



The Old St Beghian

January 2021

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From Our New President Howard Graham (FS 80-87)

This has been possibly the quietest start to any Old St Beghian's Presidency ever - not really what I'd planned when my hope was to get OSBs to connect!

I'd firstly like to thank Peter Lever, the out-going President, for his sterling work and indeed all of the 'Committee' that are steering the school and the Society through this difficult time. One of those working hard in the background, Dacre Watson, has written an interesting piece for this Bulletin reminding us that the school has been through tough times before and has fought through.

I spent seven years at St Bees, on Eaglesfield and Foundation South, and enjoyed it immensely. Academia was not my passion, but sport, and particularly rugby, was what enthused me, although to be honest, the running leagues around the golf course in January possibly slip below maths in the pecking order.

I made many fantastic friends at St Bees that are still my closest now and I have made a point of looking up OSBs wherever I've been in the world. With my rugby and military background I've been lucky enough to be able to have a catch up and a beer with many from Kenya to Dubai and Singapore to Egremont. From drama to March and Shoot and kitchen raids* to Saturday nights on the beach with your chosen friends and beverage, it was the variety that this unique school, near the edge of the earth, offered (and offers) its pupils that shaped the likes of me and you for life. This is a common theme when I speak to other OSBs. Having said that, I also understand that not everyone's time at St Bees was filled with the highs that I remember; but chatting with those ex-pupils, they still have a real

affection for and affinity with the school. Reminiscing about teachers we feared, or shall we say were less approachable, the slightly mad ones and the ones that inspired us, it was those special people that had a large hand in our school life, and despite being slipped or caned often, it is they that I and my friends remember fondly. My favourite, but possibly not the soundest bit of advice that I've taken-on in life, came from a teacher while he was driving the school mini bus down narrow lakeland roads packed with eighteen (usually travel-sick) kids. 'Remember,' he proffered, 'slowing down doesn't make the gap any bigger.' This is our Society and it has to be we that ensure its continuance. In this digital age there are so many ways to connect, but finding the best medium for all is not simple. I understand that Facebook is basically a narcissist's dream and also that not everyone is on that platform, but I hope you may know another OSB that is. Ask them to pass on any information and in this way we can communicate with greater numbers. We currently have the official OSB Society Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/osbsociety/>), which has a limited number of contributors, but I think we should start a social page to allow OSBs to post St Bees-related news, memories and quips as well as organising events or networking for employment. Everyone will be confirmed as an OSB before being accepted and the content will be policed to ensure it is appropriate. The new page will have direct input from you and will be called the OSB Social Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/427579695153162/?ref=share>).

Please invite others to join the groups; be the catalyst to get a group together for an event or organise your own.

I hope reading this sparks some of your memories from St Bees and will push you to connect in some way with an old friend.

Finally, we are asking for subscriptions to support the survival of the Society. The school will, I hope, now build its pupil numbers once again, but whatever happens our Society will continue if we support it. Please make the effort to set up an annual payment and corral others to do so. If you were wondering what the * was for in my text above, it is a reminder to all that know that there are at least 80 former pupils who owe the school for some extra meals and snacks that were eaten in the 1980s!

If you have any ideas of how we may expand the Society for the better in anyway whatsoever, then I'd love to hear from you at howiegraham@hotmail.com.

Here's to a better New Year!

Howard Graham (FS 80-87).

The St Beghian Society Subscription Appeal.

The Society's appeal for an annual subscription, launched by the St Beghian Society Committee under my Presidency, has met with limited success (13% response). I would like to thank sincerely the 270 Old St Beghians who have rallied to the call and supported the appeal. The annual subscription sum raised to date equates to circa £10,000, which is of significance, but falls well short of the target that was considered necessary to support adequately the administration of the Society and widen the scope of its activities.

The OSB Committee will therefore consider further the ongoing financial position of the Society at its next meeting.

All Society Life Memberships are sacrosanct, whether people subscribed to the appeal or not, and OSBs will continue to receive all Society communications and invitations. School leavers became life members of the Society when they left school, provided their Society membership had been paid. While leavers' subscriptions ensured the Society would be financed into the future, the school's closure disrupted this, and until pupil numbers increase significantly, cash flows into the Society will not meet outgoings.

In this Bulletin I have written an article reporting on the current activity and strategy of the St Bees School Charitable Trust, of which I am a Trustee. It was evident in the response to the subscription appeal that there was a lack of understanding of the Trust's current role. I hope that this article will be of interest and add credence to the subscription appeal.

Alongside the appeal to St Beghian Society Members, a relaunch of the Society at school level has taken place not only in St Bees, but also at the two Chinese St Bees Schools which opened in 2020. With the school's populations projected to rise significantly over the next three years, the Society will gain a financial impetus from new members in due course.

For those of you who have not supported the Society appeal to date I would ask you please to think again.

**Peter G. Lever,
Grindal 62-66.**

Society Accounts

As there was no AGM in 2020, the Society accounts were not circulated to Members as usual. If you wish to see the accounts please email or telephone the OSB office and we will gladly arrange to send a copy to you.

Calendar of Events

2021

January	tbc	Hong Kong / Shenzhen Gatherings
February		
March	tbc	St Beghian Society Committee Meeting
April	Fri 2nd – Mon 5th	Halford Hewitt Golf Competition
May		
June	Friday 4th	Cumbria Dinner
July		
August		
September	Saturday 25th	St Beghians' Day, AGM & Com. Meeting
October	Date tbc in July	London Social
November	Wednesday 3rd	North East Dinner
	Mid November	Scottish Gathering
	Late Nov/Early Dec	Singapore Lunch
December	tbc	Thomas Froggatt Rugby Match, Cumbria
During 2021	Date tbc	London Dinner

Further information and details of dates and/or cancelled/rescheduled events will continue to be posted on the Society website and facebook pages, as relevant, in between Bulletin issues - Please keep checking these pages.

St Bees School Charitable Trust: December 2020.

As recent OSB President I have frequently been asked questions concerning the running of the school and the current role of the Charitable Trust.

This is a summary of the events at school, leading to the current position, as seen through the eyes of a Trustee. This summary should answer many of those questions.

Four Old St Beghians, including myself, are Trustees of the St Bees School Charitable Trust.

The Trust has two primary functions, firstly to provide an educational opportunity for children through the utilisation of the school estate and its educational heritage and secondly, to manage the financial affairs of the Charitable Trust. The principal assets of the Trust are the land and buildings.

The school reopened in September 2018, three years after closure. St Bees School Charitable Trust and Full Circle Education, a Chinese education group, established a joint venture company to achieve this.

The Trust took a 25% share in the company, providing the school estate to the company free of cost. Full Circle took the majority 75% share.

The reopening of the school was beset with difficulties, with the costs of reopening significantly higher than the original budget had forecasted.

The condition of the buildings had suffered during the closure, and to meet legislation and safety standards, significant money had to be spent upgrading the services and facilities. It became apparent during this process that the maintenance of the school buildings had been badly neglected over an extended period.

The Trust was unable to fund fully its share of the rising reopening cost from its reserves and attempts to raise capital from the sale of non-essential assets proved difficult. Full Circle consequently loaned £577k to the Trust to fund its share of these costs up to January 2018. Reopening costs were forecast to continue to rise again in 2019 and Full Circle declined to fund the Trust further within the joint venture agreement. The Trust had made no progress at that stage raising capital from the sale of assets and had no alternative but to surrender its 25% share in the joint venture to Full Circle to allow the project to continue. The School Trustees therefore relinquished governorship of the school at this stage.

Since January 2019 Full Circle Education Group has financed and managed St Bees School, their Senior Leadership Team assuming total educational

responsibility. The maintenance of those school buildings and facilities required to accommodate the developing school has also been their full responsibility.

Currently the Trust continues to have an outstanding, interest-accruing debt to Full Circle, a matter the Trust is working hard to address. Full Circle has generously deferred the repayment date of their loan.

An operating agreement exists between the Trust and Full Circle to ensure that the school is managed in line with Trust expectations and St Bees School's traditions. A formalised reporting process is in place through which the Trust assesses the performance of Full Circle as the school operator.

The Trust maintains the right to terminate its agreement with Full Circle at any time, if the agreed performance criteria are not met.

An Intellectual Property agreement also exists between the Trust and Full Circle permitting Full Circle to use the St Bees School name to market its 'St Bees Schools in China'. In due course the Trust will receive royalty payments from Full Circle for this Intellectual Property. Full Circle opened two new schools in China in 2020 with a capacity in excess of 2000 pupils. They have recently signed letters of intent to open a third school in 2021.

The school in St Bees currently has 50 pupils, almost equally split between day pupils and boarders. September 2020 saw numbers nearly double from the previous year. Pupil numbers need to reach around 150 for the school to be financially viable. This figure however assumes that the level of bursary support can be successfully managed. Attracting new pupils is difficult. To date there has been limited interest from local families, and school numbers have been enhanced by bursary-sponsored, foreign students. At the present time there are no exchange students from the Full Circle Chinese Schools at St Bees.

The school provides a happy and secure environment with both teachers and students achieving highly satisfactory results. Roger Sinnett, the Headmaster, is proving to be the perfect catalyst for the reopening project and success to date under his stewardship has been most encouraging.

Since January 2019 a principal focus of the Charitable Trust has been the profitable management of the St Bees School estate to generate revenue to repay the Full Circle loan and maintain those buildings not required by the school. This is a challenging task ranging from the commercial activity of running the Management Centre as a conference and meeting centre, collecting and negotiating rents and royalties and disposing of assets. Currently negotiations are ongoing for the sale of Grindal House and Abbott's Court.

A further major issue is the negotiation of Trust mineral royalties. In the event that West Cumberland Mining is successful in its application to reopen the Whitehaven colliery, the Trust holds the mineral rights on the land involved in this project.

Going forward, the reopening project is dependent upon rising pupil numbers and the financial commitment of Full Circle. St Bees is the ‘corner stone’ of the Full Circle educational vision and the Trustees remain confident that the project will ultimately succeed, however it will take time and further substantial financial input.

**Peter G. Lever (G 61-66),
Trustee.**

SCHOOL NOTES

Headmaster’s Overview of 2020

By Roger Sinnett

Dear St Beghians,

It is with pleasure that I put metaphorical pen to virtual paper and provide you with a brief summary of what has been happening at St Bees during the past year.

As you will be aware through regular bulletins, press releases and notifications, since its recent rebirth St Bees School has pioneered the concept of character development. We have taken ten character attributes - e.g. teamwork, leadership, critical thinking, confidence, etc. - and integrated them into every facet of the students’ education in order that IQ and EQ are developed in balance to produce caring, confident ladies and gentlemen of character. This was, of course, Archbishop Grindal’s original vision. Sure enough, 18 months down the road and we are witnessing clear evidence of success - the first green shoots which predict the forthcoming harvest.

So what is this harvest? What outcomes do we see? Certainly it is too early to view examination results. We do not have students in Year 11, so no GCSE results yet, and one student will sit her A levels this coming summer. What we clearly see, however, is the very real growth in maturity in our students. This maturity produces a positive attitude to learning which in turn produces more effective learning. We now have a school which enjoys a positive, ‘can-do’ ethos with overwhelmingly positive interpersonal relations between all parties.

Nothing succeeds like success, as the saying goes, and this success is working its way into the local, national and international consciousness. At the start of this academic year the student roll increased from 15 to 53 to include a growing number from the local community, who have heard such positive things about St Bees. We now have students from Turkey, Romania, Germany and Kazakhstan with hopes to recruit others from China in the coming year.

Covid 19 has, of course, had a real impact on our school community. The measures we have taken to shield the students from infection have been proven to be highly effective and, unlike most neighbouring schools, we have not had to close any of our provision. But the Covid impact has been extensive in terms of disruption to school procedures. Our senior team has burned the midnight oil, providing the school community with a matrix of Covid-proof practices which to date have safeguarded us from contagion.

That was the ‘Covid impact’. So what about the ‘Covid dividend’? Throughout the summer term our team of doughty teachers provided a full online timetable which met with unanimous approval from all parents and - albeit a little reluctantly from a few - most students. The end of year examination results provided clear proof that learning advanced successfully despite lockdown, and students had increased opportunities to develop their resilience, perseverance, independence and personal organization as they studied from the home environment: a well-deserved standing ovation for our St Bees teachers for their singleminded and unrelenting pursuit of excellence.

We have now reached the end of term and exams, along with parent reports, have been completed. I am pleased to say that the results have shown measurable improvement across the board - which has brought a broad smile to the faces of all concerned as they wend their way home for the holiday.

Finally from me, some news from China. You will already know that two new St Bees Schools opened their doors back in September. At St Bees UK, we continue to act as the so-called ‘mothership’ for these fledgling schools. We hold biweekly online mentoring sessions with their leaders, ensuring that they develop into clearly recognisable St Bees Schools even though they are on the other side of the world. We are pleased to announce that a third China-based St Bees School is in planning - this time located in the deep south of the Guangdong province, and situated in a beachside resort. With the developer eager to start building, it is remarkable that they intend to open the doors on the first phase of development in six months’ time. Naturally this places us under extreme pressure to set up the school leadership, its teaching and support staff and gain all the regulatory approvals within such a tight time-frame.

OSBs - a new dimension

This term saw the creation of an extension to The St Beghian Society, as we welcomed present students into its midst, bringing both past and current students together in a supportive society. Community plays a huge role in life here at St Bees; it brings us all together and makes school fun, enjoyable and, most of all, allows us all to come together as a unique St Bees family. Now, for the first time in over a century, the Society is opening up to current students of the school, providing access to a supportive network of students - both past and present - during their time at St Bees School. From now on, all those who join us here at St Bees will automatically be enrolled into the Society, continuing throughout their time with us. This means that the Society will now play home to students aged 11-18, as well as the existing members.

The OSBs is a global network - people from all backgrounds, involved in all walks of life, with one common connection - a small village on the edge of the Western Lake District - St Bees. Opening up the St Beghian Society to current students is a huge event in our history - and we are extremely proud to be able to share this momentous occasion with you all. Watch this space for more student St Beghian Society updates.

As we approach the festive season and a new year, it gives me great pleasure to report that your alma mater is alive, prospering and developing in ways we could only dream of a few years ago. This is despite the ravages of Covid and a heavily depressed economic environment. The continued support of our St Bees alumni is hugely important to us and we hope that you will continue to provide us with whatever means are at your disposal to enable us to continue this upward curve.

On behalf of all students, parents and staff at St Bees School I have pleasure in sending you our festive greetings and warm wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

**Roger Sinnett,
Headmaster.**

Bulletin Articles Sent Summer 2020

Following publication of the last Bulletin, a number of articles for the 2021 issue were sent directly to the Editor (rather than to the OSB office) and a computer problem caused their deletion. Would any OSBs who sent him such articles within two or three weeks of the last issue being posted, please resend them to him (tony@ajhreeve.plus.com) so that they may be included in the next issue. We apologise for any inconvenience caused. Thank you.

OSB NOTES

OSB Mike Blyth (SH 56-61) has asked if we will publicise an urgent request for help to petition to preserve the home of one of the school's three Victoria Cross winners. He writes as follows:

Dr John Fox Russell VC MC, a most celebrated OSB, was born in Plas Alltran, an architectural masterpiece standing like a silent sentinel at the entrance to Holyhead Ferry Port, Anglesey, North Wales - the second busiest Ferry Port in the UK after Dover. Plas Alltran is unique and was built in 1891 for Dr William Fox Russell, John's father. The architect was the notable Arthur Baker.

BBC Plas Alltran article may be seen at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-54343413>.

The Friends of Plas Alltran Petition is a request to Anglesey County Council (ACC) to find an initial £25,000 that is needed to kick-start restoration of this unique building and put it to good use in memory of a great hero. At present ACC are unwilling to find this £25,000, which is urgently needed to go with major funding from ACC and the Welsh Government for the complete restoration work. Before full restoration can go ahead later in 2021, the £25000 is urgently needed to arrest the deterioration of this celebrated building, which is at immediate risk from vandalism, arson and a leaking roof.

John Fox Russell was born in 1893. He attended Magdalen College Junior School, Oxford and then went as a boarder to St Bees School, Cumbria. At the age of only 16 he started his Medical Studies at the Middlesex Hospital and when World War 1 started he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps, then the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and went out to Egypt as a Medical Officer. In The First Battle of Gaza he repeatedly ran out under fire to attend to his wounded and dying comrades. For this he was awarded the Military Cross, the country's second highest military medal for gallantry. Later at the Battle of Tel-el-Khuwwilfeh in Palestine, Fox Russell again repeatedly ran out under fire to attend to his wounded and dying comrades. This time he himself was shot and tragically killed. For these great acts of courage and selflessness he was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously: our highest military medal for gallantry.

The citation reads: "For most conspicuous bravery displayed in action until he was killed. Captain Russell repeatedly went out to attend the wounded under murderous fire from snipers and machine guns, and in many cases, carried them in himself though almost exhausted. He showed the greatest possible degree of valour."

Russell was killed in action on 6th November 1917 and is buried at the Beersheba War Cemetery. His Victoria Cross is on display at the Army Medical Services Museum, Mytchett, Surrey.

See John Fox Russell Wikipedia here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Russell (VC).

The Friends of Plas Alltran Committee are: Chairman - Mike Jamison (FRCS and OSB), Vice Chairwoman - Elaine Davey (The Victorian Society, London), Treasurer - Andrew Davidson (CEO Gwynedd Archeological Trust), Secretary - Mike Blyth (OSB).

I have a growing list of Old St Beghians who have written that they would like to see this building restored and put to good use. With their permission this list is headed by two celebrated Old St Beghians: Stuart Lancaster, Senior Coach Leinster Rugby Club, and former England Rugby Union Team Coach (FN/AC 80-88) and Mike Jamison FRCS, Surgeon, Bangor, North Wales (F 61-65). I would be grateful if you could now add your name to this list to make sure Plas Alltran with a Dr John Fox Russell Blue Plaque is restored to its former glory. All on this list will be invited to the official opening and the unveiling of the Blue Plaque in memory of Dr John Fox Russell MC VC.

Please send your name to be added to the Petition as soon as possible to: Mike Blyth, Secretary, Friends of Plas Alltran, 59 Mill Lodge Estate, Llandegfan, Anglesey, LL59 5YB, Wales.

Many thanks, Mike Blyth (SH 56-61).

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan21bulletin>.

J.D.S. (Tim) Brown (G 53-59) writes:

“I noted with sadness in the last Bulletin the passing of three of my contemporaries: John Percy, Julian Eldridge, and Hugh John Boulter. John I met up with again after many years through his friendship with Bill Greetham, and Julian was a near neighbour of mine in Ambleside.

Sadly, I lost touch with Hugh John in the busy years of university and professional training. During our time at school our lives crossed so many times. He was a new boy, like me, on Meadow House, in September 1953.

Michael Green was meant to be in charge of the new boys, but Hugh John instantly took over. He introduced himself as the son of a former Headmaster, and recounted that he'd been born on School House, so knew the area very well, and would show us around.

On the first Sunday of the term, he organised us on our bikes with a morning trip over the hill to Rottington. In the afternoon he gathered together a group of us to be a little more daring and we went to PL (Philip Lever) for a blue ticket. He congratulated us on our initiative, and Hugh John led the way to Ennerdale through the sad streets of Cleator and Cleator Moor. We had a picnic by the lake and set off back. Hugh John said he knew an easier way back, but it proved longer and steeper and he failed to negotiate one particularly nasty bend, somersaulting

into a ditch. He emerged dripping blood and water, but had lost none of his exuberance. He was a very ebullient character with a very positive outlook. He led the way on a later occasion, with 'Wal' Ingham and me, on a three-quarter day expedition to Keswick, on the route described by Charles Hedley in the last Bulletin, stopping to see the Bowder Stone.

Throughout my six years at school, I worked with Hugh John in the Library and on the school magazine. I believe he was Chairman of the Debating Society and, in that capacity, arranged for me to speak for the Labour Party in one debate - quite an achievement!

Whilst at St Bees, I believe his father was then Rector of Satterthwaite, and I always envied Hugh John and his journeys to and from home on the little branch railway line up to Coniston.

How strange that I should park my car in what used to be Coniston Station only a week or two ago, and my thoughts went to Hugh John, wondering what had become of him. Sadly, I found out shortly afterwards that he had passed away. The recent contributions to the Bulletin reminded me of some excellent cycling excursions on my new Hercules model (with 3-speed gears), and also of three-quarter days. In my first three terms on Meadow House I was regularly out on a blue ticket, either to Ennerdale or Eskdale. I do remember the Anglers Arms at Ennerdale, where, I think, we could have ham and eggs for tea for half a crown. Sadly it was demolished to make way for a reservoir, which never really happened - an act of vandalism.

On our return to Meadow one Sunday, when most boys had been out and about, I remember Philip Lever entering the dormitory that evening and urging us to sleep well as we might be in prison the next night. Apparently some boys had been to a quarry and managed to push some equipment over the top. I never knew the outcome of this, save to say that none of us went to prison!

Three-quarter days were memorable occasions for cycle rides, and my trip to Keswick was the longest. My favourite spot was Eskdale, where we could sit by the river with our packed lunch and have a bathe in the afternoon in one of the many pools. I remember also exploring Borrowdale and walking over towards Grasmere.

Occasionally the school would organise a Cumberland bus to deposit us for a walk. One strenuous walk I did, with Mark Turner, was from Borrowdale into Langdale and back, via Sty Head Pass. We indulged in a glass of cider in the Dungeon Ghyll hotel. Another time we were taken to Housesteads and walked along the Roman Wall to Chollerford for a nice afternoon tea at the George. On another occasion, with Peter Stewart and Bill Greetham, I climbed Ingleborough. It was a distressing occasion as it was at the height of the myxomatosis epidemic and our route was littered with sick and dead rabbits.

It was another forty years or so before I climbed it again, also with Bill Greetham, but this time with his wife, Ursula.

Years later, when I resumed acquaintance with my old English master, Paul Williams, I asked him if he, and other masters, used to check on our three-quarter day activities to see that nothing was amiss. 'Why should we?' he replied ' You all came back safely.' Enough said. We were all expected to use initiative and to assess risks for ourselves."

Ian Chapman (G/AC 73-80) has sent in a reminiscence of the late J.R. Offord (G/AC 75-80).

“Pray tell me the story of young Cuchullainn,/ How his eyes were dark his expression sullen,/ And how he'd fight and always won,/ And how they cried when he was fallen.”

The lyrics are by Thin Lizzy from a song played in our studies back in 1970s St Bees. I would apply them to one of our number, who did not originally get an obituary in the Bulletin, John Royston Offord.

John was one of the best sports' players in the school, and you can see him in many of the team photos of the era. He was captain of tennis, holder of the middle-distance cup, and in his final school year took the steeplechase record by over a minute. He was also a very combative character, with the traditional gladiatorial dislike of the soldier.

Website links to view John in the 1979 1st XV and school cross country team photos: [http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/Pics2 1979.html](http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/Pics2%201979.html) **and also captain of the tennis team:** [http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/Pic Ken Ho Tennis Team June 1981.html](http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/Pic%20Ken%20Ho%20Tennis%20Team%20June%201981.html).

He was on Grindal, with a final year on Abbots Court by compulsory transfer. John greatly missed playing the role of assistant house sports' coach to the junior boys. He went out in a Foundation North shirt to break the steeplechase record, and returned morosely, saying the teacher tried to query the watch because it was by over a minute - though I may be confused about this incident. He used to subscribe to cinema magazines, and go to both big releases and sometimes more obscure art films. His favourite actor was James Caan, in films such as 'Rollerball' and 'The Gambler'.

He later went to Newcastle Polytechnic in his home city. The Offord family controlled much of the North East's fishing business. John used to work down on the Tyneside fish docks, filleting fish in the early morning during school holidays. One summer I went up to Newcastle and met up with John. We were fifteen or sixteen, and went down to the dock, getting haircuts in a barbers right on the quayside. John was like the 'prince of the docks'.

He made an earthly exit in 1982, at twenty years of age. The 1980s coroner

returned a verdict of suicide. Perhaps modern times might have said 'misadventure'."

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan21bulletin>.

Neil Dumbleton (FS 60-64) has kindly contributed some: memories of St Bees.

"I have enjoyed the reminiscences of a number of contemporaries at St Bees printed in recent issues of the *Old St Beghian*. After decades of focusing on other priorities in our lives, it seems natural that our post retirement years should provide a welcome and overdue opportunity to look at where we've come from. I certainly share the generally upbeat sentiment of previous contributions, even if some of those memories (sport, three-quarter days, extra-curricular activities) are considerably warmer than others (CCF, double physics, Foundation House food!). Overall, the pluses certainly outweighed the minuses.

However, there have been comparatively few words written in recent contributions about teaching at the school. There is clearly no means of knowing where St Bees stood in the academic league table of private schools in north-west England in the 1960s. Like most schools, its teaching staff was drawn from a wide range of backgrounds and drew on a wide range of abilities. From a personal perspective I was particularly indebted to two of them. Nigel Gilpin arrived at the school to teach English literature in 1962, the year that I entered the Lower Sixth. He had a remarkable ability to engage and enthuse his classes. It was he above all who taught me to reach my own conclusions about the set texts and then prepare my arguments to justify those conclusions. After years of simply memorising facts and quotations and then regurgitating someone else's opinions, this was a radically new departure. Possibly sub-consciously, I applied that lesson to my main subject, history, in which Ronald Johnson had pumped me with facts through 'O' Level. But I am at least equally indebted to him. After two years of concentrating on the 18th and 19th centuries, it was Ronald Johnson who recognised that repetition and the resulting boredom had sapped my interest in the subject and who decided, some months before my Cambridge Entrance exams, to divert my studies to the 16th and 17th centuries. Assisted by some private tuition, that proved to be a transformational decision, both in reviving my interest in history and then in passing those exams. Regrettably, I left it too late to express my gratitude to Nigel Gilpin. A letter to his widow was an unsatisfactory substitute. But hopefully Ronald Johnson is still receiving the *Old St Beghian* in Australia. If that is the case, please accept this very belated message of thanks. Beyond the teaching and other central features of St Bees life reported in earlier contributions, I also have special memories of a number of exceptional events organised by the school. The pioneering climbing visit to the Atlas Mountains in

Morocco in March – April 1963 left a lasting impression on me, and my life-long love of the hills also owes much to days walking in the West Cumbrian fells led by Peter Croft and to adventures climbing with Gordon Dyke. Sport formed a large part of everyone's lives at school, but I feel particularly fortunate to have had the opportunity to engage in so many minor sports. I took up badminton, played a great deal of fives, and began a period of some thirty years chasing the squash ball. Away from St Bees, the school ran theatre trips to neighbouring towns. Top of my memories was my introduction to the work of Dylan Thomas at a performance of *Under Milk Wood* in Barrow. Finally, my last term at St Bees coincided with the General Election of October 1964. A small group of sixth formers was taken to the final eve-of-election rallies of the two main parties in Whitehaven. The Labour event was a mass gathering of the faithful in a seat that they could not possibly lose. How times have changed!

My academic life at St Bees turned out to be a solid stepping stone paving the way to my future university and professional career, and I look back on my sporting and extra-curricular activities there as the icing on the cake of my overall school experience. But arguably, even more important to me were the friendships that I made and the social skills that I developed which helped me to build and retain future friendships and professional relationships. Loyalty, teamwork, helping others and learning how to thrive in a competitive environment were not on the school curriculum, but St Bees provided a perfect testing ground on which to develop those skills. Of the friends that I made there, I stayed in touch with Mike Jamison while we were both at Cambridge, and David Griffiths and Anthony Wills both came to my wedding in Belfast. Sixty years after we first met, I am still very close to Richard Langhorne. That alone gives me good reason to look back favourably on over four years at St Bees School.”

Colin Edney (FN 50-54) has sent the following:

“Reading Rob Rew’s article in the July edition of the Bulletin prompted many memories of my time at St Bees, and the fact that he had a poster of the 1952 production of *The Pirates of Penzance* signed by all the cast was remarkable. The Producer, Mr. Schofield, gave me my first experience of a ‘con job’ as he took me to one side and told me how I was so good at singing that it was helping my fellow pupils with their performance. I was bursting with pride only to discover that he had said this privately to every member of the cast in an effort to improve the whole show!

The national lockdown and now the local restrictions have given all of us an opportunity of reflecting on life generally and, for me, from many years ago. I entered Foundation in September 1950 and at that time discipline was enforced by the house prefects, and one of the first requirements was to be able to recite the

names of those prefects in order of seniority when asked at any time, something I can still do to this day. Failure to get it right resulted in a 'Triangle' or, if the prefect was in a bad mood, a 'High Walton'.

I left St Bees in 1954 when Head of Zweek - a year earlier than usual - because once I had obtained the necessary O levels to start my five year articles to become a solicitor, and with the financial constraints of a further year in private education (in spite of T. A. Brown's offering me a middle school scholarship), plus the prospect of two years' National Service, it would be at least another seven years before I could be of any benefit to my father, who was a sole practitioner in Berwick-upon-Tweed, a town which has always been my home. In those days, for me personally, going to university did not have any attraction. As well as a formal education at St Bees, we had at that time the opportunity of enjoying a wide range of sporting activities, and as I came from a sporting-minded family, this was very much of great personal benefit. My father was a county standard tennis and hockey player and my mother somewhat of a pioneer by being a girls' PE teacher in the 1920s. This was reflected perhaps more on my sister's side as she is the mother of Judy Murray and grandmother to Jamie and Andy Murray. As their great uncle Colin, I have had the privilege of being at the Centre Court for both of Andy's Wimbledon triumphs as well supporting Jamie and Andy in Belgium when winning the Davis Cup as well as on many other memorable occasions

My own sporting prowess has been extremely modest by comparison, although during the 1960s I did represent the County of Northumberland at golf and was selected as a member of the Borders Group in the National Badminton Scottish District Championships.

I was lucky enough to be much involved with Round Table during the heady days of the 60s and 70s. I was elected to the National Executive in 1969 and became National Secretary for two years before standing, unsuccessfully as National President in 1973. In hindsight it may have been a blessing in disguise in view of the expense and commitment of time that such a position demanded, but the many valued friendships made throughout the UK during that period still hold true to this day.

I remained in private practice all my working life before retiring in January 1993 as the senior partner of a small four-partner country practice.

I married Pamela in 1962 and we had two children - Clive (FN 74-81) and Josephine. Pamela was always interested in horses and encouraged me to join her in riding out and eventually subscribing to the College Valley and North Northumberland Hunt for some 28 seasons. The CVNNH is a hill pack and very much welcomed by the local hill farmers, whose livelihood is greatly dependent on fox control.

Having had great fun in being involved in horse racing syndicates with four or five friends (National Hunt only), I was tempted to buy a racehorse of my own, which I named Foundation North. This venture was spectacularly unsuccessful and he was retired after only one season. I hope no OSB saw it running and backed it because of the name!

Sadly, Pamela died unexpectedly in 2003 but I was left with 41 years of happy memories which remain with me to this day. In 2009 I remarried and Anne and I are enjoying a fairly quite retirement. I still play golf (very badly) and after over 40 years of competitive bridge, this has had great benefits in passing the time in online bridge events, which are a godsend in the present Covid climate.

Looking back I have a lot to thank the school for in giving me the confidence to meet the vicissitudes of life that we all have faced in the years that followed.”

David Elston (FS 65-70) has kindly forwarded the following reminiscences:

“I much enjoyed Charlie Lambert’s rather eclectic recollections of St Bees in the last Bulletin, not least because I had a rather minor part in his production of ‘Murder in the Cathedral’, which he produced so skilfully, with Ken Davis’s superb portrayal of Thomas Becket. The setting, in the Priory, was absolutely perfect, reeking with atmosphere, not least when the four knights burst in (including Michael ‘Jonah’ Allen on fine form), and came storming up the nave. I also recall John W. Roberts (FS) did an excellent review of it for the next edition of the school magazine.

I was also rather flattered that Tom Tuohy kindly included a reference to me in his arboretum, which I will visit when life returns to something a bit more like normality. It sounds fascinating and such a great thing to do.

Those contributions led to my recalling some similarly eclectic and lighter memories of my own time at school from 1965 to 1970.

I had a rather bigger part in the sixth form play in 1970, ‘Poor Bitos’ by Jean Anouilh (in English, fortunately for players and audience alike), which I greatly enjoyed, and was produced impeccably by Chris Whitby. Tom Kelly had a fairly minor role, a butler, but managed to upstage the rest of us comfortably.

I regard myself as having had an ‘interesting’ sporting career at St Bees. My older brother John was a pretty competent all-rounder at most sports, so unfortunately unfounded assumptions were made in my first year by others as to my own potential prowess for junior house matches. The one thing I could do well, however, was run fast. At rugby I became a fairly high risk winger. If I managed to catch the ball, I could sprint to the try line and on a good day score a try, but there was always a risk that I dropped it or knocked on. Later in the sixth form, however, I did become a regular on the Third XV, Anthony Dearle’s team, and

we had some good results. We played Wyndham Comprehensive on one occasion (their 1st XV), at Egremont; after about ten minutes of the first half at a line out, a rather serious looking Anthony beckoned the Wyndham referee and had a quiet chat, as he had noticed Wyndham were fielding sixteen men, one of whom sheepishly ambled off. We won, something like 37-5, (so perhaps we should have let Wyndham have their sixteenth man).

I was really not cut-out for cricket, having extremely limited, in fact, no ability at throwing, batting, bowling, catching or fielding. (I was also scared stiff of the ball flying at me, although I never admitted to that but refused point blank to go in the slips.) So I was transferred to the athletics team, which I was cut out for, (I could long and high-jump as well as run) and really enjoyed that in the summer terms under Tom Rice. Furthermore, unlike cricket, which seemed to run on for hours with little happening, athletics was just an hour of hard work then off for a shower. We had another Wyndham incident. Wyndham organised an athletics match with a few other schools, including St Bees. One of my best distances was the 440 yards and I managed a scorching dash that afternoon and won. Indeed, the Wyndham master timing the race said my timing looked like a junior county record, which was great news. However, after about twenty minutes the position was clarified; it transpired that the groundsman had for some reason inadvertently set out the 440 at about 425 yards. What a shame.

I greatly enjoyed the choir. When I moved from being a treble, Brian Howard, the music master, decided I was a baritone so could try moving to the basses or the tenors. It was agreed I would start by joining the tenors, of whom the most prominent was Anthony Dearle. After a week or so he said he thought I would make a decent tenor, and added confidentially, 'Besides, amateur basses are two a penny.' That settled it for me. I was really pleased when Sunday services were transferred to the Priory, with its magnificent Henry Willis organ, which Brian took through its paces and we sang some really good anthems, the best of which (in my view) was Parry's 'I was glad'.

Anthony, of course, became the Foundation House Housemaster and in my last year I was his second Head of House (the first being John Dunn). I was (and still am) heavily into classical music, a real plus point as far as Anthony was concerned. One Sunday morning he came into the study I was in and asked somewhat conspiratorially, 'I've heard Brahms' second piano emanating from here twice in the last week' (almost as though this might be a breach of school rules) 'I take it you *do* know his first?' (as though not knowing it might be a further, more serious breach.) I confessed I did not know the first. 'Oh,' said Anthony in surprise, 'well, that is a mistake, you'd better come up to my study now and I'll lend one of my versions.' Not for the first time I was to benefit

hugely from his musical knowledge and generosity in lending (and occasionally giving) me LPs from his vast collection.

Anthony was much liked as a housemaster and knew exactly when to turn a blind eye, when to allow a bit of latitude, and when to draw the line. Occasionally, some of us would have a surreptitious pint or two at the Dog and Partridge in Sandwith and I wondered whether his lack of detection of these forays was a sign of turning a blind eye, or perhaps on occasion the whiff of beer was obscured by one or two of his pre-prandial glasses of 'dry sherry wine'.

In my last year Anthony decided to make me Vice-Captain of the 3rd XV. I don't think there had been a Vice-Captain for the Thirds before (or since probably), and certainly it was not based on sporting merit (as even Anthony accepted that some of my tries were achieved through 'brinkmanship'), nor do I recall making any contribution in team leadership in that exalted capacity (indeed in a game against Whitehaven Grammar School one of the team firmly suggested I keep my voice sotto voce during line-outs (I threw in) as I was in danger of inadvertently creating class warfare). I think it was because I was a tenor, Head of House, loved classical music and was by then Head of School and so Anthony decided this added some additional status to his beloved Foundation South, although I doubt anyone but the two of us really noticed this important honorary appointment. In September 2014 my wife and I had an excellent trip to St Bees for Old Boys' Day, at which Joan Lees named the refurbished pavilion after her late husband, Geoff, Headmaster for seventeen years. She was on terrific form at ninety, the sun shone, the school looked at its best with the new and highly motivated Headmaster, James Davies, who gave us all great confidence. We stayed at the Pheasant Inn at Bassenthwaite along with Joan and a few others, the Pheasant being refreshingly unchanged since the memories of 1960s Sunday lunches with parents. It was a lovely weekend. It was something of a shock therefore to hear only six months later of the school's closure. I decided to call Joan to tell her the sad news. She had already been advised and told me, 'When I heard I was absolutely gobsmacked,' before adding, 'actually, that's the first time I've ever used that word in my life.'

Gobsmacked? I think we all were."

Gordon Peel (FN 55-59) has forwarded the following regarding the anniversary of the Dam Busters' exploit.

"I thought I would write to mention something I have come across relating to our famous old boy, the late Air Chief Marshall Sir Augustus Walker.

Like many of us, I have increased my book reading over recent months and one of the books I am currently reading is called 'Chastise' by the historian Max Hastings, which is based on the famous wartime dam busters raid.

It is an interesting and well researched book, focussing on the main characters involved in the raid: in particular, Barnes Wallis, the brilliant engineer, Air Marshall 'Bomber' Harris and Wing Commander Guy Gibson, who led the raid. It is an excellent read.

I was intrigued to discover a couple of references to Gus Walker, who was station commander (then a group captain) to Gibson at one stage, at an RAF base called Syerston, where they became friends. Gus Walker was seriously injured, losing his right arm in trying to deal with a fire on a Lancaster bomber and Gibson, I gather was one of those who, on the day, accompanied him to hospital.

On coming across this, my mind went back some sixty years or so to St Bees. I was in the CCF and every year, as I recall, we had a CCF inspection parade, where a forces' dignitary would come along and inspect us.

On one occasion whilst I was there, I recall the inspecting officer was Air Marshall Sir Augustus Walker. It might have been around 1957. Bearing in mind the emphasis on Health and Safety these days, I recall being particularly impressed that he was still able to fly planes despite missing his right arm!

This prompted me to do a little bit of research on the internet and I am attaching a picture of an item held in the collection of 'mysterious objects' at The Science Museum in South Kensington. This device was commissioned by Gus to enable him to attach the strap to the joystick and the other end to his prosthetic arm, whilst controlling the aircraft with his left hand.

Also attached is an article and picture I found of Gus with Guy Gibson.

Interestingly around 1958, I think, we were also visited by Barnes Wallis for, I believe Speech Day. He lived not too far from where my wife and I live, being Chief Designer for Vickers. The book brings out the fact that he was something of a workaholic and most of his research work on the bouncing bomb was done in his spare time! Some of his early research on the bouncing techniques was carried out at the National Physics laboratories in Teddington, using golf balls!"

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan21bulletin>.

Link to OSB Website page re Barnes Wallis at Speech Day July 25th 1959 -

<http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/miles/1950-60/1958-59/speech%20day/speech%20day.html>

(Do any OSBs have memories of 'Gus Walker' which may be of interest to our readers? Ed.)

Colin Reid (FN 43-49) writes:

"My kids seem keen to have me write down memories of my life and I have been recalling my years at St Bees. The thing that perhaps strikes me most is the amount of time we spent running. In our first year we set off at a sprint every time we heard the fag bell. But every day for years we had the morning run before

breakfast. At the mid-morning break, if we had committed some misdemeanour, we would have the punishment of doing this morning run five times. This would take about fifteen minutes of our break and we did it at a sustained speed in order to finish before all the cocoa being served in the dining room had run out. Even if we were in time to get any, it was the tepid dregs. How refreshed we were to go back to the classrooms for the second half of the morning's lessons!

And after lunch what did we do? If we weren't swimming or playing tennis or fives or squash or rugby or cricket – why, we went running of course: miles and miles along country roads, in gangs of fellow-sufferers from our own houses, with the senior boys at the back yelling at us to keep the pace up. It was an easy day if it was only the Triangle at three-quarters of a mile, although this was done at a sustained sprint. The next longest was the Shore Run, slightly over a mile. After that the runs got more severe. The long drag up to High Walton. The Three Sisters Run starting with the gut-wrenching hill behind Abbey Farm. The days of deep gloom when the notice board condemned us to the Sandwith Run – past the Three Sisters for three miles and three miles back. That wasn't exercise it was emigration (to quote Private Spike Milligan's comment on General Montgomery's fitness regime)! And don't forget the agony of the junior and senior steeplechase. Just once a year but there were a few training runs beforehand. And do you remember the Standards Cup?

Every boy had to win points for his house by running a standard time for sprints and middle distance running – as well as a standard height for the high jump and the long jump.

And where did we get the energy for all this running? Why from the cordon bleu haute cuisine of course. At breakfast on my first day at St Bees I was faced with a plateful of grey sludge which was reputed to be porridge. It tasted as unappetising as it looked and I, as well as the other new ticks, handed my portion back when the plates were collected. By the time I had had a fortnight of the running regime, I was passing an empty plate for a second helping! We hoovered everything up. The roadkill stew, the frogspawn milk pudding; that lumpy pink blancmange which had the cloying smell of cheap scented soap and a skin like linoleum. We called it 'Betty Grable' after a glamorous Hollywood film star of the time, although I never discovered why. The piece de resistance was spotted dick – a long solid roll stretched out on the serving table, which matron hacked into portions – perhaps using a butcher's cleaver. We reckoned there were miles of it stored in the attic. When I described it to my father, he recognised it immediately. It had been inflicted on him thirty years previously when he was on Foundation, so there must indeed have been miles of it in the attic. It would have been useful as roof insulation. In my father's day it was called Dead Man's Leg, a very apt description. Its colour and texture suggested that it could have been made from

equal portions of putty and suet, and every two or three feet of its length there appeared a solitary and forlorn-looking date. I have been left with no memory of its taste, which is probably because it had none. It was of course the ideal ballast to have lying in your stomach like a lump of lead if one hour later, you were on the Three Sisters Run.

In later years I was not surprised to learn that the Borstal prisons for young male criminals were modelled on English public schools. If our parents had introduced us to a life of crime at an early age, by the time we were in our teens the state would have been paying for us to have the same education we got at St Bees. I might have used that stratagem for the benefit of my two boys as there was no way I could afford the fees; but as sons of a clergyman they might have found it a bit confusing!”

Dacre Watson (SH 56-62) writes:

John S. Boulter - Master at St Bees 1913-1939 and Headmaster from 1939-1945.

“During the summer an Old St Beghian friend, Hugh Boulter, died quite suddenly and his wife, Carol, asked me to contribute a short piece on the influence the Boulter family had on St Bees School, in particular Hugh’s father, John S Boulter, who became Headmaster in 1939 during a very difficult period for the school. During my time as President, Tony Reeve kindly presented me with a copy of the ‘History of St Bees from 1583 to 1939’, which I found fascinating and which helped me to write the account below. If any Old St Beghian cares to read this illuminating history, I have no doubt that they will experience a deep sense of déjà vu.

Hugh’s father, John Sydney Boulter, came to St Bees as a master in 1913 where I think he taught Classics (most Headmasters in those days seem to have been classicists). He appears to have followed the normal life of a master at a minor public school such as St Bees, immersing himself in particular in ‘games’ (rugby and cricket) as well as the cadet force which was probably known as the OTC in those days. He was also deeply involved in general Cumberland life.

As happens so frequently, it was only when the school was faced with serious financial difficulties which were threatening its closure, that JSB came to the fore and was the one who stood up to lead a remarkable recovery in the fortunes there. During the late 1930s St Bees School had experienced a steady fall in its numbers of pupils and by March 1938 the Headmaster (Howard Mallaby) was obliged to write to all parents that the school was in consultation with the Cumberland Education Authority with a view to changing its status so that it could come under the umbrella of that body; in other words, become a ‘maintained’ school.

This led to many of the parents who were left withdrawing their sons and thereby

exacerbating the problems the school was already facing. Later in March, the Headmaster issued a formal statement: ‘If these negotiations do not ultimately reach a satisfactory conclusion, the Governing Body will be compelled to close the School after July 1939.’

In May the Headmaster announced his retirement, and the fact that Mr J S Boulter would become Headmaster the following September.

Notwithstanding the dismay felt by those involved with education in Cumberland and in the nation generally, there was little coordinated action by anyone.

However, the annual Old St Beghians’ Day was held at St Bees in June 1938 and it was at this meeting that John Boulter came forward with a plan which, if accepted by the Governors, might just give the school a chance of surviving and even of prospering. John Boulter turned to the Old St Beghians in an appeal for financial help, asking them to raise among them a sum of £2000 per year (£135,500 in today’s terms) for up to five to seven years; in fact, the final sum raised was £18,000 to cover those years.

In September 1938 John Boulter became Headmaster of St Bees School, at which time there remained only 71 pupils, but it would be true to say that had it not been for him, his strength of character and his organisational skills, the school would undoubtedly have closed in 1939.

John Boulter saw the school through the war years and only retired in 1945. In 1939 he had married the matron of School House, where Hugh was born in 1940. John Boulter died in 1969. St Bees School owes him a great debt.”

A photo of Hugh’s father (centre) as Headmaster in 1941 may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan21bulletin>.

Did you receive your Bulletin by Post instead of the usual Email version?

If you received the Bulletin by post this time instead of the usual electronic version, please get in touch to ensure that we have your current email address.

Following previous mailings we have received a large number of ‘Failed Deliveries’ of emails and can only assume that email addresses have changed but that we haven’t been told about it.

**Please do get in touch with us on osb@stbeesschool.co.uk
if you wish to update your contact details.**

Snippets.....

Paul Bulkeley (AC 89-91) has won a global Royal Institute of British Architects' competition to design the Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer in Birmingham. Here is a link to the Whitehaven News article:

<https://www.whitehavennews.co.uk/news/18729041.national-landmark-designed-ex-st-bees-pupil/>.

Congratulations to **John Crayston (AC/G 04-11)** and **Amelia Rose Pagan (B/L 09-13)** who were married in St Bees Priory on 11th July, 2020 and joined by OSB, Alistair Mackintosh, as Best Man.

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan21bulletin>.

Ivan Jones (FN 60-64) has sent in some photographs of members of the upper sixth in the school play Blythe Spirit from July 1964. The photos include pictures of Nigel Boucher (left) and David Pecker (right). Ivan says that in those days A Levels were sat mid-term so putting on a play helped to pass the time that was left!

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan21bulletin>.

Former Head of English at the school, **James Sorel-Cameron (M 81-94)** has recently had a novel, 'Hough's Hereafter', published electronically. Details can be found on the Amazon website at **<https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B08GLZMZRW>**.

Jacqueline Teggins (nee Green) (G 85-91) has just written a book, 'How to Extend Your Victorian Terraced House' (isbn 9781859469026), which is now available via the RIBA. For OSBs online, the following link will provide more details: **<https://www.architecture.com/riba-books/books/conservation-restoration/product/9781859469026-how-to-extend-your-victorian-terraced-house.html>**.

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan21bulletin>.

OSB SHOP

If OSBs would like to have details of the range of items for sale in the OSB 'Shop', please contact the Office and a descriptive price list will be sent, or alternatively the information may be viewed on the Society website

(www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/School_Shop.htm).

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

OBITUARIES

Malcom Corrie (G 49-54).

Bruce Corrie has provided the following details.

“It is with great sadness that the family of Malcolm Corrie announce his sudden passing on Sunday 30th August 2020 at the age of 84. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife Lyn; children Alison and Bruce; grandchildren Sebastian, Louis and Xander; and numerous other family members and friends and former pupils of St Bees School. Malcolm played rugby for Carlisle and was proud to have been selected to represent Cumberland and Westmoreland in 1961.”

William Macreadie (Bill) Edgar (G/SH 36-41).

His son, George, has submitted the following:

“My father, Dr William Macreadie Edgar, known as Bill, died on 10th May 2020, aged 97.

He graduated from Caius College Cambridge and qualified in medicine at Westminster Hospital in 1946, and went on to do national service in the RAMC in East Africa. He was a keen climber in Wales, Scotland and the Alps, and was the expedition doctor on a 1956 expedition to the Himalayas sponsored by the Daily Mail to look for evidence of the existence of the Yeti (of which he was always sceptical).

He married Freda, a fellow doctor, in 1958. They moved in 1962 to West Yorkshire, where he spent the rest of his professional life as a consultant pathologist and microbiologist based at Bradford Royal Infirmary, but also working and teaching at other hospitals in Bradford and Leeds. A former colleague said of him that ‘He was an inspirational teacher and a pillar of moral rectitude, setting an example we tried hard to follow’. He retired in 1987. Bill was a passionate birdwatcher and remained a keen mountaineer. He completed the Munros (peaks and tops) as well as the Welsh, English and Irish 3000-footers. His last expedition was up Snowdon’s Crib Goch ridge in 2008, at the age of 85.

He is greatly missed by Freda, their children Sarah, George and John, and their grandchildren Anna, Iain, Katerina and Alexander.”

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan21bulletin>.

G.P. (Peter) Hutchinson, CBE (SH 40-42)

Peter Hutchinson, CBE died on 17th January 2019 at the age of 92. He came to St Bees School in 1940 and boarded on School House in the days of John Boulter’s

Headmastership. He thoroughly enjoyed his time at school and eventually captained the 1st XI as well as setting a longstanding record for the 440 yards' sprint. After St Bees he gained a place at Durham University to read Agriculture and subsequently had a long career as a Land Agent. Peter lived a very full life: for ten years he was the leader of the Conservative Group on the Northumberland County Council, and also was created an Honorary Alderman, as well as holding a variety of public and private appointments. All this culminated in 1984 when he was honoured with a CBE for his services to the North East of England. He is survived by Audrey, whom he married in 1958, and two children, Robbie and Katie.

Ian Macpherson died in August 2020.

Ian's son John has sent the following reminiscences written by his late father of his years at school. 'Memories of St Bees (1942-47)'.

Because of wartime bombing in 1942, instead of St Paul's School in London, my parents were recommended to send me to St Bees School by friends who lived on the High Walton Road overlooking the school.

I had to live with them for the first year, because the school was full. I really believed they did not know my proper name, because they always called me 'boy'. Early memories were of the food, and the runs: the grey sludge we had for porridge in the mornings, the roadkill stew, the frogspawn pudding, the lumpy pink blancmange (we called 'Betty Grable') that smelt like soap, and the spotted dick (or Dead Man's Leg) that was both solid in texture, and unwise to eat before you were sent on your next run.

The runs seemed endless, and were often used as punishment. Starting with sprinting towards the fag bell in our first year; then the usual morning run before breakfast. Punishment came if we had committed some misdemeanour when we had to repeat this run five times.

It was worth taking up rugby, because you missed more running along the hilly country roads if you weren't playing tennis, fives, squash or cricket.

The Triangle Run was relatively easier at three-quarters of a mile, though a steady sprinting speed was required. We appreciated the Shore Run, slightly over a mile. The long drag up to High Walton and The Three Sisters Runs both started up the dreaded hill behind the Abbey farm. But the two we all hated the most were the Sandwith Run, past the Three Sisters for three miles, and back; and along to the Coast Guards hut on St Bees Head.

Once a year we practised for the junior and senior steeplechases (6 miles), which were timed for points for your house; and we were expected to gain extra points for our house by completing the other runs in a standard time.

After a few weeks at St Bees I resolved to escape. I managed to get down to the

station, and waited for a train. The kindly station master had seen it all before. 'Hello, lad. There's no train till the morning. You want to go home? Come on then, we'll have a cup of tea and a bit of toast.' Always hungry, this sounded grand. 'Well, lad,' he said, handing me a steaming mug, 'if I remember right, you won't be missed if we get you back before the bell. I won't say anything, if you don't.' And he drove me back to Foundation, and nobody noticed. An early great kindness.

People I recall: John Boulter (Headmaster 1st term), Mr Reikie (Headmaster thereafter), Tabby Brown (Housemaster of Foundation), 'Snippets' (Tabby Brown's wife), Nardel Thompson, 'Monkey' Mathews (taught Latin – Barony House), 'The Dac' (Dr Learoyd, who taught geography), Harry Judge MC (Housemaster of Grindal House), Mr Erenberg (Ben Elton's father), Mrs Hales (Tuck Shop, who also charged our crystal set batteries), School San (on High Walton road), Col George Dixon (great musical teas, and he taught me the organ in the Priory).

1st XV rugby, squash, fives and cricket were my games. At cricket my attempts at scoring runs were described as 'farmyard style', often hitting high into the air, and getting caught. In athletics I threw the shot and discus for St Bees, and later for the army. I played No.8 at rugby, and this started a lifelong interest in the game for me. Our 1946/7 team remained unbeaten. We were the first team to beat Sedbergh on their own ground for eleven years. This game was remembered because we were down to fourteen players following an injury to our hooker, Croasdale. Our captain, Oglethorpe, took his place, leaving the seven of us to take the weight of the eight Sedbergh forwards. We held out. Another memorable match each year was against Cumberland miners, all muscled, strapping men. I went on to play for London Scottish. I also boxed at St Bees, and later for the army. One school photograph shows me with a black eye, and my opponent, a chap called 'Black' Smith had another.

More memories include: Shovelling snow to clear the Whitehaven Road in our shorts (worn all year round). Riding bikes on a Sunday to Mrs Batey's farmhouse on the way to Wastwater. We collected a 'blue ticket' three times a term, when we were allowed to cycle all the way to Buttermere, Scaw Fell etc - some 50 miles up and down the Cumbrian hills, and back in time for chapel at 6pm. We were tough!

'Weedy Eadie' helped in the dining hall. She was walking with a friend across the bridge one day when I was riding my bike by. Being polite, I dismounted to hear a question she asked me. However a master drove up, bundled me into his car, and reported me for goodness knows what. Fiercely punished for unknown wrongs, I was somewhat cautious with girls for years; well, that's my story. I had to retrieve my bike later.

J.D.R.B. Percy (SH 53-58)

John's wife Pat has kindly supplied the following.

“John was delighted to go to St Bees having been at a Yorkshire preparatory school where catering appeared to be minimal but discipline harsh. He really appreciated the freedom in what was then Cumberland and particularly enjoyed extra-curricular photography and being in the Cadet Force. From St Bees he went to Durham University (King's College) to study Mining Engineering. After graduation he worked for George Angus Oil Seals and we married in 1964, later moving to Cheshire where John worked for Dunlop in Manchester and was involved in the merger with Pirelli. After retirement he volunteered with Age Concern, Diabetes UK and Newcastle University. John also enjoyed gardening, a few cruises and meeting old friends (Bill Greetham, Tim Brown, Stephen Edwards, Malcolm Dix, Peter Turner and Brian Jameson). When our daughter married she was working in Windermere and the Rev'd Canon Greetham was Vicar of St Anthony's Cartmel Fell in whose parish she was living and he kindly officiated at their marriage and subsequently baptised their children. John died in May after a long illness, leaving me (Pat) and our two children, Christopher (a Naval Architect) and Gillian (an Architect) and two grandchildren.”

David Robert Rose (FS 48-52).

We thank Claire Nightingale (nee Rose) for the following notice:

“David Rose (Foundation 48-52) recently passed away on the 7th November 2020 from cancer after a long battle with the disease.

David spent much of his childhood in the Lake District with his uncle Robin, who ran many hotels and pubs in the area. He attended St Bees School as his aunt Mary worked as the secretary of the school.

After leaving St Bees, David joined the army as a young second lieutenant, passing out from Sandhurst in 1954 and spending the first few years of his army career in the Artillery Regiment. He was stationed in Germany and was part of the armed train resupplying West Berlin after the partition of Germany following World War II. He later transferred to the Pay Corps as a qualified chartered accountant and spent the remainder of his time in the army in the Pay Corps reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After early retirement David took on positions as a fundraiser for the National Trust in Wales and also became Secretary of Abergele Golf Club in North Wales where he and his family had settled.

David is survived by wife, Gwen, daughters Susan and Claire (L 82-84) and grandsons Talek and Morgan Nightingale.”

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan21bulletin>.

Christopher James Tattersall (SH 55-60).

Jenny Tattersall has kindly supplied the following notice:

“Christopher, sadly already suffering from dementia, died on 17th October 2020 after a five week battle against a massive infection. His wife, Jenny and daughters, Frances and Eleanor were at his bedside.

Chris was born in Wakefield in 1942 to an already established family and they moved to Sheffield in 1950 when his father started his own surveying practice there. In 1955 he followed his elder brother, Lawrence, to St Bees where, adding to his interest in engineering, mining in particular, he discovered classical music, theatre and art. He sang in the choir, acted in school plays (often taking a female role) and fell in love with the Lake District - a love which he never lost. He wasn't really interested in traditional ball sports but enjoyed swimming and cross country running and was good at target shooting. At St Bees he also joined the school's Officer Cadet Force which laid the foundations for his later career in the Territorial Army.

Originally, he intended to become a mining engineer, but at Imperial College London he lost his rather romantic notions about mines and moved college to achieve a degree in Estate Management and joined his father and brother in the family partnership in Sheffield. He subsequently became senior partner, successfully specialising in the esoteric field of business rates, particularly for public houses.

In 1965, Chris joined the Territorial Army, first as a gunner officer in the Royal Artillery, then rebadging as an infantryman in the Yorkshire Volunteers. He rose from sub lieutenant to full colonel over the course of a long TA career, which gave him immense pleasure and satisfaction. His military involvement was crowned by his appointment as a Deputy Lieutenant of South Yorkshire in 1988. Chris met Jenny, his wife of 54 years, acting with the Imperial College Dramatic Society and their two daughters were born in the early 1970s. His love of all things theatrical involved serving on the fundraising committee to build the much loved Crucible Theatre in Sheffield and many years on the board of the neighbouring Lyceum Theatre Trust.

His interests were wide ranging – from a love of canals, industrial archaeology, photography, travel (particularly to Venice) to classical ballet and always the theatre. In later life he became an accomplished silversmith with his own hallmark at Sheffield Assay Office.

He will be very much missed.”

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan21bulletin>.

Professor Peter D.G. Thomas (G 43-47).

We have received the following notice from the family:

The members of the Department of History and Welsh History are sad to record the loss of Professor Peter David Garner Thomas, who died on 7th July 2020; we extend our deepest sympathies to Peter's family. Peter was a long-standing colleague and member of the Department, having joined Aberystwyth as a lecturer from Glasgow University in 1965. He was appointed to a chair in 1976 and retired in 1997, remaining an emeritus professor of the university until his death. Peter's principal study area was the American Revolution. He began his university studies in London and was the last doctoral student of Sir Lewis Namier, the noted scholar of Eighteenth-century Parliamentary history and especially known for his prosopographical investigation of parliamentarians. Peter's doctoral thesis, on Parliamentary practice, was later published as *The House of Commons in the Eighteenth Century* (Oxford, 1971). He remained committed to the history of the eighteenth-century Parliament throughout his career and, following the lead of his supervisor, Namier, was greatly interested in exploring the Parliamentarians themselves, men such as the London radical, John Wilkes, and Frederick North, Lord North, British Prime Minister during the American War of Independence. He completed monographs on both men. His final major study, an account of the reign and person of George III, published by Manchester University Press in 2002, also held true to his Namierite principles, offering a close chronology of the first decade of that reign. The British political backdrop to the American Revolution especially dominated his research and writing, resulting, most notably, in a major three-volume history of the political events surrounding the American Revolution, published by Oxford University Press between 1976 and 1991. Peter's work was also published in a large number of articles and books, to which he continued to add until very recently, and his contribution to eighteenth-century political history was immense; a tribute by colleagues at the Institute of Historical Research's History of Parliament on-line (<http://www.histparl.ac.uk/news/professor-peter-dg-thomas>) notes that his latest work for the journal *Parliamentary History*, published in 2018, 'exemplified the virtues of thorough research and scrupulous scholarship that characterize all his historical writings'. Peter Thomas' work on political cartoons of the eighteenth century, published as *The English Satirical Print, 1600–1832: The American Revolution* (1986), provided another important outlet for this prodigious research and ability to engage with eighteenth-century politics on more than one level and making use of different media. It is striking that this foray into political cartoons remained an important feature of departmental teaching and research for many years after Peter's retirement, a reflection of academic legacy and his inspiration to his doctoral supervisees.

Professor Martin Fitzpatrick, a former colleague of Peter's, writes that 'Peter was a great asset to the department of History and Welsh History. He made a major contribution to the research profile of the department through his own publications and, for many years, as almost the sole teacher and supervisor at postgraduate level. He was a terrific scholar. His prize-winning trilogy on the American Revolution is a magnificent combination of sustained research fine argumentation and felicitous prose. I often need to consult his work. As I take his books off my shelves, I feel a real sense of pride that their author was a friend and colleague.'

Peter was also very active in the Aberystwyth community. A keen tennis player, he chaired the Dyfed Lawn Tennis Association for twenty years; he was also closely involved in local politics and acted as chair for the local Liberal Democrats for a decade. A small private service was held at Aberystwyth Crematorium on Friday, 24 July 2020 at 2pm.

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan21bulletin>.

Notification of Deaths (Since the July 2020 Bulletin)		
BULLOCK, J.F. (James)	Died 22.12.20	FN 44-48
CORRIE, M. (Malcolm)	Died 30.08.20	G 49-54
EDGAR, W.M. (William)	Died 10.05.20	G/SH 36-41
GLENDAY, A.V. (Vince)	Died 10.12.19	SH 53-59
HAIG, S.P. (Stephen)	Died ???.?.??	FN 43-48
HUTCHINSON, G.P. (Peter)	Died 17.01.19	SH 40-42
INGLEDOW, A.B. (Anthony)	Died 12.04.20	F 45-47
JOHNSTON, R.F.R. (Robin)	Died 11.05.20	F 52-57
LEACH, O.E. (Oswald)	Died 27.06.20	G 49-50
MACKAY, E.B. (Bertie)	Died ???.?.??	SH 48-53
MACPHERSON, I.A. (Ian)	Died 23.08.20	F 44-47
MONCUR, A.F. (Alastair)	Died ???.10.20	SH 49-54
POLLEY, B. (Brian)	Died 17.02.20	FN 47-51
ROSE, D.R. (David)	Died 07.11.20	FS 48-52
SHEWAN, R. (Bob)	Died 27.11.19	G 50-55
TATTERSALL, C.J. (Christopher)	Died 17.10.20	SH 55-60
THOMAS, P.D.G. (Peter)	Died 07.07.20	G 43-47
WALDRON, D.P. (David)	Died 12.01.20	G 58-63

St Beghians' Day 2021

It was with regret, but not a surprise, that we had to cancel the St Beghians' Day event planned for September 2020. We had initially hoped that it might have been possible to re-arrange some form of OSB Day later in the autumn, but sadly this was not to be owing to the ongoing national Covid restrictions and lockdown.

We are certainly hoping that we will be able to hold a St Beghians' Day in September 2021 and have provisionally pencilled in a date of **Saturday 25th September 2021**. We will obviously have to be guided by the virus situation as we progress through the year and our aim is to confirm the arrangements for the day in the July 2021 Bulletin, so please look out for that.

In the meantime, we hope you all stay safe and well and we look forward to seeing OSBs again, in person, in 2021.

SOCIETY WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

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

www.st-beghian-society.co.uk

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

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

We would certainly welcome any comments that you may have.

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.

200 Club

Membership: We currently have 55 members. Once again, this is very disappointing. I try to encourage new members by sending out a direct debit form to all the winners, in the hope that they may pass it on to other OSBs. A few new members do join, it has to be said, but sadly some of our older ones pass away. Remember, it is possible to have more than one number in the draw.

In the bank we currently have £2,198.70. I have recently handed over a cheque for £2,000.00 to the St Beghian Society to help with the ongoing costs of the Society.

Due to COVID 19 we have been unable to have a draw as normal in September, so we have decided to move it to the March Committee Meeting and do a combined draw, when I hope we will all be able to meet face-to-face and complete the draw in person. The prizes will be as follows:

1 prize at £300.00

4 prizes at £50.00

1 prize at £40.00

1 prize at £20.00

Fancy a chance of winning the big one? It's not too late to join. Just email me for an application form.

I should like to thank all those who subscribe to this worthwhile cause. Note, that for as little as £2.00 per month you are entered into two draws per year - one in March, the other in September. This year of course is slightly different. The top prize is usually £160.00, but the more members we have, the bigger the prizes. There are also prizes of £40 and £20. Not only will your membership help you win prizes, it will be helping the St Beghian Society and the school. Please help me to recruit new members.

You can contact me on darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com for further information and an entry form.

Darryl Davies.

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

BRANCH NOTES & EVENTS

Forthcoming Annual Dinner and Other Dates:

We are sure you will all appreciate that it has been a difficult year for events due to Covid and we apologise for the cancellations and postponements that have had to take place. Please do consider attending the various Dinners and get-togethers, once they are rescheduled. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Asia - Hong Kong and Shenzhen

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

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

E-mail: OSBinAsia@gmail.com or

WhatsApp: +44 7930 258791(Laurence Gribble).

Cumbria Dinner

The West Cumbria Dinner will hopefully take place on **Friday 4th June 2021** (subject to government guidelines), 7.00 for 7.30 pm, at Armathwaite Hall, Bassenthwaite Lake, near Keswick.

The cost will be £30.00 per person for a three course meal plus a champagne reception in the bar and wine on the table. This is a fantastic offer for one of the best dining experiences in Cumbria.

Sadly we have had to cancel the gathering twice. For the October dinner we had 50 people who booked so hopefully we can reach 60 by June.

Please contact Darryl Davies for further information or to book a dinner place, which you can reserve now! (If you cancel before 14th May 2021, you will receive a full refund).

Could those people who booked earlier, please confirm their attendance for June 4th 2021, or if you are unable to attend, please let me know.

Full details will be sent out nearer the time.

Contact details: darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com or 07970 180751 or 5 Marlborough Avenue, High Harrington, Workington, CA14 4NW.

Cheques to be made payable to ‘West Cumbria Branch OSBC’ or by BACS payment (Sort Code 01-09-54, Account number 83707689).

Accommodation is available at a reduced rate of £150.00 per room (including breakfast and the use of leisure facilities). Please book accommodation directly with the hotel: Leeann at leeann.lennox@armathwaite-hall.com or 017687 88909.

Darryl Davies.

London Dinner

We are provisionally planning to hold a London Dinner at the RAF Club **sometime during 2021** but, given all the uncertainties, the date is still an open question. We will confirm details nearer the time and would therefore appreciate it if you could **get in touch to express an interest so that we can contact you:** Graeme Bagnall at baggers@talk21.com / 07778 301584 or Martin Birkett at martin.birkett@gs.com /07788 713039. Please do also look out for further information on the Society website and Facebook pages.

London Drinks

It is hoped that there will once again be an informal social get-together at The Pepys pub/restaurant (Stew Lane, EC4V 3PT) sometime in **October 2021**. However, we will need to be guided by the situation at the time and therefore confirmation of the date will be given in the July 2021 Bulletin and further updates will also be posted on Facebook and the Society website page. If you fancy eating and/or drinking or even just catching up, please do call in and join us next October. **Nicola Shannon (nee Metcalfe-Gibson) (L/G 78-85) would love to hear from you if you are interested in attending.** Do get in touch, so that any updates can be circulated to you - nicmetcalfeshannon@gmail.com or 0776 619 5468.

North East Dinner

We look forward to getting back together again and meeting old friends on the **3rd November 2021** at our usual venue. We are hoping to proceed with the North East Branch Dinner on November 3rd 2021 at The Northumberland Golf Club, High Gosforth Park, Newcastle, NE3 5HT, as arranged. Of course, we will have to be guided by the Government restrictions at the time, but we hope by then it will be possible to go ahead as planned. **For further information please contact** Bill Dove on (01274) 585147 or williamdove15@yahoo.co.uk.

Scotland

The Scottish St Beghian gathering will to be postponed until **November 2021**, in the hope this awful virus will be under control by then and we will all have had the vaccine. Until such time, it is appreciated that some St Beghians will understandably feel uncomfortable and perhaps isolated due to the necessary restrictions. But remember, you are not alone; it is what the Society is here for, so please feel free to phone me in the evening on 0131 556 5859; your Scottish Old Beghian co-ordinator is still working at the Edinburgh Academy and would be delighted to provide you with a taste of life at the sharp end of a fee-paying

school. I hope you all had the best Christmas you could have under these awfully restrictive conditions but above all, stay safe and stay healthy.

Contact details: timmackay5859@gmail.com or 07850 082583.

Tim Mackay (FS 68-73).

Singapore

A Singapore Lunch is tentatively being planned for **late November/early December 2021**. All OSBs and partners, whether living in the Singapore area or not, are more than welcome to attend.

If you are interested in joining us or would like further information, **please contact** Duncan Merrin on duncan.merrin@fullcircle.biz.

Thomas Froggatt Memorial Rugby Match

It was with regret that the sixth annual rugby match could not take place at Egremont on 28th December 2020 as planned owing to Covid restrictions. Instead of the rugby a sponsored, socially-distanced walk from the school to Thornhill and back again (following a route which Tom used to walk regularly) took place. This was previously advertised on Facebook. The money raised from this will be sent to the Calvert Trust, who are in a very difficult financial position through the restrictions imposed on them by Covid.

We are anxious to help the Calvert Trust so please send any donations to:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jonthan-garrod>.

It is hoped that this year's match will take place on **28th December 2021** and we hope to see everyone again at that event.

Additional events are sometimes arranged between Bulletin issues.

Please do let us have an **email address** if you have one, so that we can inform you of such dates as they arise or, alternatively, do keep checking the Society's website and Facebook pages for further information.

www.st-beghian-society.co.uk & <https://www.facebook.com/osbsociety>

Wanted! - OSB Dinners and Events Photographs

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

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

Please remember to take your camera and capture the memories!

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

Branch Secretaries:

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

Asia: Laurence Gribble, James Rebert and Chris Ma:
E-mail: OSBinAsia@gmail.com or Facebook Group: "Old St Beghians in Asia"
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/480912405435555> or
WhatsApp: +44 7930 258791(Laurence Gribble) or WeChat: laurence358499.

Bristol & West: Currently Vacant.
If you are interested in assisting with this position, please do get in touch.

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: Please see Forthcoming Dinner and Other Dates above for contact information regarding the London Dinner and London Drinks.

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: Please see Forthcoming Dinner Dates above for contact information.

Golfing Society (OSBGS)

Old St Beghians' Golfing Society Report 2020

Despite all major events in the 2020 calendar being cancelled (the Halford Hewitt, Critchley Cup and Queen Elizabeth), the nucleus of the Golfing Society rallied together to make the most of the strange situation we all found ourselves in.

In summary, it has been a successful year for us; finally, some of our worthy team members have taken the game seriously, become members of a golf club and obtained good handicaps. Well done to John Currie, Gareth Edgar and Ben Wilson for doing this. The future is bright.

When restrictions allowed, OSB golf matches were organised to areas most convenient and easy for members to meet up.

Over the summer period the northern contingent arranged a social knock on three occasions, enjoying the hospitality that Penrith GC offered. Thanks to Penrith members: Gareth Edgar, Andy Deall and Mike Stamper for hosting these events.

Photos of Penrith Golf Club 2020 may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan21bulletin>.

The first match at Penrith was an individual competition, with an added team competition element. Andy Deall won the individual stableford with 36 points.

The team competition was won by the youngsters: featuring Cameron Wood, Ben Wilson and Tom Wright.

The second match was a four-ball featuring Andy Deall, Gareth Edgar, Adrian Peckitt and Tom Wright. Thanks once again to Adrian for making the journey to Penrith. His trip found Gareth Edgar on form, especially with the putter, with Gareth and Tom cruising to an early victory.

The third and final OSB event took place with a socially-distanced theme. On the same day, the northern section played at Penrith GC, the southern members played at Henley GC and the Scots (who play every-day) also took to the courses in East Lothian.

Photo of Charlie Crummey in traditional Scottish blue skies and pink shorts may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan21bulletin>.

At Penrith it was great to welcome Rodney Atkinson once again, who travelled across from the North East. Andy Deall again finished top-of-the-pile again, with a respectable 35 points in bitterly cold conditions.

Meanwhile at tropical Henley, it was good to see the return of James Doggett, who finished with the best score of 34 points.

Thanks to everyone who attended these events. When golf resumes and the weather improves, more socials such as these will be organised. **Feel free to contact me if you wish to join us.**

Photo of The southern fourball at Henley GC, featuring Jeff Ellis, Stephen Moss, James Doggett and Adrian Peckitt may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan21bulletin>.

For now, we keep our fingers crossed for the Hewitt to be played in April. In other news, we are delighted to see the progress being made by young Rory Bain, who attended the school for three years before its 2015 closure. This Arbroath-based golfer won the Carnoustie Junior Championship in October and has set the scene for a promising future in golf. Now Rory has turned eighteen, we very much hope to see him feature in future OSB events, wearing our badge. Congrats Rory, keep up the good work.

Photo of Rory may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan21bulletin>.

St Bees Golf Club had done very well to re-open safely during the summer but had to unfortunately close again during the second lockdown. However, the Club re-opened on Wednesday 2nd December, with members and visitors allowed to pre-book tee times. The clubhouse bar remains closed but will be reviewed when more viable to re-open.

Summer nights on the coastal course are worth the wait -

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan21bulletin>.

For a year featuring many restrictions, the society has done very well to keep in contact with each other and to arrange events as we have done. Thank you to everyone who has remained keen and loyal. Look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Tom Wright (Hon. Secretary)

Contact Details:

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

Tom Wright, Secretary – tomosbgolf@hotmail.com.

2021 Competition Dates:

Provisional dates for the **Halford Hewitt** competition are **2nd - 5th April 2021**.

St Bees Golf Club

For further information:

Club Secretary: Bill Douglas 01946 822573 or secretary@stbeesgolfclub.co.uk

Membership Secretary: Clive Hayes 01946 66003 or membership@stbeesgolfclub.co.uk

Club Captain: Iain Wright 07711 324676 or captain@stbeesgolfclub.co.uk

For any other **general enquiries** please email: info@stbeesgolfclub.co.uk

SOCIETY OFFICERS:

President:

H. J. Graham (Howard)
(FS 80-87)

President-Elect:

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 – tbc.

The AGM and St Beghians' Day, 2021 – Saturday 25th September 2021

Copy Deadline: As the target month for the next issue of 'The Old St Beghian' is **July 2021**, the Editor would be most grateful if Branch Secretaries and other contributors would let him have their notices and reports by **31st May, 2021**.

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

(01946) 828093 or osb@stbeesschool.co.uk

Website: www.st-beghian-society.co.uk

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