



The Old St Beghian

January 2022

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200th Issue

In December 1938 the very first copy of the OSB Bulletin was issued and our current number is the 200th. To mark the occasion, we reprint below the editorial which appeared in Issue Number One. The current Editor hopes that the magazine is still a 'useful' one, but draws OSBs attention to the final sentence below, which remains as valid today as it did 84 years ago.

No. I	DECEMBER	1938
<p>This is the first number of what it is hoped will be a useful publication. It is the intention to issue this Bulletin each term, and to send a copy free of charge to every Old Boy whose name is on the Register. In past years it was possible to include a regular issue of the School Magazine in the subscription to the Old St. Beghians' Club, but for financial reasons this practice has been discontinued for some time, and in consequence many Old Boys have been out of touch with the activities of the School.</p> <p>The form which the Bulletin takes in its first issue is a provisional one. Any suggestions as to ways in which its value could be increased will be greatly appreciated, the object being to include as much news of interest to Old Boys in as compact a form as possible.</p> <p>It must be emphasised that its usefulness will depend very largely on the help which Old Boys themselves are prepared to give in supplying news of themselves and other Old Boys.</p>		

The Editorial was then followed by the following item:

'There are seventy-one boys in the School this term. Forty of these are housed on School House, twenty-six on Foundation, and there are five day boys.'

For purposes of comparison, the numbers of students (sic) in the school in December 2021 was 74, of whom 41 were boarders.

From Our President

Howard Graham (FS 80-87)

In the last Bulletin I was hoping that we would finally be able to hold a long overdue OSB event! Well as you can probably see from the reports elsewhere in this issue, despite some restrictions we managed to push ahead. It reconfirmed to me how important and enjoyable it is just to get together and chew the fat with old friends. The Cumbria Dinner and London Social (expertly organised by Darryl Davies and Nicola Shannon) were outstanding functions, with the love of old friends visible in abundance. There are few more beautiful venues than Armathwaite Hall, and we are so grateful for the support of Simon Steele, and, once again, also for next year's Cumbria Dinner. For those that travelled from far and wide to attend events, I salute you. I urge you all to make the effort next time; call some old friends that you may not have seen in a while and enjoy the time together. Having pushed myself into more meet-ups than normal recently, I've realised how much they've been missed and I promise it's worth the effort. Having the opportunity to meet the new Headmaster, Mr Robin Silk, at the London Social was excellent and I can tell you that, as a character, I'd be happy as a pupil or parent to have him in charge moving the school forward. We are looking to take the opportunities for reunions a step further in the New Year with a planned Black Tie Dinner for a few hundred at the school on the 18th June 2022 (which will coincide with OSB Day and a weekend of other celebrations) similar to the one held in 2012. My main effort will be to make this event the grandest it can be, with a special after-dinner speaker and entertainments. Please start looking at putting your table together. More details will come through early this New Year.

Let's all reconnect. I look forward to seeing you in June. I hope you all had an enjoyable festive season.

NB. If you know of friends that aren't listed with the OSB Secretary (osb@stbeesschool.co.uk) for email (much preferred) or a current address for postal updates, then please get them to make contact with Pam and please join the FaceBook OSB Social Group if you haven't already, or invite others to join. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/427579695153162/>).

Howard Graham - howiegraham@hotmail.com.

Have you recently changed your address?
Have any other personal details changed?

Have you got married recently?
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.

Calendar of Events

2022		
January	tbc	Hong Kong / Shenzhen Gatherings
February		
March	Saturday 5th	St Beghian Society Committee Meeting
April	Tue 5th - Sun 10th	Golf - Halford Hewitt (at Sandwich)
May	Friday 13th	Cumbria Dinner
June	Fri 17th – Sun 19th	School/OSB Weekend (tbc)
	Saturday 18th	St Beghians’ Day, AGM & Com. Meeting
	Saturday 18th	OSB/School Black Tie Dinner
July		
August		
September	Fri 9 th or Fri 16th	London Dinner
October	Friday 14th	London Social
November		
December	28th tbc	Thomas Froggatt Rugby Match, Cumbria
TBC	Dates to be agreed	North East Dinner
		Scottish Gathering
		Singapore Lunch

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.

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

ST BEGHIAN SOCIETY NOTES

St Beghian Society Annual Subscription 2021

As you will no doubt be aware, in 2020 the St Beghian Society Committee took the decision to introduce an annual subscription to secure the future of the Society, payable each September. We sincerely thank all OSB Members who have supported this request so far, and for those who have not, we should be very grateful if you would consider paying this year's subscription as soon as possible.

The minimum subscription stands at £20.00 per annum; however, if you would be willing to pay a larger amount that would be very much appreciated. For those of you who have not set up an annual Standing Order, the ways in which you can subscribe are set out on the Society website at www.st-beghian-society.co.uk or alternatively please contact the OSB Office for further information: osb@stbeesschool.co.uk or (01946) 8828093.

Data Protection Permissions

You may recall that a few years ago we contacted you asking for your permission to allow us to send certain types of information to you. At the time we received a response from around 50% of the membership. We would ask those who did not respond, to consider doing so now. Please also respond if you are unsure if you did complete the form or if you wish to update your preferences.

Under the terms of the May 2018 Data Protection Act, **we require your express permission** if you are willing to receive communications from the Society relating **specifically to Marketing and Fundraising** matters (this also includes details of the OSB 'Shop' items for sale and School/Trust Information). This does not affect your automatically receiving non-marketing information from time to time.

If you have not done so already, **PLEASE COMPLETE THE RELEVANT FORM ENCLOSED and return it** to the Society Office, by post or email, as quickly as possible or, alternatively, complete the online form at <https://forms.office.com/r/MmWi8QUk91>.

Please note that this does NOT affect your receipt of the Society Bulletin, which we will continue to send to you as usual (unless you tell us otherwise).

If you have any questions regarding this information please contact the Society Office.

New Committee Members Required

We are currently looking for two OSBs to join us on the St Beghian Society Committee, which meets twice a year, usually in March and September. Members normally serve for a term of three years, with the option of being put forward for re-election at the end of this time.

We would ideally like some 'younger' members to come on board in order to take the Society forward and to engage effectively with all age groups within the membership.

Whatever your age, however, if you have some free time, energy, ideas and a desire to help the Society move on to its next stage, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact the Society Secretary (Pam Rumney) on osb@stbeesschool.co.uk or **(01946) 828093**.

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.

School Careers Event – 7th March 2022

The school is launching a Careers Week in March and would, if possible, like to include any **OSBs who could share their working experiences and give advice** in the career paths listed below.

The event will be held in the Memorial Hall with each person sitting at a table at which small groups of students will sit round and engage in a question and answer session concerning each career.

The students have expressed an interest in the following career paths:

Accountancy (tax and auditing), Criminology, Psychology, Engineering, Doctor.

The school would be very grateful if any OSBs were willing to assist in this and to share their careers with our current students.

For more information, would interested OSBs please contact

Mrs Jeanette McCallig, Business and Economics Teacher,

on email: Jeanette.McCallig@stbeesschool.co.uk or telephone: **(01946) 828000**.

SCHOOL NOTES

From the Headmaster By Robin Silk

Dear Old St Beghians,

I have now been Head of St Bees School for four months and I have quickly grown to love the place - both the school and the village. I know you will all agree that there is something very special about the place indeed and that what happened in 2015 with closure should never be allowed to come to pass a further time.

I have already begun to engage with the OSBs and particularly enjoyed meeting a number of you down in London at a recent gathering. What has struck me thus far is the incredible sense of camaraderie and genuine love of the old place that exist amongst the OSBs and all other people associated with the school. It has made me even more determined to ensure the school thrives into the future.

In spite of the difficulties caused by closure in 2015 and the subsequent reopening and all the challenges this entailed, alongside the not inconsiderable hurdle of the Covid pandemic that continues to plague us, the school's renewed green shoots seem to be flourishing once again. We had 74 students start the 2021-22 academic year and with that increasing to 76 for the beginning on the Spring Term, signs are very promising that we will grow to over 100 for September 2022. We are also very happy that the new school's first set of public exam results were superb, with 80% A*/A and 100% A* to B across IGCSE, AS and A Level. Our first graduate is off to Edinburgh University to read Maths and Statistics. The school is different from what it once was, but it is still aiming to educate local and international students with a high-quality, values-based offering that prepares our young people academically, socially and emotionally to be leaders of the future.

Full Circle and Danny Wang have certainly been critical to the success of this reopening and will continue to be so into the future, but we will also be working with the OSBs and drawing on the largesse of former alumni to help us develop this beautiful campus, which continues to be owned by St Bees School Trust, who will always support the educational side of the school. It is also very exciting that we now have two St Bees Schools in China and a further St Bees international section of a third school; certainly different times, but with the same determination to ensure this great old school has every success going forward. I look forward to meeting many more of you at future gatherings and will

endeavour to attend all that take place, including the North East Dinner and the Cumbria Dinner at Armathwaite Hall in May. We will also be arranging something in conjunction with the OSBs at the school itself, and we have set the weekend of 17-19 June as the most likely time for this. In the meantime, you will always be welcome to pop in and visit us on spec. In which case we will arrange a tour of your alma mater at very short notice.

Lastly, I would like to encourage you to get more involved with the school again. Pam Rumney has sent a number of communications in the past asking for your agreement to send through marketing and fundraising material on behalf of the School/Trust/OSBs. Thus far, of 2000+ OSBs, just over 700 have consented to this and only 200 others have replied to the communication. It is really important therefore that at the very least everyone makes an effort to reply and obviously we very much hope that is in the affirmative. There is a form that you can fill in enclosed with the postal Bulletin or you can go to the online form at <https://forms.office.com/r/MmWi8QUk91> and complete the information on your phone, tablet or computer.

Many thanks for your attention on this issue and I hope to meet many of you in due course.

Best wishes,

Robin Silk,
Headmaster.

School Marketing Report

By Mrs Ceara Hayden (Head of Marketing and Admissions)

The future is bright...

When I sit back and reflect on my past two and a half years here at St Bees, I am enormously, yet humbly, proud of what has been achieved. On a very personal note - I joined the school in June of 2019 when we had eight students. That September we welcomed a cohort of fifteen with the target for the following year being fifty. Then Covid hit. 'That's quite a hard task,' I thought to myself. As the world went into lockdown, our society, our lives, our country, our school, our families, our everyday routines, habits and activities - everything - was thrown into disarray. We were all forced to adapt to the 'new normal', without any control and also without any experience or insight into when this all might end.

And yet, as a school, we still had to (and wanted to) provide for our students. What a sterling job our teachers did.

But as Head of Marketing and Admissions, despite travel being confined to a five mile radius of one's home, despite the marketing office being relocated to my kitchen table, and despite the fact that in-person talks and visits were now strictly prohibited, I still had a target to reach - fifty. I like a challenge, I'm quite stubborn but I am fiercely passionate about St Bees - so 'bring it on', I thought!

In September 2020, we welcomed fifty-three students. We had a boarding community. We had international students. We had a Sixth Form. We were a fully functioning, working, well-oiled school. And we were growing.

Over the past year, we have continued to go from strength to strength, expanding our school by a further 50%, providing a current cohort of seventy-four. This will grow by a further eight students in January and we now have a realistic target of 100 for the next academic year. Academic results this summer were extraordinary - with 100% of students achieving A*, A or B in their IGCSEs and A Levels, our A Level student herself achieving straight A* grades. So the St Bees model DOES work. And most importantly - the outside world is beginning to realise this.

Growth like this is exciting, exhilarating and incredibly inspiring. It is a huge testament to the phenomenal teaching staff and dedicated support team under the superb management of Head, Robin Silk, Deputy Head, Andy Keep and Assistant Head and Finance Director, Laurence Gribble. With a third of our population from overseas, representing Romania, Germany, Italy, Spain, the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Hong Kong, we have created a family feel with an international recipe.

When I show prospective families and students around the school (or meet them online if they're international), I am proud to announce that our students are happy; they love school; and they really do feel a true part of our close-knit community. From September, with restrictions easing, we have been inundated with requests to visit, and confirmed admissions for next year currently stands streets ahead of this time last year.

Local families have actively acknowledged they have been 'watching us' for the past few years and the faith and trust in us as a school is now well and truly there. St Bees will continue to grow and expand and we couldn't be more thrilled. So 100 - here we come!

St Bees School – The Hive Newsletter

Keep up to date with news from the team at St Bees School.

If you would like to receive current news about the school, you can sign up to their mailing list and get The Hive delivered directly into your inbox.

To sign up to The Hive Newsletter - <http://eepurl.com/dyLWWP>.

OSB NOTES

Olive Bell, the widow of John Bell (FN 55-60) former President of the Society from 2004-2006 and also Treasurer and Secretary, writes:

“I was really interested in a few items in the latest OSB news, especially the question on page 6 asked by Michael Ferns. Yes, I know exactly where all these islands and beaches are. I attach a photo taken two years ago when I was staying with my son and his family and we visited Hamilton Island. My daughter in law had planned a trip by boat to Whitehaven Beach for my birthday and this photo shows the lovely sand which stretches for miles.

John and I first learned of St Bees Island from Nick Oliver, a very loyal Old St Beghian, who used to phone from his home in Queensland during John's years of involvement in the OSB Society. When our youngest son became engaged to a girl from Queensland, I phoned to tell Nick and so we began a deeper face to face friendship with him and Helen, his wife. We first visited them in 2004 in their home in Towoomba after our son's wedding and they stayed with us several times when we lived in St Bees. He gave us copies of the book that I have photographed (and can be seen as below) with the history of St Bees Island. I wonder if the school has a copy of that? (No, we didn't – but we do now - thank you Olive for sending us a copy for the archives - ED).

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan22bulletin>.

We also spent time in Canada in the 1990s and visited John's school friend, Paddy Dixon, on Vancouver Island. He used to return regularly to Bassenthwaite where his mother lived and always came to visit us with his Canadian wife, Barbara. While we were with them in 1995 they took us to an old forestry, mining community where we discovered again all sorts of place names of Cumbrian origin. These were attributed to miners who had gone from Cumberland, as it was, to work in Canada.

It is interesting to get news of the reopened school and I send my usual good wishes for that into the future when hopefully travel becomes easier again.”

Recollections of Gus Walker and John Jones from Roy Brocklebank (FS 56-61):

“I read with interest John West's article regarding **Gus Walker**'s taking the CCF Parade at St Bees. I am afraid his memory was faulty for it was in June 1962. I recall this vividly as I was his ADC for the day. I had been newly commissioned as an acting pilot officer in May and just started training as a navigator at No 2 Air Navigation School, RAF Hullavington. I was in ground school when I was called out of the classroom to be told I had been selected as his ADC. The

navigation school was in No 25 Group, which was responsible for all non-pilot aircrew training. The other Group was 23 Gp. We were in Flying Training Command and that, at the time, was about my limit of knowledge. There had been some good staff work to link me and Gus as Old Boys of St Bees. Whilst I was pleased to be selected I was worried as I would also miss a number of lectures. Anyway I went from Chippenham by train to St Bees, met Sir Gus, and he did the inspection with me dutifully following. That evening, at the end of the day Gus repaired to a hostelry at Buttermere and offered me a flight back to Hullavington the following day. I was worried that the staff at Hullavington would blame me for missing two days' training, so I declined and set off by train. In the event I regret not accepting his offer as it was not until late the following day that I got back to base.

I next met Gus at RAF Waddington in 1968. I don't recall his appointment at the time but it was at a visit by students and staff of the Royal College of Defence Studies. My role, I was now a flight lieutenant, was to meet VIPs from their aircraft and escort them to the Operations Block for the visit. One of my charges was Gus. I met him and his ADC, escorted them to Ops and prepared to meet my next charge, when panic, the ADC had forgotten to pick up his accoutrements, his aiguillette, medals, gloves etc. I had to commandeer a crew bus and race back to his aircraft. Fortunately the crew were resting in the aircraft having their lunch. As an aside, back in 1962, our uniform was the same rough serge as worn by the CCF contingent and was not that hard wearing. I managed to do a deal with SSSI Smith and swapped out my worn out trousers for a serviceable pair from school stocks.

Separately I read the article about **John Jones (M 59-69)**. Two things about John lodge in my memory. The first is that he was a runner. Everyone at St Bees was a runner but not in John's class. One day the school visited Ennerdale and we had to climb Red Pike and High Stile. As we trudged up the 2477 foot mountain, hopelessly ill equipped, no boots and probably wearing duffel coats, we were overtaken by John running up the mountain and not long after running down again. Eventually, at the top, I marvelled at who had installed the metal railings along the crag.

The second thing was that it was decided to put the sixth-formers into tutorial groups similar to university. I was one of three or four foisted on John. He was not one of my masters, and I cannot recall what I had in common with the others. I don't think either he or we knew what we should be doing. What we did do was go out in his tiny baby Austin, woefully underpowered but it did manage to get out of the valley, to drive to a convenient café for the tutorial. The aim seemed to be to eat as much food as we could. Besides eating sandwiches the other memory was the smell of the car electrics which seemed to produce ozone."

Walter Fletcher (G 58-64) remembers Gus Walker whose daughter he married:

“The services career of Gus is well documented and indeed a book, written by Squadron Leader Dennis Sawdon, was at some stage available from the Yorkshire Air Museum, and nearby the museum one of the access roads is called ‘Gus Walker Road’.

When I married Brenda Jane Walker (daughter of ‘Gus’) in 1971 in the Henry VII Chapel in Westminster Abbey, also known as the Chapel of the Knights of the Order of the Bath and the location of the Battle of Britain stained glass memorial window, Gus, as a KCB, then had a stall in the chapel affixed with coat of arms and a flag or banner above.

I first met him at the Cambridge University Air Squadron Annual Dinner 1965 at which he was the guest of honour. We talked for a while after dinner; I was aware that he had been to St Bees as the visiting dignitary for Inspection Day 1964, which was in the term after I had left.

At that time, I shared ‘digs’ with John Coles (FN 58-64) and I mentioned to John that I had met a ‘most interesting and entertaining’ Old St Beghian at the CUAS dinner. John later told me that he believed Gus had a daughter at Girton College and that he had a friend (Becky) who had a friend (Jenny) who knew Jane; John then arranged for a tea party at Girton to be held by Jenny and to which both Jane and I would be invited.

Of course none of this would have happened had it not been that Dacre Watson (SH 56-62) piloted a single engine plane in a fly-past on Inspection Day, probably 1961. That day, we stood waiting in our ranks on the Crease for quite a while; a nearby cadet fainted and chipped a tooth on the boot of a cadet in front. Then came the impressive and exciting fly-past by Dacre. Very soon after, I applied for an RAF Flying Scholarship and thus gained the pilot training which then enabled me to do the flying instead of standing at attention on the Crease all day. In 1963 I did the fly-past in an Auster Workmaster (crop-sprayer) from Carlisle Aerodrome. Consequently, upon going up to university, I joined the Air Squadron and of course attended the Annual Dinners.

Gus and Lady Walker, like many RAF folk, got to know East Anglia well as there were many airfields spread through all the Eastern counties. After the war, they acquired a cottage in Brancaster Staithe and had many enjoyable years there. I remember they often met up with and/or played golf with ex-services people. ‘Laddie’ Lucas was often about, Douglas Bader also; it was Bader who said to Gus after a golf game against us: ‘Well, Gus, with two legs and three arms between us, we still beat them!’

Gus was Captain of Royal West Norfolk GC in 1973.

Jane and I migrated to Australia in 1976 and Gus and Brenda visited us every year

thereafter, staying for between four weeks and three months. When walking in the streets of Sydney, inevitably one person and often more would approach him, tug on the flapping right sleeve of his jacket and say ‘Hello, Sir, do you remember me? Sergeant ‘Mick’ Miller from 61 Squadron at RAF Syerston in 1942’ or similar. He was so well remembered and popular with all who ever met him. In the year he died, 1986, Gus led the ‘Odd Bods’ in Sydney on the ANZAC Day Dawn Service and traditional march commemorating Gallipoli. Many Australians, following the outbreak of WW2, made their own way to the UK to volunteer and serve in various air force entities; as a result, returning to Australia, they had no unit with which to identify and with whom to march on ANZAC Day. So known locally as the Odd Bods, ‘The Pathfinders & Aircrew Europe Squadron Association’ was formed to bring them all together under one banner every ANZAC Day.”

William R. Hind (G 59-64) remembers Gus Walker, the CCF and beyond:

“I was interested to read the notes by Gordon Peel and John West in the July 2021 Bulletin. It seems that Air Chief Marshall Sir Augustus Walker was the inspecting officer both in 1957 and 1964. I recall seeing his helicopter land on Roadside playing field in 1964. After the inspection parade the RAF glider was launched using the bungee cord with Sir Gus as pilot and he flew a considerable distance at least 10 feet off the ground. This was far better than any of the many previous attempts I had seen by others, most of whom never left the ground.

I was also very interested to see the many varied photos of school life in bygone days on the OSB website. Those taken by Paul Rew are shown here

<https://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/miles/1960-70/1960s/Rew/index.html>.

Most of these are in colour and I was able to see, but not recognise, myself at the head of the Inspection Day parade in 1964. You will also see the excellent CCF band. Whilst at St Bees I served in the army section of the CCF and applied for a flying scholarship, but after attending the selection procedure at RAF Biggin Hill was turned down as I failed the audiology test. I had been told to press a button at each bleep but I heard nothing until an airman opened the door and told me the test was complete. In retrospect, my ears had been damaged by firing .303 rifles at the school range up Main Street, which was located in an old sandstone quarry. There was no Health and Safety or ear protectors in those days and our ears used to ring for a couple of days after each session. However, I was fortunate later to be taught to fly in an RAF Chipmunk as a member of the Cambridge University Air Squadron, whose selection tests were less rigorous. This was a great experience and I did over 100 hours of flying of which half were solo. I did not fly again as a pilot for many decades until my 70th birthday when I treated

myself to a flight in a dual controlled Spitfire, again at Biggin Hill. I was allowed to take control and it all came back to me as the Spitfire is really a Chipmunk on steroids with a very similar configuration and controls but much more powerful and complex. The Chipmunk was a basic trainer for the RAF after World War Two.

On a closing note, I would mention that Walter Fletcher who, like myself, was on Grindal married Sir Gus Walker's daughter."

Ivan Jones (FN 60-64) writes:

"John West's article about Gus Walker in this latest issue of the OSB magazine is most interesting as is the one from Charles Headley also.

I would like to add my two pennyworth to the body of knowledge concerning Sir Augustus. I have not remembered names of boys and masters as well as perhaps I should, but in those days I was a little more interested in photography even using the dark room which I think was by the squash court.

I actually have a series of photographs I took the day that Gus Walker attended the CCF inspection. They were taken with a box camera and don't enlarge too well I'm afraid, but you can see that the aircraft did not land on the crease. Not even Gus could get away with that! The pictures show the bungee glider. It was hardly ever brought out, but it was on this day. If I remember correctly Gus actually flew it. The glider was launched by a team pulling an elastic cord (hence bungee) ahead of the craft which was tethered to a stake. Once the correct tension was achieved, the pilot pulled a lever on his left under the seat with his left hand and off the craft lurched into the air as the pilot used his right hand to control the flight. This sequence happened very quickly. Gus did all this with one hand! The other pictures show the helicopter 'under close guard' and finally show Gus getting back into the machine in the command pilot's position. I hope these pictures are of interest. As to the date, I have them posted in my album as being taken in 1961 not 1964 as John Suggests.

One other picture (attached here) is the menu for The London Old Boys Dinner in February 1973. It was held at the East India Club. I was emigrating to Canada almost exactly two months later so the others at the dinner decided to sign the menu as a keepsake. Notice the signatures of Gus Walker, Lees the Head, Bill Fox, J N Hedley and W Widdas (see Chares Hedley's article). The other names I no longer remember.

John also refers to a picture of Inspection Day by Paul Rew. If this was the same day as Gus' visit it must have been 1961 as well. Also attached are photographs taken by me/my father in 1964 that show an entirely different set of dignitaries at the viewing stand. And the inspecting officer in my pictures does not look like Gus Walker."

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan22bulletin>.

Peter Lord (G 58-62) writes re Margaret Widdas:

“I too was a pupil of Margaret Widdas and would also wish to pay tribute to her patient and quiet approach. Having spent two years under the 'fearsome' Donald Leggett, Margaret enabled me ultimately, to pursue my true love of playing the organ.

Throughout my life, wherever I have lived, I have been fortunate to have held the post of local church organist and even accompanied at Choral Evensong at one or two Cathedrals.”

Bill Mackay (SH 42-46).

Last October Katrina and Edward Bulger visited the school. Katrina's father was at school – W.A.L. (Bill) Mackay (SH 42-46), plus his brother Bertie Mackay (SH 48-53).

We have received the following under Edward's name.

“My father-in-law W. A. L. (Bill) Mackay is a healthy 93year old living in Wells, Somerset. He and his late, younger brother Bertie were pupils at St Bees during the 1940s and into the early 1950s.

Katrina and I, intrigued by tales of war-time school on the wild Cumbrian coast, visited his old school during a trip to The Lake District last autumn. We were given a very entertaining tour of the premises by Pam Rumney, the wonderful secretary of the OSBs, who showed us the entry dates recorded for both brothers, no doubt nervous lads from Berwick-upon-Tweed as they joined School House as boarders some years apart. Records indicate that Bill won awards in French and Latin in 1945, was an 'A' cadet and was promising on the cricket pitch and at rigger.

His life since then has continued to be distinguished and he was subsequently awarded the OBE, presented by the Queen, for services to local government and the community.

Bill has fond memories of St Bees School and can still fit into his OSB blazer, which has been miraculously preserved. He has attended the Goodwood Revival Festival wearing it as a period outfit of the classic motor racing era!

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan22bulletin>.

We were able to WhatsApp video call Bill at home 300 miles away and show him around his old school, as Pam eloquently took us through the evolution of the school facilities. Bill had great pleasure in being 'face to face' with Pam, with whom he had been in email contact over the years - as well as being shown his old haunts.

St Bees has risen again to the delight of many St Beghians and in a form that accords with its place in the 21st century. Pam was a hugely informative and charming guide and we all thank her very much for hosting us on our visit.”

Katrina later sent this on in a separate email:

“Please find below a few of my father's 'fondest' or certainly most 'memorable' times at school.”

“Even after 75 years some recollections remain and I remember T.A. Brown, Housemaster of Foundation, teaching maths and his wife teaching history – not a subject at which I excelled, and she once described my stupidity as the centre of the universe, which I didn't think said much for the universe. I always enjoyed sport - rugby, cricket, athletics, and even fives. I particularly remember a House rugby match refereed by the Headmaster, J. Boulter. The forwards were swearing rather loudly, and JB blew his whistle and delivered a lecture on the subject, and finished with the words, ‘I don't mind damn but I won't have b----r!’ (roars of laughter!). As is often said, ‘those were the days.’ I am also delighted that the school has revived and the great old buildings are once again in occupation. Long may it continue.

Thank you Pam for kindly giving Edward and Katrina a conducted tour of the school. I am glad no evidence was seen of my name carved on the furniture! As if there would be!!”

Duncan Merrin (G 53-57) recalls ‘Stig’ Jones:

“I was saddened to read of the passing of my old friend Stig Jones. We arrived at St Bees the same day and left the same day; we were very close for years after school and it was I who introduced him to his beloved Isle of Arran. I now understand why the photo of four boys is on the front of the Bulletin. There are actually five, the one cut off on left showing just legs is me. Stig is holding a pint on the front. I was very saddened to lose him.

Stig and I were sent to Meadow House. Myself, Stig and one other thirteen year old all shared a dorm. We were instantly friends for life. He was transferred to Foundation, I to Grindal, but it made no difference. He was a rugby man but not a cricketer, but boy could he ride a bike! He had what we called a racer and rode everywhere. After we left school we still saw a great deal of each other. We lost touch a little when I went overseas to work, but he came to my 70th BBQ in Keswick, still the cheery friend. It is still taking me time to take this sad loss in.”

‘What’s in a nickname?’ Ted Percy (FS 51-56) writes:

“I should like to add a rider to the obituary of John Graham (‘Stig’) Jones, whom I knew well and who had a much admired racing bike with ‘Hobbs of Barbican’ on its scarlet crossbar (the things we remember!).

Stig’s nickname was not due to his ‘slim’ features – it was due to his densely curled black hair. In this particular he resembled a SF predecessor, one David(?) Rose, who was also known as Stig or Stiggy for the reason that he had ocular

aSTIGmatism. I distinctly remember being in the same platoon of the CCF when, standing on the tarmac above ‘Blanco Alley’, someone (I think it was David ‘Zeke’ Collins), looking out of the open window said, ‘Who’s that Stiggy Rose guy?’, and the name then stuck. I liked Stig, he was an unpretentious, ‘get on with it’ lad, and I am glad his life turned out well.”

Alex Riley (G 61-65) responds to two items from the last issue:

“I was saddened to learn that **John Jones (M 59-69)** had passed away. Biology was not one of my subjects, so I was never taught by ‘Meeb’ (presumably from ‘amoeba’), as he was universally and affectionately known by all the boys. But he was always around at weekends and keen to get anyone involved in extra-curricular activities. I recall spending numerous weekends collecting woodlice to feed a resident toad (not destined for dissection!). He radiated passion for his subject and I had the impression that he was an excellent teacher.

Anyone who ever got involved in the school play will recall the dedication he put into this annual event. Every play was a great success.

But I have one abiding image of Meeb. Every Tuesday afternoon we would be dragooned into playing at soldiers in the CCF. Some of the staff were officers. I well remember Mr Francis, who actually looked the part and had the title of Major. Then there was Mr Johnson (‘Jonce’) who shuffled about as a 2nd Lieutenant. But I have never seen anyone so ill at ease as Meeb was in his 2nd Lieutenant’s uniform. He just radiated the fervent desire to be anywhere else and in any other kit. I was amused to notice in the ‘Inspection Day’ photograph in July’s Bulletin that neither of our 2nd Lieutenants were part of the inspection ‘team’!

We were extraordinarily fortunate to have such a committed group of teachers. Meeb was one of the best.

I also enjoyed reading John West’s article about **Gus Walker**.

I remember a helicopter arriving for the CCF inspection. It parked on the sports’ pitch on the other side of the road from ‘The Crease’ – which was in full use for the inspection. I have a vague memory about various cadets standing guard, with rifles, over the helicopter though surely they would not have been issued with live rounds.

The derring-do of these guys is indeed humbling. I’ve reread the section about removing burning incendiary bombs many times.

I recall Gus Walker giving a talk to the whole school, but I’m not sure whether that was part of Inspection Day, or a separate event. What came across very strongly was how thrilled he was to be able to talk to us all. When he got very excited his arm stump would twitch violently. We were all left with the impression that he was definitely ‘the right stuff’.”

George Robson (FN 57-64) has submitted the following, taken from an old Bulletin, regarding the school badge.

A correspondent has suggested that members would be interested to have some information about the Arms reproduced on blazer, car and other badges. It may be wise to preface this brief description by emphasising that the school does not possess its own coat of arms and has merely ‘borrowed’ that of its Founder, and that many of the reproductions have been far from accurate. This appears to have been due sometimes to incorrect interpretation of correct heraldry, but probably more often to the difficulty of reproducing the details and colours in a small space at reasonable cost. For the sake of simplicity, heraldic terms have been avoided wherever possible.

Archbishop Grindal’s Arms consist of two coats on one shield. That on the left facing the viewer contains the Arms of the See of Canterbury. They consist of a blue background on which is a white Y-shaped pall, edged and fringed with gold and ornamented with four black crosses which represent the pins to hold the pall in place. Behind the pall appears the top and bottom of a white upright staff headed by a gold cross which looks like, but is not actually a Maltese cross. The other half contains Grindal’s personal Arms which comprise a shield divided into four quarters by a cross. In the top left and bottom right quarters are blue doves on a gold background and in the other two quarters white (or silver) doves on a blue ground. The cross itself is coloured gold where it verges on the blue, and black, sprinkled with white ermine spots, where it verges on the gold.

The school badge has indulged in several variations. In the last century, the Arms were sometimes surmounted by an ark with a dove carrying an olive branch flying above it; the two halves of the shield were reversed incorrectly and beneath was the motto ‘Ingredere ut Proficias’. I am not sure when the present reproduction was introduced but, presumably for reasons of brevity, the motto became “Expecta Dominum”, the ark was deleted and the dove with olive branch has been retained only for the OSB Club’s badge and buttons.

There has been much argument about the species of bird, and some reproductions may have justified the guesses ranging from hawks to penguins, but there is little doubt that doves are intended and they would certainly seem appropriate for a gentle and peaceful prelate. I understand that the Arms may be seen in a stained glass window in the Hall of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

(The current school’s motto is a reversion to ‘Ingredere ut Proficias’. Ed.)

**The current
St Beghian
Society Badge**



**The current
St Bees School
Badge**

Dimitri Sklavounos (G 63-67) has forwarded the following recollections about his time at school.

“ ‘Athlete’s Foot and Making Beds - that’s all I got from this place! And I intend to get rid of the first as quickly as I damn well can!’ I muttered angrily and with intense satisfaction as I packed up my things on my very last day at St Bees.

Of course, I was wrong. St Bees gave me so much more than that. And yet, was it St Bees or the people within it?

For a while, St Bees left me with a residual sense of anger with the place. It had done considerable harm to a number of fellow ‘pupils’, even though I felt a sense of achievement in coming through and attaining many important things. More sporting, musical, social and emotional than academic.

I admired those who had achieved a great deal in both the classroom and sport, but who had done so with integrity, authenticity and humanity. And I respected them all the more because they achieved these things within the context of a system which I did not value. One in which I saw people suffer emotionally as well as intellectually.

However I still retained a great respect for people like Sam Parkinson and Tony Cotes (my Housemaster), Anthony Dearle, T.A. Brown, and so many others whose names have faded from my memory, even though their faces, enthusiasm, inspiration, and contributions have not.

Apart from one fleeting visit to see a friend who was still there, I did not return for over 10 years, as my antipathy for the place slowly faded. It was a few more years still - after the reunion of those who were at the school during the 1960’s - when I felt compelled to return specifically to thank Sam Parkinson and Tony Cotes for their positive contributions to my time in St Bees. I was so relieved and grateful to find them both alive and well.

I thanked Sam and his wife, and told them how much I had appreciated the warmth and respect they had both given me, and how much that had sustained me during my time there. Sam, his dear wife (her name evades me, but her face and humanity do not!) and I reminisced and talked about our experiences of St Bees School. By that time, I had already fortunately stumbled upon ‘my life’s path’ and, despite the competition for places, trained as a Clinical Psychologist and had worked in many ‘long stay’ mental health hospitals. And through our conversation I grew to understand St Bees no longer as a school but as an institution. As we all know, institutions create structures and systems, and these then drive everything and *everyone* within them, knowingly and often unknowingly.

I began to appreciate the impact of the centuries and history on the school, and the fact that it had many ‘old boys’ who had returned as ‘masters’ or ‘Governors’ (words convey so much meaning, don’t they?), many of them with a sense of

appreciation and a wish to provide new pupils with what they had received from the place. After all, when we value what we have had, we often want others to benefit from that also, don't we? And so there was an in-built inertia in wishing to maintain the school as it was. And there were also those masters striving to change it, and being met by obstacles. Yet 'we' (the pupils) of course held 'them' (the masters) responsible as they were the 'power' and face of the school, and perpetrators of the structures, systems, and constraints. How little we understood during our time there of the constraints on them also.

My conversation with Tony and Elizabeth Cotes provided me with further opportunities to share memories and express my appreciation for their positive contributions during my time there, and to thank them for these. Our conversation yielded yet more insights and understanding.

I left at the end of that day, with an even greater appreciation and respect for what Sam Parkinson, Tony Cotes, their wives and other masters had achieved or attempted to achieve. And also with deep gratitude for my good fortune that I had been able to see them and thank them in person.

In my recollections so far, there is a hugely significant gap. Well, several actually. But I am striving to be brief!

That significant gap, and one of the best things I received from St Bees, is the friendship of people who shared the same time there, if not the same experiences. And whose history, great human qualities and abilities, and companionship enriched my life so much. Some I lost contact with, sadly. To them all, a belated and heartfelt 'thank you'.

However, thankfully I am still in regular contact with some, and continue to enjoy their friendship, our shared history, and express my gratitude and appreciation to, and love for them still.

P.S. If anyone from my time there wishes to re-establish contact, please obtain my email address from the OSB office."

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.

Head Boy, Head Girl, Head of School, Senior Prefect...

Over the years, the pupil given the responsibility of heading up the school appears to have been given a variety of titles. However, whether you were a Head Boy, Head Girl, Head of School or Senior Prefect at St Bees School, or knew someone that was, we would very much like to hear from you.

Following a conversation with some fairly recent OSBs during lockdown, we thought it would be an interesting and useful exercise to try and compile a record of all the Head Boys and Head Girls at St Bees School over the years. In starting our search, it became apparent that over the years, the title of the pupil in charge of the school has changed on several occasions. The intention is to utilise the school magazines to extract as much information as possible, but we would also very much like to hear from anyone that held one of these positions or knows the name of someone who did. The listing so far may be seen at <https://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/> under ‘**Historical Listings/Info**’.

It is also more than likely that the role of the ‘Head of School’ has changed over the generations and we are therefore proposing to create a new feature in the Society Bulletin identifying Head Boys and Girls from various eras to find out what the role entailed during their time at school and where they are now.

What better place to start... than 40 years on... So, this Bulletin features **Toby Tattersall (SH/E 75-82) and Jane Routledge (G 77-82)**,

who were Head Boy and Head Girl at St Bees and left school in 1982.

Both can be seen in the 1981 Whole School Photo, when they were in the lower sixth form – Toby (No.115) and Jane (No.117) at <https://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/miles/wholeschool/81n.html>.

Toby Tattersall (SH/E 75-82)

As the first in our series of Head Boy and Head Girl reminiscences, Toby Tattersall remembers almost forty years ago:

I remember my schooling at St Bees from 1975 to 1982 as a very happy time in my life. It had been made easier for me as I followed my brother (Luke Tattersall 1974-1980) into what promised to be a very exciting life. My older sister Jane Tattersall (1977-79) also joined the school for the sixth form as one of the first girls.

A year on Eaglesfield with Housemaster David Lyall and Keith Wilson as his deputy was a suitable introduction to boarding school life. My earliest memories include digging potatoes with ‘Bomber’ Harris in the field above School House on a Sunday morning punishment squad, and writing home letters to parents on a Sunday morning. Once I even included the sentence ‘I have sold my bicycle-lock

for a prophet', much to my parents' amusement. My first summer term at school was the scorcher of 1976 and I remember swimming in the sea at 9pm after evening prep as the weather was so hot.

Progress onto School House followed with David Marshall as Housemaster and Peter Olivier as his deputy. My personal highlights were beating Sedbergh at rugby as an under 16 colt, a trip to North Wales with John Rowlands and Steve Hardman, climbing and gorge walking, although dislocating my shoulder wasn't quite so much fun, as well as a school trip to Leningrad and Moscow in the winter of 1980, organised by Chris Robson and Keith Walker.

I became Head Boy in January 1982 for my final two terms at school. My duties were usually very practical. A daily task was organising and filing all the school into chapel every morning in an orderly fashion for the short service before lessons started. Then on certain Sundays I, along with the other prefects, would be seating pupils in the Priory for the evening service. I remember having an audience with the Headmaster Malcolm Thyne in his study on regular occasions as well as being invited termly along with all the school prefects to drink sherry with him and his wife upstairs. In summer 1982 I remember asking Mr Thyne whether those of us who were eighteen would be allowed to vote in the general election called by Margaret Thatcher after the Falklands War. Of course this was the time before postal votes, but it didn't happen because we weren't on the electoral register.

One task I do remember well was the declaration of a day being 'Officially Hot'. If the temperature rose to 70 degrees Fahrenheit the school would be allowed to remove blazers and ties and go to lessons in shirt sleeves. I would check with the Headmaster and then write it on headed paper and proceed to Foundation and pin the notice to the board.

I was presented with the Benn Medal on Speech Day before leaving school. I still have that silver medal dated 1796 in a drawer. After leaving school I retook my A levels to increase my grades and was then able to go to medical school at St Mary's in Paddington. After graduating I married a fellow doctor and we moved to rural Mid-Wales where we are still working as GPs (admittedly busier during these covid times now than ever before). We have four children, three of whom have left home. I still sing in a local choir and play trombone in the town band, both pastimes I enjoyed at school. I have always enjoyed the outdoor life and have taken to running increasing distances up to ultramarathons as well as road cycling on the quieter rural roads.

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan22bulletin>.

Also, further photos from Toby feature on the website under the 1970s/80s and may be seen at <https://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/Photos%20-%20From%20From%20Toby%20Tattersall%20SH%2075-82/index.html>.

Jane Routledge (G 77-82)

Jane recalls ‘Memories from 40-plus years ago’:

It’s sobering to think that it will be 45 years in September since seventeen (I think it was seventeen) of us ‘new girls’ walked around the corner to Chapel on the first day of that autumn term in 1977 to be confronted by the curious gaze of around 300 boys and staff. Our arrival marked the beginning of co-education throughout the school, not just in the sixth form. We were a real-life, social experiment. Looking back to those early days, it may be hard for more recent pupils to appreciate what a big moment this was for St Bees, its traditions, and quite simply its day-to-day life.

The seventeen of us entered a world where the whole school turned out for every home game to watch the 1st XV play rugby on a Saturday; where huge bowls of cereal were on the daily menu after games mid afternoon; and boys were routinely addressed by their surnames until the sixth form. It was truly a different world. I spent the three years from the third to fifth form (Years 9 to 11 in today’s terms) in a classroom with twenty two boys and two other girls, being called Jane and at first being a head taller than almost all the boys. By the time we reached the sixth form I no longer stood out for my height, but I was the only girl doing each of my A level subjects. I survived, prospered even, but looking back from a forty-year vantage point, there is little doubt it was quite an unusual experience. That said, I look back on my St Bees’ years fondly, and firmly believe they set me up well for the challenges that lay ahead in the world of work.

Unsurprisingly, my detailed memories of life as Head Girl are limited.

Responsibilities were largely centred on the running of Grindal, then the girls’ boarding house: house rotas, bedtimes, prep supervisions and the younger pupils’ adherence to rules around uniform and appearance. That last one on the list makes me smile. My mother kept every single one of my school reports as well as my sister’s. In one of mine from the fifth form, I came across this gem:

‘This term Jane has shown us some of the least desirable aspects of adolescence, a general sulkiness of aspect and lack of desire to co-operate. She should also look at the rules on length of hair and jewellery.’

After school and university, I moved to London. I have spent 35 years in the investment management industry. As I mentioned earlier, St Bees set me up well to cope with whatever life would throw at me. Back in 1986 investment management was an environment with few women in senior roles. In truth, it was an environment where there were few women employed generally. That world has changed and continues to change just as St Bees itself also has continued to evolve.

Geoff Lees, Headmaster (1963- 1980), who later became a dear friend, once remarked on some frustration I was voicing about work:

'Jane, you must remember you are at the forefront of a revolution not the end of one.'

In those early days, I was working at the Bank of England - I have never forgotten that remark. As ever, Geoff's point was apposite and elegantly expressed. It is only now looking back that I can truly see how much foresight he had. The seventeen girls from that September day in 1977 were part of the huge wave of change that was building across society. I am very grateful for the opportunities and challenges that have come my way as a result.

Today I am still working in investment management, as a Non-Executive Director. I am now also involved in the world of education and for me, importantly, education in Cumbria. I sit on the Board of Cumbria Education Trust which runs thirteen primary and secondary schools across the county, including some along the west coast of Cumbria. I live with my family and our two dogs in London, supporting Arsenal FC – it's a family requirement! At the same time, I have deep, enduring Cumbrian roots and visit regularly.

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan22bulletin>.

If you held one of these positions and would be willing to contribute a piece to a future Bulletin, please do get in touch with the OSB office on osb@stbeesschool.co.uk or (01946) 828093.

St Beghians' Day 2022

PROVISIONAL DATE: SATURDAY, 18th JUNE 2022

Following the postponement of the last two OSB Days due to Covid, we are planning to hold our **2022 St Beghians' Day** on **Saturday 18th June** as part of a weekend of School/Society events, as proposed by the Headmaster in his letter which is printed elsewhere in the Bulletin.

Howard Graham, the President of the Society, has also mentioned his intention to hold a **Black Tie Dinner**, which is planned for the evening of **Saturday 18th June**.

Further information about the **June weekend** will be circulated in due course and also posted on the Society website and facebook pages.

We do very much look forward to seeing you all back at St Bees in the summer.

SO, SAVE THE DATE and put the weekend in your diary...

*** Friday 17th – Sunday 19th June, 2022 ***

OBITUARIES

Adrian Bagott (F 56-61).

Adrian's daughter Pru has sent the following:

“Adrian Malcolm Alexander Baggot was born on 1st November 1942 to parents Sandy and Rita in Halifax, West Yorkshire. He was the eldest and had two younger sisters Joey and Nikki.

Growing up in Halifax Adrian had a great childhood. His dad ran the family timber merchants that Adrian would eventually take over, and both his parents were very sporty and that rubbed off on Adrian big time. His sister Joey remembers that he was very competitive throughout their childhood, even over Monopoly!

Adrian took up golf at the age of 11, having lessons at West End Golf Club in Halifax with one of his best friends. He took to golf like a duck to water and a special highlight was meeting Dai Rees, a former Ryder Cup captain, who was there on a visit.

Adrian attended St David's School in Huddersfield and then went onto St Bees School in Cumbria. It was during his time at St Bees that several lifelong loves were formed: golf, Cumbria, rugby and cricket. Adrian was made Head Boy in his final year at St Bees.

After St Bees he went to Cambridge to study economics. Safe to say he loved university life, especially Cambridge life, but his proudest achievement was to earn himself a 'Blue' for golf. This was something he was deservedly very proud of.

After university, Adrian headed off for what I suppose we would call a 'gap year', although this was working for family friends at the Mackintosh Toffee Company. He visited Germany where his role for the company was to sell toffee crisps and chocolate bars to Germans. He would travel throughout the villages in Germany and he took the time to learn the language and became fluent in German, something that never left him.

The family business was calling him and so after a year of fun, Adrian headed back to Halifax to work in the timber trade with his dad. Not that this work wasn't fun, the company was a much-loved family business that was measured by its honest values. Adrian got on with everyone in the business, no matter what their position was, and to be fair that summed him up in life – always getting on with anyone he met.

Outside of work he maintained his love for sport especially golf, rugby, cricket, and squash. It was at the local squash club where he met his future wife Margaret.

Adrian was made President of the District Union of Golf Clubs for Halifax and Huddersfield and safe to say that also involved a lot of public speaking, at which he was a natural. Adrian was full of stories, always on hand to share these and to tell a joke or two. He was the one that laughed loudest at his jokes.

Outside of sport Adrian had another love – Dornoch. He instantly fell in love with the place (it probably helped that there was a world class golf club there) but it wasn't just the golf, it was the scenery, the tranquillity and the people that he loved. That love never left him and he and Margaret and then when the girls came along, used to spend every annual summer holiday there. Portugal was a favourite destination too, where the family stayed at a friend's villa that backed onto one of Portugal's finest golf courses!

After Adrian retired at the age of 55 they moved to Dornoch, permanently filling their time of course with golf and with many social events and hosting dinner parties as well as enjoying the outdoors. Adrian loved nothing better than pottering in the garden and scouring the beaches around the Highlands for rocks and other gems!

Adrian was a key member of Dornoch Golf Club. He joined in 1977 and served on the various councils of management. He was Greens Convener twice and also captained the Senior Section. One thing he was known for throughout his life, no matter what sport or profession he was in, was that he was always very supportive of anyone, but particularly of any youngster embarking on their sport. He loved to teach others – although he was always teaching himself too.

Adrian even made it into a book by golf writer Lorne Rubenstein called 'A Season in Dornoch, Golf and life in the Scottish Highlands', while one of his other major achievements was, at the age of 57, cycling from Bilbao in Spain to Waterloo in Belgium as part of the Waterloo Anniversary. No mean feat, 975 miles in fifteen days.

Adrian was a great family man. This was the biggest love of his life. His soulmate was Margaret, with whom he shared such special memories; they had 48 years of happily married life together.

Adrian was diagnosed with cancer in May 2021 and his deterioration was rapid, although he did get home in July for a few months before he passed away.

When I asked the family to sum up Adrian, words such as joyful, larger than life, fun, life and soul of the party, charismatic, came up. Someone remarked in one of the sympathy cards that if they had fulfilled half the things that he has done in his life he would have done well. Adrian truly had a life well-lived; taken too early most definitely, but any regrets, most definitely not – to put it in cricket terms: he had a great innings!"

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan22bulletin>.

The following Appreciations of Adrian have also been received:

From Brian Morrison (FN 58-61).

“One of my abiding memories of Adrian Bagott was when we were at Cultybraggan Corps Camp in Perthshire early in July 1962.

We had been informed that there would be the odd afternoon rest day, so knowing there was a golf club at nearby Comrie and given it was a thirty minute walk, we decided to hire bikes, throw the clubs over our shoulders and off we would go for a round.

It just so happened that my father was staying at Gleneagles Hotel and he enquired if we fancied a round on the King’s Course followed by dinner; mentioning it to Adrian he accepted with alacrity! So we were picked up in some style from the camp and forty minutes later we were on the first tee. Those of us who knew Adrian all recognised his love of food and a glass or two of ale; dinner at Gleneagles did not disappoint, roast sirloin of beef and all the trimmings including his beloved Yorkshire pudding. He did it all justice, including seconds, so much so he was excused exercises next day!

Happy memories remain from our times at the Hewitt and Cyril Gray, and let us not forget our teenage golf at St Bees, our house and school competitions, where Adrian was as competitive as ever.

What fun we’ve all had with him.”

From Charlie Crummey (FS 67-72).

“My brother Andy and I attended Adrian’s funeral at a packed Dornoch Cathedral.

His daughter Pru delivered a lovely and amusing eulogy, Including: ‘You know Dad was a tight-fisted Yorkshireman. Well we girls got our own back by buying the most expensive coffin we could find! He would have been furious! After all we had to bury a timber merchant in solid oak!’”

From Michael Coffey (SH 59-62).

“‘Bagsy’ was a proud Old St Beghian and he was a talented and even more a competitive sportsman: rugby, cricket, squash and always golf. Never a classic swinger of the club (Gladys was a close friend always near at hand) nor was he the most convincing of putters, but when he forgot about ‘swing number 853’ and was faced with a do or die shot or putt very few were his equal. He was above all a competitor. One I shall never forget was a long iron from the ridge in the middle of the 18th fairway to the heart of the green at Worplesdon in the Cyril Gray; it brought a whoop of delight from his long- time partner Howard Delany and the rest of us too.

No one who met him ever forgot him. If, when you were in some far flung place around the world golfing and the subject turned to Halifax, Old Boys golf,

Yorkshire, Royal Dornoch or The Seniors Golfing Society everyone knew 'Bagsy'."

Editor's Note:

Adrian was Head of School, Editor of the Magazine, and Librarian in 1960-61; in the 1st XV and 1st XI 1960-61; Squash captain 1960-61; Golf VIII 1958-61; Badminton 1960-61.

Paul Boughton (SH 68 -73).

David Storey (SH 67-72) has submitted the following:

"Paul passed away after a brave eighteen-month battle against a rare blood disorder (Amyloidosis).

We met at St Bees School as thirteen year olds when we found ourselves in the same class and on the same house (School House) and we immediately became firm friends, a friendship that was to last for the next 53 years.

At school he was a keen sportsman and an outstanding scrum-half, playing for the school's 1st XV that swept all before it in the 71 and 72 seasons; Paul was one of the key playmakers of the team.

I remember Paul at school being a loveable rogue with a wicked sense of humour and boundless energy, often involved in (minor) acts of skulduggery that drove his Housemaster (Sam Parkinson) to distraction, but ultimately he was a very popular member of the school community.

After school Paul moved to London and became involved in the financial services sector in The City of London, rising rapidly through the ranks first at Schrodgers and then at various other top firms. Eventually he became a founder and director of his own highly successful city consultancy, Mosaic NED. He once told me that he attributed his success to two things: he had a phenomenal memory for facts and figures, plus the ability to get on with anyone.

Paul owned a succession of fast cars that he was very proud of and would clean them fastidiously at weekends. He liked to relax by playing golf and going for long walks with his wife Linda, always with a dog or two in tow.

Paul was born in Rochdale, Lancashire but lived most of his life in the south. He died in University College Hospital, London and leaves behind his wife Linda and two sons, David and Richard."

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan22bulletin>.

P.J. (Philip) Capes (HM 2000-2012).

Former Headmaster of the school, Philip Capes, died on 19th July 2021 following a protracted illness. In his youth he had taken an engineering degree at Exeter University, then teacher training at Keble College, Oxford, before teaching in schools, mainly mathematics and physics, in London. After gaining experience as

a Housemaster, he was appointed Deputy Head of Warminster School in Wiltshire, from whence he came to St Bees.

Almost immediately he had to cope with the impact of the national fuel crisis on the school community, and then with the traumatic period of the foot and mouth epidemic. His years as Headmaster saw a number of new initiatives introduced: the opening of the Fox Music Centre in Barony, the Mawson Sixth Form Centre in Foundation, and in 2008 there was a major development in the creation of the school's own Preparatory Department. Mention should also be made of the establishment of a specialist Golfing Academy.

Malcolm Dix (FN 55-58).

The following has been kindly supplied by James Dix, son of Walter Malcolm Hutton Dix (Malcolm Dix) FN 55-58, who died on 10th November 2021.

“Born to Walter and Rita Dix in May 1942 Kenton Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. Malcolm attended St Bees School following his time at Ascham House prep school.

After leaving St Bees he worked in sales throughout the country eventually being recalled home in 1971 to become managing director for Walter Dix & Co on the retirement of his father.

Whilst living in Newcastle in the 1960s he founded Dix Enterprises, which managed musical acts in the city. His most well-known band being The Gas Board featuring a young Brian Ferry and Mike Figgis.

Malcolm was heavily involved in sport within the city and will be well known for his association with Newcastle United AFC, Newcastle Gosforth Rugby Football Club, Eagles Basketball, and Sports Newcastle (Newcastle Sports Council).

During the 1970s he led a series of protests against the board of Newcastle United in an attempt to democratise the club and force fan representation on the board, taking them to the High Court in an effort to force change. In the 1980s he was able to attract the backing of Sir John Hall and formed the Magpie Group which allowed enough shares to be purchased from minority shareholders to force through a takeover signalling ‘The Entertainers’ era at the club. He was rewarded for his services to the club by being made Honorary Vice President for life in 1992. As Sir John said recently ‘If Malcolm had never fought the first battle we would never have won the war. What Malcolm did not just for the football club but this city must never be forgotten’. In recognition of his services to the club, his funeral service was held at his beloved St James Park, the first funeral ever to be held there and thus allowing as many people as possible to attend the service. At Newcastle Gosforth RFC Malcolm held a number of roles, and as its Chairman moved the club from Gosforth Park to its current Kingston Park site in the early

90s. More recently he helped to facilitate the building of the Newcastle Eagles basketball arena on the Scotswood Road.

Malcolm's passion was in youth sport and as Chairman and President of Sport Newcastle he provided sport's funding to young athletes throughout the North East, providing Jonathan Edwards with his first pair of running spikes amongst other things. Fundraising was often via the legendary Sport Council Dinner. His association lasted nearly 43 years and now the 'Malcolm Dix trophy' will be provided to the athlete chosen as the 'Sporting Success of the Year', thereby cementing his enduring legacy.

He was a keen member of the St Beghain Society and was honoured to be its President between 2006-2008 as well as being chairman of the North East Branch during the years 1992-2008.

Malcolm spent large amounts of time involved in charitable causes: Chairman of The Tyne Theatre and Opera House Preservation Trust, Director of Friends of Beamish and Chairman of the Beamish Development Trust, Member of the Council of Northumbria - Order of St John, Trustee of the Glenn McCory Foundation, Variety Club special events committee member, and Director of North East Federation of Sport and Recreation.

He is survived by his wife Mary and five children and ten grandchildren and will be greatly missed by all who knew him."

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghain-society.co.uk/jan22bulletin>.

Michael John Ferry (F 52-57).

The following has been submitted by Michael's wife, Oriel.

"Michael was born on the 5th June 1939 in Sunderland and died in May 2021. He was educated at Tonstall School and then transferred to St Bees in Cumbria, where he boarded. Michael often commented that 'his school days at St Bees were extremely happy times for him growing up.' He continued his education and gained a degree in metallurgy at Newcastle University.

After completing his education, Michael joined the family firm of T.S. Forster where he networked until its closure.

He retained his interest in learning all his life and had many varied interests, ranging from skiing as a young man to also gaining his Glider Pilot Licence. He was an enthusiastic stamp collector; he played the clarinet. He also had a lifelong interest in steam trains and often mentioned spending many a happy hour as a young boy train-spotting. This interest never left him and as a gift for his 70th birthday, he very excitedly enjoyed riding on the footplate of the newly built mainline steam locomotive Tornado.

Michael became a Lt. Commander in the Royal Naval Reserve and was awarded the Reserve Decoration and Bar for long service. This was marked by an

invitation to Buckingham Palace. He also used to shoot for the Royal Navy at Bisley.

He was a Freemason and attended many Lodges. He went through the Chair of his Reserved Forces Lodge and attained Provincial rank. Michael became President of the Sunderland Volunteer Life Brigade and served as such for thirty years.

As well as an interest in languages, his desire to continue learning stayed with him all his life. Consequently, he became a member of the University of the Third Age, where he further studied and gained an A* in German GCSE at the age of seventy on completion of a one year course.

He was an incredibly well read, gifted and intelligent man with a keen and memorable sense of humour. He was a thorough gentleman, kind, honourable, hugely principled and very well respected. He was much loved by his family, many friends and peers alike. He will be hugely missed.

Michael leaves a widow, Oriel, whom he married on 28th July 1971. He passed away two months before their Golden Wedding Anniversary.”

David George Laxton (G 55-61).

Julie, John (G 51-56) and Richard Laxton (G 59-64), with help from Michael Slack (G 56-59), have sent the following:

“David was born in Bingley but spent most of his youth in Ilkley where he attended Ghyll Royd School. He followed his elder brother John to St Bees where he had a huge impact on main stream sport. He played at full back for the 1st XV, being one of the earliest proponents of the then ‘modern’ soccer style place kicks. He was one of the youngest ever members of the cricket 1st XI, latterly as captain. His secret weapon on the pitch was nicknamed ‘The Slinger’ - a vicious swinger that ended many an opponent’s innings. David was fiercely competitive.

He regularly played for the OSB cricket team alongside Henry and Archie Maclaren, ‘Carter’ Croft, Nigel Boucher and many more.

From the age of 16 David discovered Austin Sevens, which created a lifelong passion of owning, driving and restoring vintage cars. We think he owned and restored over 150 in his lifetime. His pipe and good ale were also his favourite passions; if all experienced in one day, even better!

He joined the army prior to studying dentistry at Leeds University and travelled every day from Ilkley in his beloved yellow Austin Seven. He was noticed and interviewed by the Yorkshire Evening Post at the time. After graduation he lived for several years in Colchester as a captain in the army and quickly joined the Colchester Vintage Motor Club; he remained a member all his life.

David continued to play cricket and hockey for Ben Rhydding Sports Club just outside Ilkley to where he had returned. He continued lifelong friendships almost as if he hadn’t been away. He met and married Julie in his beloved Yorkshire. His

son is now continuing the vintage car connection as a specialist furnisher and fabricator for these cars and his daughter is a director for a women's charity. And another is now a chaplain in Canada.

His career in dentistry did not get in the way of restoring, trialling and driving Austin Sevens; at one time it was considered that his career was Molar Motors! He was a General Dental Practitioner part-time and enjoyed his Austin Sevens for the remainder of the week.

In 2005 David suffered from Guillain-Barre syndrome, which severely restricted his mobility, but he continued to work as Dental Practice Advisor, which was his greatest professional achievement. The local dental practitioners greatly appreciated the wisdom and support of David's advice for 'Safe Practice' in the Bradford area. Many attended his retirement party in 2008, where the hotel had to move the celebrations to the biggest room they had - the ballroom. In the last few years David needed the support of a wheelchair. However he could still be found outside in the sunshine with his pipe and a pint of Theakstons.

David was a very kind and gentle man. His patients remember him as such, which was quite something for a dentist.

He passed away after a short illness on July 10th 2021."

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan22bulletin>.

Christopher Liversedge (F 53-58).

Mark Liversedge (FS 59-64) has kindly supplied the following notice regarding his brother, Christopher.

"Sadly my elder brother Christopher Liversedge died from Covid on the 24th September 2021 aged 82 years. Luckily I was able to go up to see him and his beautiful wife Karen at his lovely cottage in Scotland at Ravenswood, Kilmelford, Argyll overlooking Loch Melfort to celebrate his 82nd birthday on the 4th September before he caught the virus. He was born on September 4th 1939, the day the 2nd World War was declared, and went to St Bees School in September 1952 on Foundation House. He enjoyed his time at St Bees and as a result I was sent to St Bees in September 1959 and was of course also on Foundation.

He studied architecture in Leeds, and when qualified he bought a house in York and went to work for a firm in that city where he then became a partner. He loved sailing and bought a sailing boat while living in York and he often sailed up to Scotland and at one time also sailed all the way around the United Kingdom.

When he retired he moved up to Oban in Scotland to live there, because his sailing boat had been kept on a sailing harbour site close by for many years, and he continued regular sailing trips to Skye, Eigg, Mull, Rum and the Shetlands."

Peter Morris (G 60-65).

Richard Hughes (SH 60-63) has kindly written the following.

“The death of Peter Morris on September 6th at the age of 74 prompted a huge response from his many friends and associates in the world of academia and commerce. Peter’s distinguished career straddled the worlds of both higher education and business. He held senior positions in several leading universities including Oxford and Manchester and concluded his career as Emeritus Professor of Construction and Project Management at University College, London. In his long career he also worked for several management consultancies throughout the world and was a director of Bovis, the large international construction company. He wrote many books and hundreds of articles on the subject he had helped create, project management. One of his most influential works was ‘Reconstructing Project Management’; he also edited ‘The Oxford Handbook of Project Management’. When Peter graduated from Manchester University in 1968 with a degree in civil engineering the initial intention was that he would assume responsibility for the family decorating and plumbing business in Southport. Fate decreed otherwise. Peter remained at Manchester pursuing a PhD thesis which, when published, opened up a new world to him. His thesis was considered ground-breaking and helped establish the relatively new subject area of project management. Peter’s subsequent career took him round the world before his return to England to assist with the establishment of project management studies at Oxford University. He settled down with his beloved family in a beautiful home in Oxfordshire.

At St Bees, Peter’s formidable intellectual skills, while not exactly lying dormant, were yet to develop. But he was one of those fortunate students who could have followed sixth form courses in either the arts or the sciences. He chose sciences but always maintained a huge interest in all aspects of the arts and humanities and in particular he loved music and was a skilled player of the piano. Peter was often called ‘Grindal’ at St Bees; this was his middle name in recognition of the fact that he was a descendant of Edmund Grindal, the founder of the school and a prominent sixteenth-century Archbishop of Canterbury. It must be said that Peter found the frequent references to his distinguished ancestor a little wearisome; he had a wise and benevolent scepticism towards many aspects of life, including institutional religion; the fervent evangelical Protestantism which Archbishop Grindal was noted for was not quite to his taste.

Peter’s life was blessed in many ways. He was hugely distinguished in his chosen career but, above all, he was a devoted family man and once the travelling years were over he was at his happiest at home with his wife, Carolyn, and children Simon, David and Charlotte. Recently a new generation came about with the birth of a grandson, Arthur. Sadly Peter’s later years were blighted by poor health; two

bouts of different types of cancer and the onset of Parkinson's disease cast a shadow. He battled against these setbacks with his customary fervour and good humour and always knew the joys of his life far outweighed the setbacks. He will be sadly missed by, above all, his strong family but also by the many people who knew and respected him as a friend and a colleague.

I would like to thank Peter's contemporaries in Grindal, Grant Muter (G 60-65) and David O'Connor (G 59-65), for their help with this tribute."

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan22bulletin>.

John N. Reed (FN 52-57).

"Nigel Reed was born in Sunderland and lived in Whitburn on the North East coast. He went to prep schools in Durham (St Marks) and Stocksfield (Mowden Hall). Nigel arrived at St Bees in the autumn of 1952 where we first met - although we only lived a mile or so apart. We soon teamed up with Ian Nimmo and went cycling in the Lakes. On three quarter days we were very ambitious and slugged our way over Hard Knott and Wrynose!

In 1955 Nigel's sister Pamela came to Morning Service one Sunday and I was introduced (nine years later we married!). We both left in the summer of 1957, I to university and later to work in the south. Nigel joined his sister as an articled clerk at their father's firm, John Reed and Co. Chartered Accountants, in South Shields. Friends in the North East will remember Nigel playing rugby at Westoe and rallying with the Northumberland Motor Club, He also raced a 'blown' mini he bought from Jackie Stewart - though not with quite the same success.

In 1961 duty called when Nigel's father died very young and Pamela and Nigel took on new duties. John Reed was a distinguished business man in the North East - he was a Director of Sunderland Football Club - there were many responsibilities to discharge.

In 1964 Pamela and I married and Nigel married Judy in 1965. We soon had four children between us and although we moved to London, we kept in touch and holidayed together. This culminated in buying a Narrow Boat with two cabins and a dormitory in between.

Nigel kept the boat on the Wey in Surrey and when retirement loomed, Nigel and Judy decided to move nearer to the inland waterways system (and their daughters!). They bought a lovely house in East Haddon in Northants - three miles from the Grand Union! They were soon busy in retirement - as a retired CA Nigel was much in demand and spent fifteen years as Treasurer on the PCC. In the new boat Jervaux they completed their exploration of the inland waterway system. We often crewed for each other (we kept a boat in Europe).

Nigel passed away in York where he and Judy had recently moved. Ian Nimmo and I were able to say goodbye with Judy and all Nigel's children and grandchildren.”

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan22bulletin>.

John Fairfax Gardner Thomson (F 43-47), who died in August 2021 aged 92. The following is an edited version of the address given at the funeral, which was kindly sent by Colin Thomson.

“Dad was born in Heversham, Cumbria, in 1929, the oldest of three children. He went to boarding school at St Bees, completed his National Service in the Royal Tank Corps in Luneberg, in northern Germany, then decided on a career in civil engineering, starting off at the surveyor’s office of Northumberland County Council, before moving to Dowsett Engineering, a construction company with whom he spent the vast majority of his working life. He met our mum in Newcastle and they married in 1955, and they had three children. In his early days working for Dowsett, dad’s work revolved around the initial construction of the UK’s motorway network, meaning that the family moved around the country a fair bit, eventually settling in Leeds for the construction of the M62 trans-Pennine route. Mum and dad stopped moving house at that point, with dad instead driving around the country, clocking up enormous mileages and spending a lot of time away from home. When his company decided, in the late ‘70s, that they wanted to expand and take on overseas contracts, that then meant that his work took him further afield and for longer periods away from home. I think it’s fair to say that he really enjoyed travelling. His overseas work started in southern Africa, in Malawi in particular, and later went on to include the Middle East. He certainly seemed to have a soft spot for Malawi, and in later years talked about going back there, but unfortunately he never did. Having caught the travel bug, the plan was that he and mum would travel together after he retired, but this was not to be, with mum passing away only a few months after dad gave up work. At a family gathering near Silverstone, in the mid ‘90s, he announced at dinner that he was going to go on cruises around the world; he just wanted to get back travelling. And that’s what he did, going on various cruises, some with his sister Judy. He subsequently met Avriila through the church and they got married in 2003. Although they did manage to travel together for a short while, this was unfortunately cut short after Avriila had a stroke. He did manage to make a couple of trips abroad after this point - he travelled to France in 2009 and also managed to get out to Singapore for the 2011 Singapore F1 grand prix. It was during this trip that he met Jackie Stewart and was able to remind him that they’d met before in York in the early ‘70s at some advanced driving event. Oddly enough, Jackie seemed to remember the occasion, remarking that clearly dad had not won that

day, else he'd have the Rolex that was the 1st prize! But dad was not able to leave Avrila alone for long periods of time, and he spent many of his later years caring for her until it all became too much for him and she moved into a care home in mid-2017. By this time, we were starting to see the signs in dad of what would eventually be diagnosed as Alzheimer's disease, although to be honest, his memory for names was always pretty shocking. But he still had one last overseas trip in him and he came back out to Singapore in early 2018 - I remember him coming through immigration and out into the arrivals hall in Singapore with a loud 'I'm buggered', which certainly caught people's attention. And he certainly made the most of the trip, which we all felt was pretty remarkable for someone of his age, enthusiastically engaging with any of our touristy suggestions and happy to try out unfamiliar foods. He eventually moved to Stratton Court Care Home where he became so happy and was so well cared for by all the staff.

Dad was a good person and we remember him with love and affection, whilst maybe wishing that he'd told us more about himself. But perhaps a school report was right - dad did 'have his own quiet way.' He didn't talk much about his experiences, he just got on with life, doing what he needed to do, not blowing his own trumpet, not looking for praise. He clearly touched many people who saw him as a kind, caring, patient and generous man; someone who played with and took interest in his grandchildren; who was fun and sometimes a bit cheeky; a special person that people looked up to; a role model. But there was one description that came up so many times - he was a gentleman. We held dad's 90th birthday party at Stratton Court in April 2019 and that year was just the best for him. He was happy in his new surroundings, engaging in all the activities that were organised for residents, and really he was without a care in the world."

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan22bulletin>.

Hill Wilson (FN 42-44).

Ann Wilson has kindly forwarded the following regarding her late father.

In loving memory of Hill Wilson (FN 42-44) who was born in Northern Ireland on February 7, 1928 and passed away in Victoria, Australia, on May 1, 2020. Hill is survived by his wife, Liliias, and his daughters, Ann (Rob) and Sandra (Tim) and their son, Brent as well as other family in Vancouver, Northern Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and Scotland. Hill was a devoted husband, father and grandfather and he is greatly missed.

Hill was a proud mariner. His seafaring career began in 1944 when he joined a ship commanded by his father as a cadet officer (the nautical history site, *Nauticapedia*, has an informative article about his seafaring career and the projects he undertook in his retirement).

He retired as the senior pilot of the British Columbia Marine Pilots Ltd. in 1992. During his retirement he not only wrote four books, but served as the President of the Maritime Museum of British Columbia and as the Executive President of the Canadian Merchant Navy Veterans Association. In the latter position he represented the interests of merchant mariners on the Government of Canada's Special Benefit Review Committee. His vast knowledge of issues surrounding the merchant navy made him an invaluable member of that committee and, in 2006, he was awarded the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation in recognition of his role in that capacity.

Many thanks to Dr. Ted Rosenberg for his compassionate care to Hill. Our heartfelt gratitude to two dear friends whose considerate help allowed him to remain in the comfort of his own home until his death.

The many cards, emails and flowers sent to Liliias after Hill's death were greatly appreciated.

Notification of Deaths (Since the July 2021 Bulletin)		
BAGOTT, A.M.A. (Adrian)	Died 10.10.21	F 56-61
BOUGHTON, P.L. (Paul)	Died 04.09.21	SH 68-73
CAPES, P.J. (Philip)	Died 19.07.21	HM 00-12
CAWTHRA, B.I. (Bruce)	Died 03.11.21	SH 45-50
DIX, W.M.H. (Malcolm)	Died 10.11.21	FN 55-58
FERRY, M.J. (Michael)	Died 07.05.21	F 52-57
HAWKINS, R.A. (Robert)	Died 01.09.21	SH 45-49
LAXTON, D.G. (David)	Died 10.07.21	G 55-61
LIVERSEDGE, C.S.G. (Christopher)	Died 24.09.21	F 53-58
MORRIS, P.W.G. (Peter)	Died 06.09.21	G 60-65
REED, J.N. (Nigel)	Died 28.06.21	FN 52-57
SMALL, R. (Robert)	Died 08.05.21	F 39-43
TAYLOR, R.C. (Robert)	Died 2021	FN 64-69
THOMSON, J.F.G. (John)	Died 05.08.21	F 43-47
WHITEHEAD, J.J. (Jeremy)	Died 31.07.20	F 45-49
WILLS, A.J. (Anthony)	Died 22.12.21	FN60-64

200 Club

**WE
NEED
YOU**

A number of you will already know about, and be part of, **the OSB 200 Club**, which has been running for several years now. By taking part, it gives you the chance of winning **Prizes** each month, whilst also helping to **support** the St Beghian Society and the school.

Thank you to all of you who are already members, your support is very much appreciated.

For just **£2 a month or £24 a year** you are entered into **two Draws a year (March and September)** with a chance to win a top prize of usually around £160.00, but the more members we have, the bigger the prizes. There are also normally smaller prizes of, for example, £40 and £20 for each draw as well. Remember, it is possible to have more than one number in the draw – and hence potentially win more than one prize!

We do hope that you will consider joining in with this fun, but also very worthwhile, 200 Club draw. Why not buy a ticket for a family member or for friends – it could be a very easy, but fun (and maybe lucrative) Birthday/Christmas Present or Gift for someone?

All money raised goes towards supporting the St Beghian Society and the school.

We currently have just 58 members and would like to increase this number to enable us to raise the prize money on offer and also to support the Society and school, when required.

In the bank we currently hold around £2,946.70, having recently supported the St Beghian Society during a difficult period. Most monies come in during February and March.

The September 2021 Draw (held on 07.01.22), produced the following winners:

PRIZE	No.	WINNER	PRIZE	No.	WINNER
£160	56	A.F. Hayward	£40	19	R.P. Calvin
£40	33	H.L. Plummer	£40	29	C.R.C. Tetley
£40	32	T. Mayne			

If you are interested in taking part in this worthwhile cause, please contact me on darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com for further information and an entry form or alternatively telephone me on 07970 180751 or write to 5 Marlborough Avenue, High Harrington, Workington, CA14 4NW.

Please spread the word and encourage others to join the 200 Club.

Many thanks and I look forward to hearing from you.

Darryl Davies.

BRANCH NOTES & EVENTS

Branch Activities:

Cumbria Dinner – Friday 2nd July 2021

The Cumbria Dinner took place on Friday, 2nd July 2021 at Armathwaite Hall, Bassenthwaite Lake, near Keswick.

Armathwaite Hall is a wonderful place to hold a dinner and 52 people were present, despite Covid issues. It was a pity that some people were unable to make it from foreign climes due to travel restrictions.

The weather was fantastic and the evening began with a champagne reception on the terrace prior to the meal, where we were entertained by accomplished pianist Miss Dee (aka Vicky Davies L96-99).

After the reception we moved to the Broadwater Suite, our private room for the evening, where dinner was served. The meal was of excellent quality and great value for money and included wine! We were given a varied choice of starter, main course and sweet with a vegetarian option and the presentation was superb. Even the fussy/plain eaters amongst us found something to their liking. We all really enjoyed the whole experience. Prior to our sweets, the whole company went outside for a team photograph. The excellent staff and service made it the most memorable meal I have organised since taking over as Secretary of the West Coast Branch. We enjoyed it so much we have booked again for next year (May 13th 2022)!

Many thanks to Simon Steele (FS 85-89), the Manager at Armathwaite Hall, for coming to the dinner, hosting the event and being part of the evening and making it all possible, and also to Leeann Lennox-Burrough, Sales & Marketing Executive, for all her hard work in ensuring that the evening ran smoothly. Your correspondent managed to get to bed about 2a.m, but there were whispers of 5 a.m!

Those who were present:

Guests - Roger Sinnett (Headmaster).

Officials of the Society - Howard Graham (FS 80-87 (President of the Society); David Lord (SH 60-65)(Treasurer of the Society) and Mrs Fiona Lord (Staff 93-07); Darryl Davies (FS 62-68)(Secretary of West Cumbria Branch) and Pat Davies (Staff 91-01); Pam Rumney (Secretary of the Society).

Alumni - Steve Crossley-Smith (SH 47-52) and Pat Crossley Smith; Edward Thompson (F 54-59); Carter Croft (FN 60-65); Nick Curry (SH 60-66) and Viv Curry; Anthony Wills (FN 60-64) and Joanna Wills; Peter Lever (G 62-66) and Jane Lever; Anthony Dearden (FS 62-68) and Helen Rhodes; David Rowlands (G 62-68); Tony Lamb (FN 63-67); John Braithwaite (G 65-69)

and Priscille Braithwaite; David Elston (FS 65-70); Neal Thompson (SH 66-71) and Moira Thompson; Tim Mackay (FS 68-73); Tim Crossley-Smith (SH 73-78); Mike Reay (SH 73-80) and Claire Binnington; John Boag (FS 74-81); Dougal Reed (FN 74-80) and Sarah Whaldon; Ken Rangecroft (FN 74-78), Donald Jackson (SH 75-80) and Sabina Jackson; Peter Harper (FS 78-82); Elspeth Moss (nee Mackenzie)(L 79-86); Rachel Mitchell (nee Wade)(L 79-87); Jonathon Steele (FS 82-87); Siobhan Mulrooney (nee Parker)(L 83-86); Chris Johnston (SH 85-92) and Anne-Louise Johnston (nee Crookdake)(L 86-93); Simon Steele (FS 85-89); Richard Postlethwaite (AC 87-92) and Negin Postlethwaite; Thomas Crowe (F 91-96) and Anna Crowe; Victoria Davies (L 96-99); Laurence Gribble (SH 02-09); Dave Postlethwaite (Parent); Marianne Postlethwaite (Parent).

Formalities

Welcome and Introduction

Mr Darryl Davies, Branch Secretary

Update on St Bees School

Mr Roger Sinnett, Headmaster

Toast to the St Beghian Society

Mr Howard Graham, President of the Society

Many of those who attended the dinner stayed over-night at a reduced rate which included breakfast and full use of the facilities.

We are now taking bookings for next year. Anyone interested should contact me at darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com. **Date: Friday 13th May 2022, 7 for 7.30pm.**

Darryl W. Davies -Branch Secretary, West Cumbria Branch.

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan22bulletin>.

London Social Evening – Friday 15th October 2021.

Thank you to everyone who made it to the informal OSBs London drinks on the 15th October. It was great to see so many faces spanning the school years, including former teachers, Steve and Helen Hardman, and to meet the new Head, Mr Robin Silk, who informed us all about what was happening at St Bees School. If you are interested in attending this event in 2022, please let me know, nicmetcalfeshannon@gmail.com.

Attendees: Nic Shannon (nee Metcalfe-Gibson) (L/G 78-85) - Event Organiser, Robert Addison (AC 85-90), Graeme Bagnall (SH 85-91), Nikki Bagnall (B/L 86-93), Martin Birkett (SH 83-90), Adam Burdett (FS 80-86), Tim Crossley-Smith (SH 73-78), Lesley Dobson (nee Small) (G 81-86), Louise Fearfield (G 80-86), Kryste Ferguson (L 81-88), Helen Hardman - (Teacher 81-86), Steve Hardman (Master 1970s-1980s), Jon Hodgson

(SH 79-85), Donald Jackson (SH 75-80), Remi Jibowu (FN 82-84/AC 84-85), Steve Lamping (SH 79-87), Mark Liversedge (FS 59-64), Andrew Mawson (FS 86-93), Paul Mawson (FS 83-90), Paul Rew (FS 61-66), Mark Spencer Ellis (SH 62-66), Alan Stewart (SH 82-89), Paddy Tarbit (FS 83-88), Christopher Taylor (FS 57-62), Ronnie Whelan (86-91), plus Howard Graham (St Beghian Society President) (FS 80-87) and Mr Robin Silk (Headmaster).

Nic Shannon (nee Metcalfe-Gibson) (L/G 78-85).

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan22bulletin>.

Sixth Thomas Froggatt Memorial Rugby Match (Dec 2021)

Fraser McNee (G 2010-15) has kindly sent in the following:

The annual Thomas Froggatt Memorial Day was rekindled on the 28th of December 2021 following the disappointment of cancellation in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The long-anticipated rugby game started the day, taking a different but no less entertaining approach. The two teams saw members of Egremont Rugby Union both past and present take the pitch, with numerous Old St Beghians taking the field in a Sharks (u30's) vs Bulls (ov30's) fashion. In traditional bleach green style, both teams played an exciting brand of rugby with the Over 30's taking a triumphant victory after 80 minutes. The large following of spectators was then joined by the players in the clubhouse to raise a glass for Thomas and to enjoy a night of music and some less than impressive karaoke! Throughout the day collections were made in support of the Calvert Trust amounting to a total of £710. Thank you to all involved, we hope to see you all in 2022."

Forthcoming Annual Dinner and Other Dates:

During the last couple of years it has been a difficult time to hold events owing 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 that are now beginning to be 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, or would be willing to organise such an event, **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

We are now taking bookings for the 2022 Cumbria Dinner, which will take place on **Friday 13th May 2022 at 7pm for 7.30pm**. Please see the 2021 dinner report to appreciate what a wonderful night we had in July. Anyone interested should contact Darryl Davies, the West Cumbria Branch Secretary, on darryl.davies1@bopenworld.com or 07970 180751 or at 5 Marlborough Avenue, High Harrington, Workington, CA14 4NW.

London Dinner

Notwithstanding uncertainty about our emergence from the COVID pandemic, we are planning to hold the London Branch Dinner a bit later in 2022. Rather than late May, we aim to hold the event around the second week of September. This is primarily to space events evenly through the year, sequencing between an event in June and the informal drinks in October, while trying to avoid summer holidays. We will confirm the date early next year, but at this early stage we are targeting either the 9th or 16th of September. The point-of-contact for the event is Graeme Bagnall, graemebagnall@me.com.

London Social (Informal Gathering)

There will once again be an informal social get-together at The Pepys pub/restaurant (Stew Lane, EC4V 3PT) on Friday 14th October 2022 from 6pm onwards. If you fancy eating and/or drinking or even just catching up, please do call in and join me. Nicola Shannon (nee Metcalfe-Gibson) (L/G 78-85) would love to hear from you if you are interested in attending: nicmetcalfeshannon@gmail.com or 0776 619 5468.

North East Gathering

Having received only a small number of returns to the recent questionnaire about future North East events, the NE Branch are considering their options for 2022. It is hoped to organise some form of gathering later in the year, when the Covid situation should be clearer. If you are possibly interested in attending a get-together, please do make contact with Bill Dove now, so that he can update you as and when plans are made.

For further information and to register your interest, please contact Bill Dove on (01274) 585147 or williamdove15@yahoo.co.uk.

Scottish Branch

There will be a Scottish Gathering of OSBs at the Royal Scots Club, 30 Abercromby Place Edinburgh EH3 6QE, during the spring of 2022. The actual date will be advised in due course. It is proposed to have the Gathering on a Friday evening. Please feel free to make contact with me, Tim MacKay

(FS 68-73), on 07850082583 or timmackay5859@gmail.com if you believe a Saturday evening would be more appropriate. It is hoped enough interest will be generated to hire a room where dinner will be provided, which will allow us the wonderful opportunity to catch up with what is happening at our school and with fellow OSBs.

Please do get in touch with me if you are at all interested in attending, so that I may keep you informed as to the actual date and details of the event: 07850082583 or timmackay5859@gmail.com.

Singapore Lunch

Owing to ill-health, Duncan Merrin is reluctantly having to postpone the Singapore Lunch until **early/mid 2022**. All OSBs and partners, whether living in the Singapore area or not, are more than welcome to attend the 2022 event. If you are interested in joining us or would like further information, **please contact** Duncan on duncan.merrin@fullcircle.biz. Alternatively, if you are local to Singapore and would like to arrange a get-together in the interim period, please do also get in touch with Duncan.

Seventh Thomas Froggatt Memorial Rugby Match: 28th December 2022.

Should anyone like more specific information nearer the time, please contact me via facebook <https://www.facebook.com/jonathan.garrod> or by email jonathangarrod@hotmail.com. **Jonathan Garrod (G 03-10)**.

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 or 07970 180 751. 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

It is great to report that Old St Beghian golfers have resumed competitive golf over the recent period. The rescheduled Halford Hewitt took place in early September in the Kent sunshine, and the Queen Elizabeth in Edinburgh resumed once again, on the weekend following the Hewitt. Enjoy the photos with this report. The golfing events we take part in are special, with all golfers competing and wearing the St Bees badge with pride.

Throughout the pandemic period I have reported how the ever-growing nucleus of the Society manages to keep in regular contact. It is clear to see that this is benefiting the tournaments we now play in, with team-spirit rising and great partnerships starting to flourish.

Halford Hewitt 2021: Mon 6th – Sat 11th September 2021.

Most of the team members arrived on Monday evening, returning to our usual lodgings of Knowlton Court, near Chillenden.

With the Hewitt taking place in September this year (instead of the usual April) there were some slight changes to the logistics of the competition, with both Tuesday and Wednesday practice rounds plus the opening round of the Hewitt taking place at Royal Princes Golf Club. And Princes did not disappoint; the weather wasn't too bad either.

Photos Available - Tuesday and Wednesday Practice Sessions:

1st Green at Royal Princes – Foursomes practice, 16th Fairway at Royal Princes – Sunset goals and 7th Tee at Royal Princes, with the 13th Green at Royal St Georges in the background (Left to Right: Tom Wright, Andy Deall, Jeff Ellis and Gareth Edgar).

We were delighted to welcome Adam Burdett to the society for the first time.

Adam joined for the Wednesday afternoon practice round session, playing foursomes with Charlie Crummey. This is an example of how OSB golfing is open to all and if you are interested in joining us, please feel free to make contact.

Photo Available - Wednesday Evening Team Announcement - The Team - First use of the Blazers (Front, left to right: Ben Wilson, John Currie, Gareth Edgar, James Doggett. Back, left to right: Charlie Crummey, Adrian Peckitt, Tom Wright, Jeff Ellis, Andy Deall, Cameron Wood and Andrew Goodwin).

St Bees were drawn against Bradfield (not to be confused with the town in North Yorkshire) in the opening round of the Hewitt. The team was announced on Wednesday evening by captain Adrian Peckitt. As you can see, the new blazers didn't disappoint.

Thursday Hewitt 1st Round vs Bradfield at Royal Princes Golf Club.

Jeff Ellis and Ben Wilson were St Bees' first pairing. The 7 and 6 defeat was justified when both Jeff and Ben learned mid-round that they were playing against Jamie Gallacher, son of Bernard Gallacher (10 times European Tour Champion, 23 Professional Wins).

John Currie and Tom Wright were paired together for the first time, and it will not be the last time as the pairing ran out 3 and 2 winners, with some steady regulation golf.

The regular partnership of Andy Deall and Adrian Peckitt were next out. After a promising start, the duo struggled on the back nine, finishing short with a tight 2 and 1 defeat.

Cameron Wood was playing in his first Hewitt and was paired with Gareth Edgar. Despite an opening 3 and 2 defeat, this was just the start of bigger things to come for this pair.

The final pairing was Andrew Goodwin and former Hon Sec, James Doggett. It was great to have James back in the team, a definite strength, they finished with a 1up victory.

Sadly, this meant that we just finished short with a 3-2 defeat, but nevertheless it was a promising day for the Bees, showing we can compete against teams of high talent and backing. It was a real pleasure to spend an hour with the Bradfield team in the clubhouse after the event, analysing all the games.

Photo Available - St Bees pairing of Jeff Ellis and Ben Wilson (left), alongside their Bradfield opponents (right).

Friday Plate 1st Round vs Bishop's Stortford at Royal St Georges Golf Club.

The reward of a round 1 defeat was a Plate round fixture at Royal St Georges (host venue for the 2021 Open Championship). This was all in the Thursday planning.

Photo Available - Royal St Georges Clubhouse.

There are only three pairings required for the Plate rounds.

John Currie and Tom Wright were first out. After an even start, the St Bees pair lost four holes in the middle of the round. Despite a resurgence, the match finished on the 15th green, with a 4 and 3 defeat.

I'll talk about the 2nd match shortly.

For the 3rd match, Andy Deall and James Doggett cruised to a 5 and 4 victory. A straightforward St Bees' win!

So back to the 2nd match, featuring the St Bees pairing of Cameron Wood and Gareth Edgar. The match was tight throughout, with St Bees managing to be two up with two to play. Their opponents battled back in the remaining two holes to

force a sudden death playoff. The 19th hole was a nervous watch for all St Bees' supporters. The hole was halved. On the 20th hole, St Bees found the fairway bunker off the tee but smartly played safe and patiently. The match was decided on the green, where Gareth Edgar held his nerve and holed his putt, which in turn put considerable pressure on the opposition to hole their putt for a halved hole. Their putt slipped by and St Bees could finally celebrate!

A 2-1 win!

Photos Available - Live scenes from the 20th hole and Time to put the blazers on in the George's clubhouse (x2).

Saturday Plate 2nd Round vs Harrow at Royal Princes Golf Club

A Saturday outing for St Bees proved to be the final day of a great Hewitt. An unchanged team tested a strong Harrow outfit. All matches were close but the opening two matches were closed out by Harrow on the 17th. John and Tom (last out) managed to obtain a concessionary half.

2 ½ - ½ defeat.

This was a fantastic week of golf and OSB socialising. Thanks to everyone who attended. We will go again in April 2022 for another Hewitt instalment.

Queen Elizabeth Coronation 2021: Fri 17th – Sat 18th September 2021.

Photo Available - 6-man QE team – Top: Rodney Atkinson, Cameron Wood and Tom Wright. Bottom: Mike Stamper, Nigel Costeloe and Andy Crummey.

St Bees fielded six team members against Edinburgh Academicals, at Royal Burgess. The team fell short of progressing, with a 2-1 defeat. Cameron Wood and Tom Wright's 4 and 2 victory obtained the St Bees' point.

With a free day on Saturday, Nigel Costeloe and Andy Crummey hosted a round at Gullane. The weather once again was in our favour. It provided another great OSB memory on the East Lothian coastline.

Photos Available - Cameron Wood and Nigel Costeloe on the 6th Green at Gullane and The view from the 7th Tee looking towards Gullane Sands and Muirfield.

Remembering Adrian Bagott (1942 – 2021)

Adrian was a keen golfer and supportive member of the OSBGS.

An obituary and tributes may be seen elsewhere in the Bulletin, under 'Obituaries'.

Future Golf Dates

Halford Hewitt 2022 at Sandwich – 5th-10th April, 2022.
OSB Internal Social Dates - TBC.

All Photos from the above report, as captioned, may be seen at
<http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan22bulletin>.

Tom Wright (Hon. Secretary)

Contact Details:

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

Tom Wright, Secretary – tomosbgolf@hotmail.com.

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

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@stbeeschool.co.uk
if you wish to update your contact details.

Articles for ‘The Old St Beghian’ Bulletin

The next issue of ‘The Old St Beghian’ is due out in **July 2022**.

We would welcome write-ups from any OSBs who would like to contribute.

Whether it is a piece about life at school or your career since leaving,
if you think others will be interested, please do send it in.

We would love to hear from you!

The Editor would be most grateful if you would let him have your write-ups
by the **31st May, 2022**.

SOCIETY OFFICERS:

President:

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(FS 80-87)

President-Elect:

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Treasurer:

D. F. Lord (David)
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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 – Saturday 5th March 2022.
The AGM and St Beghians' Day, 2022 – Saturday 18th June 2022 (tbc).

Copy Deadline: As the target month for the next issue of 'The Old St Beghian' is **July 2022**, the Editor would be most grateful if Branch Secretaries and other contributors would let him have their notices and reports by **31st May, 2022**.

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>