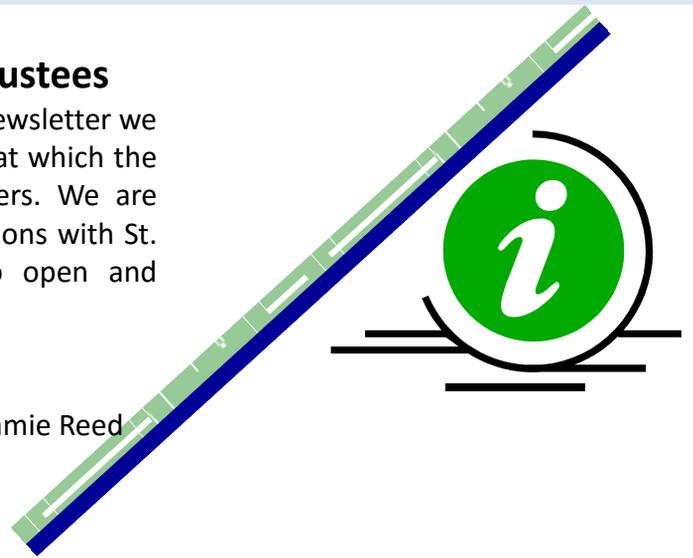
[www.st-beghian-society.co.uk](http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk)

Prospective partners and backers do use the internet as an important source for establishing background information on their target company/trust. As such it would be of great benefit to the school's mission if the websites and facebook pages from last year's rescue teams could be disabled. We will work with the owners of these media sources to that end if possible.

## Future Communications from the Trustees

We hope that by the issuing of this first school newsletter we herald a step change in the way and frequency at which the school communicates with you our stakeholders. We are committed to regular and in depth communications with St. Bees Parish Council, and we are looking to open and maintain similar communications with :-

- Our Borough and County Councils.
- The Mayor of Whitehaven and our local MP, Jamie Reed
- Local small and large business's
- Prospective Parents



## Public Consultation

Over the next three months we do expect that the individual trustees form into an efficient and open Board of trustees and that progress will have made against many of our high priority activities.

Accordingly, it is our intention to run a series of public consultation meetings in April 2016 to update you on progress. These consultation sessions will give you the opportunity to engage with:-

- The trustees and officers of St. Bees Enterprises Ltd
- Officers of the St. Beghian Society
- The team defining the schools future educational model.
- The team marketing the schools facilities

There will also be the opportunity to take an escorted tour of the school's buildings and grounds.

## And Finally:

*We do hope that this newsletter is seen as a positive step forward in school communications and any comments or questions can be directed to any of the trustees e mail addresses contained herein.*

*With any such enterprise there will always be commercial information that the trustees will choose not to make public, but please be assured that there are no hidden agendas attached to the schools mission, and we will communicate openly whenever possible.*

*We will not achieve our mission and re-establish a vibrant and sustainable school without the support of the community and local businesses so please engage with us, use our facilities and tell us what we are doing wrong and what we are doing right. If you can provide any other support, in any other capacity or have any suggestions please do contact one of the trustees.*

*Thank you,*

**The Trustees of St. Bees School**