



The Old St Beghian

January 2023

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

From Our New President Carter Croft (FN 60-65)

Dear OSB, allow me to introduce myself.

I was born in Kendal, Westmorland and attended Seascale Preparatory School (55-60), then came to St Bees (FN 60-65). I was always better on the sports field than in the classroom, but was always fortunate in knowing what I wanted to do when I finished school: I was fascinated by dentistry; applied to Guys Hospital and was accepted, then graduated and embarked on my career.

I practised in the Kendal area, and following time with the Lancaster Group of Hospitals, eventually became an Associate Specialist. Practise in Harley Street and work with private hospitals followed. Then in 2000 I went to Australia to work for Queensland Health and coach rugby at Queensland University before retiring in 2004.

Rugby has always been a passion with me, both playing and coaching, and following a long playing career, which included time with Blackheath, London Irish and Fylde, and both Kent and Cumberland and Westmorland, I qualified as a coach, which led to appointments with the Swiss national team and USA Eagles in Denver.

I now live in East Yorkshire with Lynda, whom I married in July 2022, where I coach the local rugby team, as well as umpiring in the local cricket league. I think I am settled!

I have three children from my previous marriage and six grandchildren.

An interesting six months have passed since I accepted the Presidency of the OSB Society, with an energy crisis followed by a cost of living explosion. Will life ever be the same again? But in spite of all that is going on around us, the OSB Society continues, as we try to encourage members to connect and reconnect in an attempt to renew old acquaintances, make new ones, strengthen the school and support its growth. I should like to extend a very big thank you to the outgoing President, Howard Graham, for all he did during a very difficult period.

I have been impressed to see at first-hand how the Headmaster is playing his part in moving things forward. One obvious way is shown by the pupil numbers' forecast having been achieved, as you will read in his report in this Bulletin. He has added new and quality staff, which should result in even better results as well as fuelling the growth in pupil numbers. I would also draw your attention to the launch of his refurbishment appeal, and if you as an OSB are able to support this, whether it be by a donation or via supporting our OSB functions, your help will be gratefully received.

St Bees School used to have a large catchment area, which gave us nationwide, well attended functions throughout the country. Some of these regional branches still exist, but their numbers have diminished, and we are going to become an endangered species unless we as members make and take some responsibility and act now in their support. Please try to become an active OSB. Phone a friend, attend a function, try to bring along a friend or two, include partners. We need to attract the involvement of younger members, and not all the events are formal ones. There are friendships to be renewed and new ones to be made for all ages. I assure you that networking, as it is now called, is well worthwhile.

My tenure commenced in June at the OSB weekend, made memorable by the Black Tie Dinner. This was a huge success, attended by 100 guests, a lovely well-priced meal from Julie, the pupils acting as waiters, Foundation Dining Room buzzing. It was preceded by a drinks' reception and followed by a discotheque. Howard fronted the evening, Darryl was on the microphone; master of ceremonies, Stuart Lancaster, treated us to a presentation, beautifully constructed, of how the school had contributed to make him the person he is. I should like to extend my thanks to Stuart and wish him every success with his new appointment at Racing 92 in Paris. We will expect future speeches in perfect French - bonne chance!

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the London Social, ably organised as ever by Nic Shannon and was represented by David Lord; numbers were a little down but I am informed that the evening was a great success. My thanks to Nic., and I do feel that this is a format that we could try with more of the branches.

I attended the North East Branch Dinner, held at the Northumberland Golf Club, excellently organised by Bill Dove. It was a really happy occasion and next year an OSB Lunch has already been booked at the same venue on the 8th November 2023; I hope to see many of you there.

Now we are looking forward to Darryl's Cumbrian Branch Dinner to be held on the 3rd February at Armathwaite Hall Hotel. He is aiming for the magical 100 guests, so do please make contact with Darryl and reserve tables and places; it is a great venue as well as a good value meal. We hope to see more younger OSBs there.

Unfortunately, gatherings at Manchester, Yorkshire and Bristol have not taken place for the last few years and the Edinburgh Dinner had to be cancelled in 2022 owing to a lack of support. I would welcome any OSBs who feel they could offer any suggestions or support in ideas for the future for these events.

Another OSB weekend will soon be upon us, with Founder's Day on the 16th June and OSB Day on the 17th June. George Robson has publicised the pleasure he received from attending Founder's Day in 2022 and we must remember that this day, which appeals to all age groups, supports the school, Headmaster, staff and pupils, as well as the OSBs.

For OSB Day on the 17th June we have organised four interesting speakers, all OSBs and with distinguished flying careers. The theme is 'The Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines'. So please plan ahead, bring a friend, make new and old acquaintances, reserve a table or a place, make a weekend of it. Let's make it a celebration to remember.

Carter Croft (FN 60-65).

.....
/ **Joe Croasdale (FS 70-75) writes:** \

/"I have attended all the OSB events I can since the marvellous Foundation South get together at St Bees in 2015 and all of the recent OSB Days. Without exception the 'craic' is always tremendous. I know it's easy for me as I am only an hour away from our school, however some folk do travel a very long way and are delighted they did. And so if you are contemplating attending one of the dinners, or better still, the next OSB Day, I would say get it in your diary as soon as you can. You will not be disappointed; an excellent time will be had, especially if you like a beer."
/

Calendar of Events

2023

January		
February	Friday 3rd	Cumbria Dinner
March	Saturday 4th	St Beghian Society Committee Meeting
	Thur 30th – 2nd Apr	Golf - Halford Hewitt
April		
May	Friday 26th	London Dinner
June	Fri 16th – Sun 18th	OSB/School Weekend
	Friday 16th	School Founders' Day
	Saturday 17th	St Beghians' Day, AGM & Com. Meeting
	Saturday 17th	OSB/School Aviation-Themed Dinner
	Sunday 18th (tbc)	Social Golf (tbc)
July		
August		
September		
October	Friday 6th	London Social
November	Wednesday 8th	North East Lunch
December	28th tbc	Thomas Froggatt Rugby Match, Cumbria
TBC	Dates to be agreed	Scottish Gathering
		Singapore Lunch
		Asia - Hong Kong and Shenzhen

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>

200 Club



A number of you will already know about, and are members 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 **one draw each year in the summer on OSB Day** 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 smaller prizes of £40.00. **Remember, it is possible to have more than one number in the draw – and hence potentially to 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. At the moment we have £3358.70 in our account.

The combined March and September 2022 draw was drawn at the AGM in June 2022 and produced the following winners:

PRIZE	No.	WINNER	PRIZE	No.	WINNER
£200.00	69	CH & CS Taylor	£40.00	53	Don Williams
£100.00	25	Terence Mayne	£40.00	5	Simon Daley
£60.00	65	Sam Ashton	£40.00	54	John Dunn
£60.00	58	Tom Lowrey	£20.00	3	Charles Graves

You can contact me on **darryl.davies1@bopenworld.com** or **07970 180 751** for further information and an entry form.

Darryl Davies.



St Beghians' Weekend
16th/17th/18th June 2023



School Founders' Day, St Beghians' Day, Aviation Dinner & Sport.

Following the success of the OSB Weekend in 2022, the St Beghian Society and the school have once again pulled together a full weekend of events for St Beghian Members, the school, and also the wider community, to include the School Founders' Day, St Beghians' Day, an Aviation-Themed Dinner and a variety of sport. We do hope you will be able to join us for what we hope will be a very enjoyable few days, with a chance to renew old acquaintances and make new ones, whilst supporting the Society and school. **Please confirm your attendance at the various events by completing the enclosed Booking Form.**

Friday 16th June		Saturday 17th June	
School Founders' Day (OSBs Welcome)		St Beghians' Day	
09.00	Tours of the School	09.30	Tours of the School
11.00	Founders' Day Chapel Service	09.45	OSB Committee Meeting
12.15	Lunch	11.00	Talk by Headmaster & AGM
14.00	School Sports Day	12.15	Chapel Service
16.00	Presentations & Cream Teas	13.00	Lunch
All Day	School Art Exhibition	14.00	Cricket Match Begins
TBC	Performing Arts Display	14.15	Priory Talk/Walk (Meet Quad)
		14.30	Eton Fives
		16.00	Refreshments
		18.00	Close of Cricket Match
		All Day	School Art Exhibition
		19.00	Evening Dinner with Speakers

Sunday 18th June	
TBC	Social Golf (tbc)

*** Please complete the enclosed Booking form to confirm your attendance at events throughout the weekend – Prior booking is required for some events. ***

Saturday 17th June





Evening Dinner

'The Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines'

OSB Guest Speakers with an Aviation-Theme:

7pm for 7.30pm * Tickets £30 each

3 Course Dinner * Licensed Bar * And Guest speakers...

-  **Simon Curry (SH 95-01)** - RAF Navigator & Airline Pilot
-  **Graeme Bagnall (SH 85-91)** – RAF Tornado & Red Arrows Pilot
-  **Clive Milburn (F 58-63)** – Corporate Pilot
-  **Dacre Watson (SH 56-62)** – Airline Pilot with BEA/BA
& Singapore Airlines

Booking (Individual Tickets or Tables of 8) by:

- **Cheque** payable to 'The St Beghian Society', Sent to:
St Beghian Society, St Bees School, Wood Lane, St Bees, Cumbria. CA27 0DS.
- **Bank Transfer** to St Beghian Society Account,
Sort Code: 01-09-54, Acc No. 0222 6367.

*** Places are limited, so please do book as soon as possible ***

Please remember to complete the enclosed Booking form, as soon as possible, to confirm your attendance at the various events throughout the weekend. Please also arrange payment for the OSB Lunch and Evening Dinner as required. Prior booking is essential for some events and numbers are limited at the Evening Dinner, so please do respond promptly.

SCHOOL NOTES

From the Headmaster Robin Silk

In September of this year we reached a key milestone in regard to the ‘new St Bees’. We welcomed our 100th student through the door – a phenomenal growth rate of over 1,100% in four years. Not only do we currently have this cohort of 100 – we can certainly testify that each and every one of those 100 young people are thriving at the school and will indeed find their own paths in life through the guiding hand of St Bees; a journey we are fiercely proud to be a part of. Completely unmeditated, and purely fortuitously – our 100 students split themselves perfectly between a boarding life and the life of a day student – with 50 students calling School House, ‘home’. Alongside our English students, some of whom are boarding themselves, we are home to students from over thirteen other nations. St Bees is truly becoming one of the most multicultural areas within Cumbria!

The autumn term was full of various different activities, with the formation of our Parent Support Group hosting an incredible Quiz and Cheese & Wine event; a hugely popular ‘Taster Day’, full of the bangs, whizzes and pops of science explosions, art attacks and lots of laughter for new families looking ahead to 2024, and an OSB chat from Ewan Frost-Pennington to inspire our students. We have taken St Bees ‘on the road’ to far-flung countries, spreading the word to our international families – and our numbers for 2023 are looking strong. We were proud runners up in the ‘Best Secondary School’ category for the coveted ‘Golden Apple Awards’ and Mr Keep, our Deputy Head, also came runner up for ‘Pastoral Lead of the Year’ – a **national award**; beating off thousands of contenders.

Next term will see more marketing events come to fruition in order to continue spreading the St Bees’ word. We have a Chinese New Year event in January, a big Science Fair – and we continue to host ‘breakfasts at St Bees’ to prospective families once a term.

I really enjoyed the OSB North East Dinner at the beginning of November. I always enjoy meeting Old St Beghians and listening to their stories of the school as it once was. I was disappointed that the London Dinner was postponed and the Edinburgh Dinner was cancelled. I was also sorry I could not make it to the

London drinks, which were waylaid by the NHS intervening by offering me a hernia operation at short notice. I continue to try and press OSBs to help in our fundraising efforts, but it is, understandably, ‘a slow burner’ at the moment, but we will continue to try and engage with you and build your trust in the new St Bees.

As far as the students are concerned, there have been some real highlights to the term: A trip to Iceland for those that went will, I am sure, be unsurpassed, not least as they got to see whales and the much-heralded Northern Lights. For all the students, beating the staff at football would have been up there, although I am pleased to say that the staff levelled the score in this multi-sport competition by narrowly winning the recent staff v students volleyball. Academic trips, Wainwright Walks, the Inter-House Competition and the daily grind of lessons and homework also deserve a mention, and student behaviour has, on the whole, been excellent throughout.

Two developments deserve special mention - the fact all our leavers achieved their first or second choice universities, with King’s College London, Brunel, Manchester and Royal Holloway, London being among the destinations; and the election of our first student Head of School since the reopening of St Bees. It really was fantastic to see the whole school engage in a proper democratic process, complete with nominations, campaigning, hustings and the electoral process itself. This was an excellent learning process for the school and important for the development of Student Voice, which continues to progress through the School and House Councils, alongside other means.

With so many events going on, including the Christmas Fayre, A Charity Christmas Jumper Event, Cross Country and Inter-House Badminton fixtures, the Christmas lunches and, of course, the Carol Service, the final week of term was particularly special. I wish all the OSBs a fine 2023 and I hope to see many of you at the various OSB events this year, including the Dinner at Armthwaite Hall, the Dinner in London and our Dinner and OSB Weekend in June.

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

Tim Brown (G 53-59), extracts from whose diary for the years he spent at school were printed in our last issue, has sent a photograph he took at the time of the opening of the Sellafield nuclear plant. This can be viewed in the online issue of the Bulletin at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan23bulletin>.

We reproduce the relevant entry here along with an additional comment from Tim about the camera he used on the day.

17 Oct. We left School at 10.15 in 3 double-deckers, with packed breaks and arrived at Sellafield about 1/2 an hour later. We went to the public enclosure and waited for 1 1/4 hours during which time we saw many important people arrive, also Richard Dimbleby. Mr R.A. Butler spoke from the dais followed by Sir Edwin Plowden, Chairman of the UKAEA. Then the Queen spoke. She was dressed in navy blue with a silver brooch and wore a white hat. She switched on the first full scale atomic power station in the world and I was very proud to be there. We left about 12.45 along crowded and decorated roads.

“.....No long distance lens in those days – just a plain simple Kodak Brownie! I think it was a present for passing my scholarship exam!”

Ian Chapman (G/AC 73-80) writes about the Drama Society.

“During the 1970s St Bees School Drama Society featured people who later became international figures in the entertainment industry. I was in plays on the Memorial Hall stage with one of them. There was only one play a year, always in the last week of the Easter term.

For me it began in 1977 when the English master, David Marshall, told me to go to the play audition, where producer Peter Broadhurst would be expecting me. I went along, a fourth form 14 year old among mainly sixth formers. The producer told me they needed boys to play women on stage, two sixth formers were playing older women, would I play a younger one. I liked the people I saw at the audition and agreed then and there. Peter asked was I worried about my classmates' reaction to seeing me walking around in a dress. I said no and maybe laughed. The next year the school had some thirty day girls, and the play was fully co-educational. This was Strindberg's 'Ghost Sonata', a rarely performed Swedish play, and Peter Broadhurst's masterpiece. The opening scene on a street in early 1900s Sweden was brilliantly staged, receiving a collective gasp from the audience as the curtain raised. Peter taught art and painted much of the scenery himself. I had one of the leading roles, a bit young for it really. Peter said to me that he wished he'd taken the play on tour. And it was probably one of the top English school productions of that year. Strangely, a television play aired the

same year. In the later 1980s I watched a theatre production at the London South Bank. In some ways our St Bees' version held up with those professional companies. Physics teacher, Chris Robson, filmed some of the dress rehearsal; footage may yet exist somewhere.

In 1979 it was 'The Hollow Crown', a musical performed in school uniform. The next year, the first of the fully co-educational school, the play was 'Alice in Wonderland'. I had no part at all. An Upper Sixth former, I was put in charge of the cloakroom. I sent the two junior boys with me down into the auditorium to watch the play, and then watched through the cinema projection slot both nights. The best thing about the Drama Society was the people, particularly the actors. The school was very hierarchical and structured, in years and houses. There was also a lot of vicious bullying. In the play, people of different ages mixed together, and bullies were completely absent among the actors. There was a sort of apprenticeship system, where you started by playing women as a junior, then graduated to the leading roles. The two famous ones are Rowan Atkinson and Adrian Johnston. Rowan left in 1972, the year before I arrived, and is now world famous. Adrian was a year ahead of me, and I was in three plays with him. In the first one 'Black Comedy', Adrian played the Colonel, father of my debutante, although he was Ophelia the year before. He was the top musician in the school and a leading figure in the Cumbria Youth Orchestra. I coincided with him for a sixth form term on Abbots Court and was lucky enough to spend some time with him and others as he listened to old records he used to buy in second hand shops of the time. Guys like myself and Stu Head would respectfully listen with Adrian as he tuned-in to old 45rpm and 78rpm vinyls. Adrian Johnston is an international television and film-score composer. He has won a US Primetime Emmy and a UK BAFTA award for musical scores.

There were also the backstage Drama Society members. Lighting were very competent. Makeup was led by Phil Barrett and Anthony Payne, teachers of science and languages. They were very good, and to this day I have no idea where they learned such skills.

A tradition was that during play week we actors would keep on hair dye and nail varnish, saying the apparently magic words 'It's for the play, sir!' if questioned. I recall seeing James Mansfield walking by the library wearing a blue fedora hat and a white silk scarf, to protect his hairstyle and theatrical voice. Almost apoplectic, Deputy Headmaster Dearle waylaid him; James managed to keep the hat on in the rainy weather. James Mansfield became a professional theatre and television actor.

There was an element that openly detested the Drama Society, among both students and teaching staff. We went against the authoritarian, conformist and

militaristic ethos apparently. The 1970s was a strange decade, as though we lived partly in black-and-white and partly in colour.

I always liked mixing with my elders. After the 1979 performance some of the seniors who had already left school dropped by backstage to say hello personally. Keith Jones, and Joanna Fox with Howard Batey there like a bodyguard; that meant a lot to me. During the first 1977 production I went over to School House to practise some speeches with Steve Cartner. Normally other houses were rarely visited and age groups didn't mix. After rehearsing the lines Steve asked if I'd like a cup of coffee, and he put some toast on too. As the toaster popped up, as if on cue James Mansfield walked into the study. The two sixth formers ate the toast but I did get a coffee!"

J. Adrian Hope (G 69-76) looks back on events.

"I was head boy on Grindal when Tony and Elizabeth Cotes were in charge. They both came as guests to my wedding back in 2000, when Tony said the Grace in Latin, a memorable occasion! After I left St Bees, I attended Newcastle Polytechnic and gained a degree in Business Studies before entering the family business (soft-furnishing retail shops). I had previously joined a large fabric manufacturer, Rosebys in Sheffield, and then returned to the family firm full of ideas. My late father, J. Stanley Hope, who will be known to many OSBs as the instructor and coach of Clay Shooting, a fifth form pursuit for the CCF, for over twenty years, had another agenda for me. He was a gentleman of the old school of retailing and change was very uncomfortable for him. After many 'boardroom spats', I resigned amicably after five years. I now look back with great nostalgia, but at 25 you think that you know best, whereas in reality you often know very little.

I then went into the hospitality business along with a chef and opened a wine bar and restaurant and eventually night clubs and music venues. We then sold out and went our own ways. I ended up in London working with restaurants, then into a city business, London Wine Bars Ltd,. The call of Cumbria and the Lakes brought me home and I worked for Jennings Bros PLC at Cockermouth developing their managed house division. I had ten very happy years with them prior to their takeover by Marstons.

My next venture was to operate the Westlands Hotel Nightclub and Forum at Branthwaite, Workington. The business was Irish-owned and board meetings were never dull and usually took place in a pub with plenty of 'the black stuff'. Very little was resolved though! I brokered the sale of the Westlands to a Manchester consortium, who eventually bulldozed the site. Who knows why? In 2001 I remarried for the second time, to Jill, the ex-General Manager of the Westlands. In need of useful employment, I returned to my first trade, soft-

furnishings, working from home with pattern books and specialising in curtains, loose covers, and upholstery. My home was near Kirkbride and we had outbuildings which we converted to storage and work space. I was subsequently approached by Plumbs of Preston to act as their agent in Cumbria, Glasgow and Edinburgh, and this proved a very rewarding collaboration.

In December 2013 I was diagnosed with a brain tumour and had emergency surgery at the RVI Newcastle. I remain eternally grateful to the NHS and have raised money for the Northern Centre for Cancer Care at the Freeman Hospital. The long-term fall out from my illness has been dramatic. I was forced into early retirement, no longer able to spell or handle money. Following an amicable divorce, I sold my home and moved back to Carlisle. Having no driving licence, it was the only way forward. My sister and aged mother, along with my ex-wife, act as my carers. I consider myself blessed and would change nothing. Unfortunately, the cancer re-emerged in 2021 and was successfully treated by a new procedure called Static Radio Therapy.

My St Bees days are at the forefront of my memories. I was shaped and formed there into the person I am today. The likes of Sam 'Lem' Parkinson, ANR Dearle, David 'Vas' Lyall, Brian Howard, Tony Cotes and Alan Francis were truly men among men! How lucky we were and didn't realise it at the time."

Eric Middleton (M 58-69) writes:

"I should like to thank all those who sent me details of their 'Special Places' or 'Thin Places' as we called them.

They were included in my recent book, 'Surprised by the Spirit' (Copies still available from me).

I should be most grateful for any further stories from OSBs for my next book: 'Awareness of the Spirit'.

May I ask if you members of the Society would be willing to send me your first experience of these places, based on this question: 'Where in your life have you had an almost 'spiritual' encounter or experience?'

Please contact me at eric.middleton2@btinternet.com or 01287 634834."

**George Robson (FN 57-64) assisted by John Ogden (FS 51-56) writes:
FOUR DAYS IN ST BEES.**

"It is always a pleasure to receive the twice yearly editions of the Old St Beegian Bulletins, which evoke memories of school days and inform us of school-related events.

Attracted by the programme listing events spread over the three days Friday 24th June to Sunday 26th June I travelled over to St Bees on the Thursday and installed myself at The Seacote. It is many years since I have stayed at The Seacote and I

have to say I was impressed to see it updated and modernised to a high standard and I thoroughly enjoyed my four-night stay. The restaurant and bar are much used by the residents of the nearby caravan site, who give an ambience and liveliness to the hotel particularly during the evenings. The staff were very pleasant and helpful and the meals left little to be desired. The room that I was allotted had a spectacular view of the beach, the promenade, and the Head. After breakfast on the morning of the Friday – Founders' Day - I went down to the chapel to give myself plenty of time to master the organ, which I had been invited to play during both the Founders' Day and the St Beghians' Day services. After a full hour's practice, school pupils and some of the staff began to arrive, placing themselves in the forward pews. Behind them parents and visiting Old St Beghians took their places. Everyone had been given a well-prepared and well-designed Order of Service. I was very impressed indeed with the pupils' demeanour and attention throughout the service, during which pupils read the lessons and Headmaster Robin Silk delivered an interesting account of the school's founding in 1583 and certain developments since. I flatter myself by thinking that my performance on the organ went off satisfactorily. Following the service, pupils, staff and visitors mingled and chatted on the Terrace. I engaged with two pupils and the wife of Lawrence Gribble, who hails from South Korea. One of the sixth form boys came from Turkey and the other from Romania. The four of us toured the Foundation and discussed aspects of its history, in particular the carvings on the dining hall panels. Lunch for both pupils and visitors was served in the dining hall, after which I went to join others on the Terrace to view the pupils' Sports Day. The organisation was spot on and I was particularly taken with the long jump competition, which was my specialisation at the 1962 and 1963 sports days. On St Beghians' Day itself I attended the early morning Society Committee Meeting held in the Whitelaw Building. It was followed by the Annual General Meeting, the minutes of which are elsewhere in this Bulletin. Then it was down to the chapel for a Thanksgiving Service led by Canon Jim Baker and his wife the Rev. Anne Baker. As with the Founders' Day service, we were given an Order of Service as we entered the chapel, which again was carefully devised and printed. The service flowed well and again I seemed to handle the organ satisfactorily. Then play began between an OSB cricket team and the Headmaster's X1. It was whilst watching this from the bench at the foot of the chapel's clock tower that I introduced myself to John Ogden, who had placed himself next to me. John's years at the school covered the early 1950s, and he left the year before my own arrival in 1957. We sat for some time before John revealed that he was the instigator and driving force in a ruse involving selected Foundation prefects in 1955. This involved laying a private telephone line (no mobiles in those days)

linking Foundation, Grindal and School House. We agreed to come up with a report of this escapade and submit it for consideration as an article for the next Bulletin. At my suggestion, John and I decided to stroll through the Priory's churchyard and pay respects at the graves of those we remembered.

We did this and found ourselves returning to the school via the Priory Paddock. This is a well-hidden and little visited area of wetland accessible from the churchyard and which leads through to the Dandy Walk. On a wall there is affixed a plaque in memory of two Millhillians who spent the war years, with fellow pupils and staff, in the village. John and I were so entranced that we have resolved to draw up an article on the Paddock for a Bulletin in the hope that OSBs will be driven to familiarize themselves with this village gem. I should add that it is the village council that has the responsibility for the upkeep of the Paddock and they have been sympathetic to the representations John and I have made as to the neglected state of the area. We are promised action to rectify this. The St Bees Council have put online a new website which is excellent and well worth a visit. Our sojourn to the Priory meant we missed Robin Silk's talk in the chapel and the end of the cricket match, but we were able to avail ourselves of the teas on offer in the Foundation dining hall.

I went back to The Seacote and got dressed for the Black Tie Dinner which, as shown by an account in the July edition of *The Old St Beghian* alongside a goodly selection of photographs, was a great success. I was particularly struck by the current sixth formers taking on the roles of waiters (and waitresses!) smartly dressed, confident and efficient. (I hope they were rewarded with pocket money!) Arriving back at The Seacote in the small hours I slept soundly. The next morning I met our newly installed President and his lady at breakfast. We had a pleasant and productive chat and agreed to keep in touch over ideas we have for the President's first year in office.

Then homeward bound with many delightful memories of three days in St Bees. I've since learned that there is an intention to build on a brilliant get-together in 2022 and hold a similar three-day event in 2023."

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan23bulletin>.

George Robson's presentation sixpence (see NE Dinner article).

"In 1583 shipmaster Humphrey Gilbert sailed due west across the Atlantic to discover a large triangular shaped island which he named Newfoundland. He claimed it for England and on his return was given a knighthood by Elizabeth I as a reward. This was the first overseas land claimed for England and was the first of the acquisitions which in time would form the British Empire and cover one third of the globe.

Of course, we celebrate 1583 for another reason – the founding of our school by Archbishop Grindal.

Throughout Queen Elizabeth's long reign of forty-five years none of the coinage bore the dates as we would understand them. Instead, the edges of coins were stamped with mint marks, which were changed each year. Examples are a capital O, a bell, a triangle and, oddly, an elephant.

1583 was stamped with a capital A.

But there was one exception to all this. For reasons not at all clear the sixpences, and only the sixpences, showed both a mintmark AND the date shown, as now, in Arabic letters.

So, the 1583 sixpences display A and 1583.

One such coin was discovered by a metal detector and put up for sale on e-bay.

The coin was duly purchased, framed and presented to the Headmaster at the November 2022 North-East Branch Dinner. He was asked to ensure the coin was put to suitable use and displayed.

By the way, the obverse of the Elizabethan coinage show a crowned and bejeweled profile of the Queen's head and by its side a rose, which all the Tudors used as their symbol. And around the edge in Latin the words ELIZABETH, QUEEN OF ENGLAND, FRANCE AND IRELAND.

On the reverse as well as the mintmark and the date 1583, there is a central shield bearing the three lions of England and the fleur de lys of France. Around the edge in Latin are the words I HAVE MADE GOD MY ADVISOR, which all the Tudors used as a motto."

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan23bulletin>.

This joint contribution is from Mark Spencer Ellis (SH 62-66) and Iain McNicol (SH 62-67).

SIXTY YEARS ON.

Mark writes:

"In September 1962 Iain McNicol and I joined Eaglesfield. The following term we moved onto School House and subsequently shared a study as well as succeeding each other as Eaglesfield House prefects. In February this year I suggested that we could meet up when my wife, Victoria Love, and I might break our journey on our way to the Western Isles, which together with the Isle of Skye have long been our favourite summer destinations. We met in Port Appin where Iain and his wife Winnie live. So, at this stage he can take up the tale."

Iain writes:

"Mark and I had a very pleasant evening together last night with our respective wives, whom we had never met, as it is 54 years since Mark and I last saw each other. We started on Eaglesfield together 60 years ago before moving quickly

onto School House in January 1963 – the severest winter for many years. We immediately became firm friends and supported each other through our time at St Bees enjoying rugby, cricket, running and indeed most sports.

Our paths diverted when Mark went to Oxford whilst I chose to go to the family Alma Mater, the University of Glasgow, initially to study biochemistry, but after two years, hating laboratories, I went and asked to follow my dream to become a GP and was accepted to medical school on the old six year course, which had long summer holidays, allowing a rich education in life. In these holidays I worked in the Forestry Commission, hitch-hiked round most of Europe, worked in an innovative cancer clinic in Germany, was the sole white employee on an Arkansas cotton farm, and ended up running a 1,500 bed provincial psychiatric hospital in Thunder Bay.

On graduating I did my surgical house job in Inverness before returning to Glasgow to do a medical/geriatric house job with the pioneer of geriatric medicine, Prof Fergusson Anderson.

I then did a trainee GP post in Bearsden and Woodside Health Centre in Maryhill, Glasgow with a view to deciding what further training I wanted before entering practice. Memorial University of Newfoundland had set up the world's first programme for remote family medicine training, so I applied and was luckily accepted on their two year programme. So, we spent two happy years in that fascinating province before returning to Hamilton and then spending two years in the lovely island of Flotta in the Orkneys at the height of the oil construction boom. My father then retired from the Appin Lismore Practice, so I applied and was lucky enough to be accepted, and so spent the rest of my career in a single-handed practice, which allowed endless opportunities to expand my horizons. I have had a wonderfully satisfying life shared with my wife, and four children and my Moody 35.”

Mark continues:

“I hope I have had a fulfilling career, but not perhaps so obviously in the service of others as Iain's has been, particularly in the light of some of the stories he shared with us in June.

I read English – a stern critic might say ‘English and rugby’ – at Oxford at the college where one of St Bees most distinguished players, Peter Dixon, was a post-graduate student (in my first year all three members of the college back row went on to captain their countries, one for South Africa and two for England); I then taught at Marlborough College for six years. My rugby career peaked with a senior county cap for Dorset and Wiltshire. On a scale of representative rugby, with playing a Lions' test match at one end of the scale and an under 15 trial for Rutland at the other, perhaps my playing days were more at the Rutland end.

When I started as Head of English at Forest School in East London it was a boys' school with about 450 pupils of secondary school age. Over the years the school has become co-educational, has made more space available by abandoning boarding, and has become much larger. I spent 28 years as Director of Sixth Form, and in the final years we had 280 sixth form students.

While serving my time as an A level Chief Examiner, I published several contributions in the Longman Critical Essays series, mainly on Shakespeare and Chaucer, and also edited *Brave New World* and *Cry, The Beloved Country* for Longman Study Texts.

In 2012 I stepped down from the Director of Sixth Form post and took two years of part-secondment at the new London Academy of Excellence. This is a sixth form academy in the London Borough of Newham, which has six partner schools in the independent sector: Brighton College, Caterham, Eton, Forest, Highgate and University College School. My role was to set up the template for university guidance and to be, together with a teacher from Eton, half of the initial English Department. This was extraordinarily rewarding. Raising aspirations was easy, especially with students who had learnt to conceal any academic inclinations and who were now revelling in the realisation that it could be cool to be clever.

I don't believe for a minute that a sixth form's quality should be judged solely on its Oxbridge results, but they can be a healthy indication that things are going well. Back in 2012 on average two or three Newham students won places at Oxford and Cambridge. Building on a first year which doubled the borough's previous average, LAE has been achieving well over 30 offers recently. Teaching and encouraging these students, many of whom were the first members of their family to apply to university, was a wonderful way to end my career.

However, I'm still busy though looking for ways to cut down on commitments. I first became involved in running night shelters in the 1990s when the Redbridge night shelter was set up, and I negotiated a move into permanent premises with the local authority. Then I joined the Board of Management of the Renewal Programme, renewalprogramme.org.uk, which is a major charity operating in Newham running several projects which aim to empower the most marginalised members of society. When I became Chair of the Board of Management we had a turnover in the region of £3 million a year, so while not being a giant like Oxfam, we were in the top 5% of UK charities for income and expenditure. After ten years as Chair I decided to step down in 2016.

In 'retirement' I trained as a Church of England Authorised Preacher at St Mary's Woodford and I currently chair Chelmsford Diocese Educational Trust. There are 139 Church Schools in the Diocese, and our main function is to be a member of the Board of each multi-academy trust which has responsibility for one or more of our schools. Rather to my surprise I've also found myself accepting the position

of Co-ordinator of the Chaplaincy of the largest Crown Court in England and Wales. Snaresbrook Crown Court is based in a former orphanage and school, and with twenty courts can be a very busy and stressful place. We have an ecumenical team of about fifteen, which allows us to open for at least ninety minutes in the middle of the day when the Court is sitting. The role in some ways is rather like that of being Director of Sixth Form: no matter how often you've heard versions of a particular issue or problem, you have to remember that this is probably the first time the person talking to you has experienced it. A capacity for non-judgemental listening is essential.

As is the case with Iain, I find close family a source of great delight. Both of our daughters live fairly close, and some OSBs have met the younger one, Julia, at the OSB and guests' event at Wasps in March 2019 (see the Bulletin for July 2019). While I am singularly lacking in Iain's enthusiasm for and capacity to sail a Moody 35, my enthusiasm for rugby remains, and Julia and I have been season ticket holders at Wasps since the amateur days. This has involved four changes of home ground, each further away from home, but the thought of changing to the nearest premiership club, Saracens, is impossible.

On reflection I think I was so lucky that St Bees between 1962 and 1966 was rather good at two things I really enjoyed, English and rugby. I wish I'd had the imaginative capacity back then to appreciate what experience of the school must have been like for those who didn't buy into the mainstream 'approved' activities. What has also stuck is a remark by Geoffrey Lees. Right from the beginning of the lower sixth in 1964 when he taught us, I sensed that he found teaching a relief from the public role of being Headmaster. And in my final year he suggested that while a sixth former of 1939 would have had so much in common with a sixth former of 1962, neither would have found it easy to find common ground with a sixth former of 1966.

I'm so pleased that Victoria and I were able to visit Geoffrey and Joan in Hove so that I could say, many years later, that I realised I owe so much to his teaching."

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan23bulletin>.

SNIPPETS.....

Tim Brown (G 53-59) has kindly sent in a photograph of a recent meet-up. He writes "Herewith a photo of four old lags who reminisced for a couple of hours at Windermere Golf Club... (Mark Davies (G 55-59), Nigel Davies (G 57-62), self and Edward Thompson (FS 54-59))."

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan23bulletin>.

OBITUARIES

Chris Lord (G 53-57) has written the following:

Peter Gibson Lord (G 58-62).

“My brother Peter died on 17th September, age 78. He was the second of three brothers to follow their father to St Bees; a sister might well have followed also except neither parents nor school would have contemplated such a thing in 1962! Peter was a chorister in the time of Donald Leggatt and remembered riding in that famous TR2. He also remembered, as do I, rehearsing the last five words of Psalm 121 verse 6. After school he joined John Lewis in Liverpool and then moved into the timber trade, first in Liverpool, then Cheltenham, interrupted by a spell in Vancouver. He made his way to Canada as a supernumerary on a cargo ship, which proved to be quite an adventure. Returning to the UK, he joined British Home Stores in London, working on the buying side of the business. Armed with that experience he joined Kays of Worcester.

In 1972 he married Mary, a young lady from Norfolk whom he met in London. They had two children, Katherine and Adrian, and five grandchildren.

The family lived in Worcester until 1989, when a new job took Peter to Great Universal Stores in Manchester. Growing restless with the corporate life and with their children then grown up, Peter and Mary moved to Norfolk, where Peter undertook a variety of different jobs and devoted more time to his music. They moved back to Heswall, on the Wirral, about ten years ago and it has been a delight for our sister and me to have him living close by once again after half a century.

Peter was a gifted keyboard player. He was a church organist, playing at regular Sunday services as well as weddings and funerals, taught the piano, and entertained in restaurants, care homes and at private events. His friendly and sociable nature, together with his music, brought joy into many lives.

For the last two years he has struggled bravely and patiently with health problems and finally succumbed to cancer.”

Henry (Harry) Murray (FN 54-59).

We have been advised of the death of Harry Murray, aged 81, on 17th October 2022. He was Honorary Consul to Tunisia and one of the longest serving Consuls in Scotland, having been appointed in 1986. His responsibilities were wide-ranging and while focused on supporting Tunisian nationals in Scotland, he never missed an opportunity to promote Scottish interests in Tunisia. He also served as Dean of the Glasgow Consular Corp (1995-98).

Harry was born in Glasgow (1941) and following his time at St Bees School

qualified as a structural engineer, before taking the helm at Brownlee and Murray, the family engineering business. He developed the company's international interests, particularly in the Middle East and Africa where he travelled extensively and forged many commercial partnerships. His wider industry roles included Chairmanship of the Scottish Structural Steel Association. He was subsequently a Director of J.R. Adam and Sons, a recycling and metal exporting company.

A talented sportsman, he played rugby over three decades for the West of Scotland RFC (including the team that won the Scottish Championship in 1965). He also played for London Scottish and was selected to play for Glasgow District and the Co-Optimist Rugby Club, an invitational side. He played cricket for the Clydesdale C.C., and was a lifelong golfer with memberships at The Golf House Club (Elie), where he served as Captain, Western Gailes Golf Club and Royal St George's Golf Club.

He leaves a wife, Kay, three children and four grandchildren.

Extracted from Harry's full obituary which was published in The Herald on 21st November 2022.

From S.W. Stanley (Tim) Morrison (FN 55-59) and W.B. (Brian) Morrison (FN 58-61).

Harry Murray, Eaglesfield and Foundation North (1954-1959).

"Harry arrived in Eaglesfield in 1954 prior to entering Foundation North. From an early beginning he excelled at sport and played rugby and cricket for his house, earning both his Junior and Senior house colours as well as his rugby cap. He was part of the very successful FN Team that won the Senior Cup over three years. For the school he played in the Under 15s, Colts (colours) and the 1st XV during Seasons 57/58 and 58/59, earning his colours. An outstanding fullback he was also selected by West of Scotland RFC to represent Scottish Schoolboys in 1958. A very successful Cross Country runner Harry represented the school in West Cumbria events over a number of years both as a Junior and Senior. A regular in the 2nd XI, he also played golf for the house VIII and represented the school at both squash and fives. In his final year, he was a house prefect."

Stanley (Tim) Morrison (FN 55-59) writes:

"Harry and I knew each other prior to entering St Bees. After school we enjoyed a close friendship over the years as did my Brother Brian (FN 58-61). I was proud to be an usher at his wedding to Kay and privileged to become a godfather to his son Edward.

He will be sorely missed by his many friends who enjoyed his zest for life, sense of humour and ready laughter, a great character, gone far too early."

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan23bulletin>.

Matthew Rigby (FS 72-78).

Guy Rigby (FS 72-78) has kindly co-ordinated the following obituary.

“It was September 1972. We loaded two large trunks, two tuck boxes, other sundry gear and an overnight bag for my parents into the bottom of my father’s Dutch yawl, hitched the trailer to the back of his car and headed north from Worcestershire, up the M6, over Corney Fell and into St Bees. We found our dayroom on Foundation South where our names had been pinned to two cubicles which would become our home for the next year. Dad (Tony Rigby FS 44-49) grinned broadly as he found the names of other boys whose fathers had been on Foundation South at the same time as he some thirty years prior (McCulloch, Wallace, Hayward, Copsey all of whom quickly became close friends). He shook us by the hand, said ‘Do well at your rugby’ and drove away, with my mother hiding the tears flowing from her eyes.

Hence began five of the happiest years of my life, and certainly that of my identical twin brother Matthew Rigby (FS 72-78).

As identical as we were physically, we pursued different subjects at school and Matthew’s focus became the sciences. His A-Levels in physics, chemistry and maths earned him a place at Loughborough University to read Production Engineering. This led to a very successful career, initially with ICI in the UK and then with two Dutch companies, ICD followed by ECEM.

But none of us really relished academic studies at St Bees. It was the friendships we made and the extra-curricular activities we engaged in that shaped who we became. Matthew loved his rugby and played as a lock for the 1st XV. He regularly went hiking with his friends in the fells and in 1977 was part of a team that hiked across England, starting in St Bees and ending a week later dipping their blistered feet in the North Sea. The close friends he made then (Batey, Copsey, Crossley-Smith, Crummey, Ellis, Haywood, Larkin, Mansfield and Wallace) became best friends for life.

Matthew was a very accomplished sailor and he regularly took his close friends on epic sailing trips around Europe which, despite the sea sickness (or was it the beer?), became legendary. Opera was another great passion Matthew and I shared and he one-upped me in a huge way when he visited the birthplace of Giacomo Puccini in Lucca, Italy and was toured around the museum by none other than Puccini’s granddaughter.

Matthew’s faith as a Christian greatly defined the kind, generous and caring person he was. He became very involved with his church, St John’s in Hartford, and his home in Cheshire was always open to friends needing a place to stay.

Unquestionably Matthew’s greatest passion was his family. On a blind date organized by OSB friend Trent Wallace, Matthew met the love of his life, Judi, whom he married in 1988. They produced two amazing daughters, Sophie and

Olivia, whom I'm so proud to call my nieces. And no English family is complete without a dog and Matthew's springer spaniels Biggles, Sasha and Twiglet were the other great loves of his life.

Despite his indomitable spirit and the extraordinary care of his amazing wife Judi, Matthew's body failed him. He'd lived with MS for over fifteen years and he finally lost his five year battle with cancer in March this year. St John's Church overflowed with the many friends and family who came to say farewell at his funeral. It was the greatest honour of my life to have called Matthew my identical twin brother."

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan23bulletin>.

From Richard Crummey (FS 71-78).

THE GUV.

"I first came across Matthew when I was twelve as I arrived on South from Eaglesfield. Matthew joined from prep school. Little did I think then that we would be friends for nearly fifty years.

I had never seen anything quite like Matthew and his brother Guy, towering over us with an amazing aura of self-confidence. My first memory of the twins was their complaining to Mr. Thornton, the Foundation cook, about the horrendous quality of the food. This never stopped Matthew from returning for seconds and ironically Guy would later become Vice President of Food and Beverage for the Four Seasons Hotel Group.

While we were listening to The Who and Led Zeppelin in study five, Matthew was humming along to Mozart and Beethoven beneath two enormous posters of the great men! This went down especially well with Anthony Dearle and no doubt paved the way for Matthew becoming Head of House years later.

Rugby, cricket, fives with a sprinkling of athletics dominated our days with sparse attention to our studies. Within the blink of an eye, our school days were over, and our disparate group headed off to pastures new.

Much to our surprise Matthew would later become a Governor of the school and henceforth would be known to us all as 'The Guv'

I shall treasure our memories of sailing, camping and golf trips

We shall all miss you Guv.....Rest in Peace!"

From Richard Copsey (FS 72-78).

Matthew, The Guv.

" ' but, Oh Lord, they could eat.... ' .

Food at St Bees was a contraband commodity, traded like fags and booze in a prison. We were always hungry, looking for ways to fill that empty void that is the stomach of a teenage boy.

My mum always told the story of the Rigby boys when I mentioned them. They had come to stay on a Blue Ticket to my home for the weekend. As was customary in a Cumbrian farmhouse, food was central, and eating almost competitive. So, when we sat down for Saturday tea, my parents thought they would defeat these two strapping, southern, effete six-footers, with the largest turkey with all the trimmings my dad could find.

We sat round the large kitchen table, and as was polite, Matthew and Guy got theirs first. Still there were five others to serve, but by the time it came to me (the youngest and always the last) the brothers had polished off their gargantuan portions, and were looking up, asking for more. My mum and dad were mightily impressed, and never tired of telling this tale to all and sundry

To live a good life you must have a big appetite, and my mate Matthew certainly had that.

I miss him more than I can say.”

From Trent Wallace (FS 72-78).

“I remember Matthew with great fondness as my Head of House on South. I had lost my brother Richard during the summer before our return to St Bees for my last year and to be frank, at the time I just wanted to be on my own away from everything. However, after a few days back with the support, kindness, and general great bonhomie from Matthew and my very good bunch of friends, I soon started cheering up. I was more out of school than in it during that last year and Matthew always covered for me and used to sign me in on the House log sheet even though I was probably many miles away, normally in a public house somewhere. Matthew used to mock-chastise me in his study bedroom with the most wonderful Anthony Dearle impressions and then crack open a beer for me. The most wonderful man I ever had the pleasure of knowing and a very close friend. I miss him dearly. God rest your soul Guv and I shall see you on the other side.”

Michael Coffey (SH 59-63) writes:

“Matthew had a vision for St Bees, which included maximising the school's outstanding asset, the golf course. Designed and built by schoolboys in the 1920s, Matthew arranged for Stuart Hemmings to come from Seascale and coach considerable numbers of students on a regular basis. Eventually Stuart was appointed on a full-time basis and the St Bees School Golf Academy took off. Golf prospered at the school and before too long Stuart made various requests to Matthew to improve both the teaching facilities and the course. Members of the OSBGS rallied to the cause, funding and supplying provisions of green keeping equipment, the short game area close to the 9th green of the golf course, and the outstanding Costeloe chipping and putting green situated behind School House.

Thanks to Matthew's enthusiasm, St Bees School has an ongoing golfing legacy with a talented and very well coached pool of golfers who are maintaining the St Bees name and traditions in various past pupils' competitions, including the most famous and prestigious Halford Hewitt Cup. These St Beghians will never forget the golfing start they were given, thanks to Matthew's foresight and drive."

Jane Sarjeant has kindly submitted the following regarding her late father.

Derek Scott (F 42-48).

"Dad was born in Bradford in 1930. After attending local schools until the age of fourteen, in 1944 he was sent away to St Bees School. There followed (in my father's words) 'four really good and enjoyable years' during which time he founded the school Photographic Society, and played rugby for the first team. On summer days off, he would join friends to cycle to the Lakeland fells.

After leaving St Bees in 1948, he spent 18 months doing National Service with the Royal Signals. Rugby again played a large part in his life and he was chosen to play for the Signals along with other top players, winning the Army Cup in 1948.

After National Service, he was accepted for Cambridge – he thought due to his rugby success rather than any great academic ability! There followed (in his words) 'three marvellous years', first studying economics and then law, and playing rugby for the Selwyn College first team. He met and married my mother Noreen, and had a son and two daughters.

He qualified as a solicitor in 1957 and became a partner with a firm in Bradford. Dad commuted three days a week to Bradford by car and steam train for several years until the family moved to Troutbeck in the Lake District. Subsequently he was offered a partnership in Ambleside.

He took part in many motorsport events in the 1950s and early sixties, and won a number of them, including the Mini-Monte in 1954 and 1955.

He always had a sense of adventure and a love of all things speedy – especially cars, horses and boats. He competed in many vintage car hill climbs in his 1938 Riley Sprite – without doubt his favourite car.

Dad was very involved in Troutbeck village. He was proud to serve as Mayor of Troutbeck; he was Manager of Troutbeck School and served as a Trustee of the Troutbeck Institute for many years. In 1972 he took over as secretary to the Governors of St Anne's School, then he became a Governor and Vice Chairman until 2000. When I was at school, I would often see him walking the corridors with the Headmaster, deep in conversation.

In 1975 mum and dad bought the very run down Wateredge Hotel in Ambleside. It was in a poor state when they took it over, so we all spent the summer clearing

the rubbish and the hotel was renovated to a high standard. It was soon considered to be one of the best hotels in the Lake District, and dad was always extremely proud of an article in an American newspaper showing the best 25 Hotels in England. There were two in Cumbria. The Sharrow Bay on Ullswater and our Wateredge!

Their chapter came to a close with their divorce, so dad immersed himself in all things work-related and the running of the hotel, and this was how he met Catherine, his second wife.

It wasn't long before they were married. They had a son in 1985 and a daughter five years later.

The next few years were spent with his young family watching him compete in time trials and hill climbs all over the country with the Vintage Sports Car Club. There never seemed to be a dull moment with dad at home, either. There was always an old car to fix in the shed after a long day at the office, or work in the woods to do on a grey Sunday afternoon. His vegetable garden was a source of great pleasure and he could be found pottering in there until his very last days. He remained committed to his work as a solicitor until his retirement in his eighties, often going well out of his way for clients and spending long hours at his desk on a mission to get the fairest results on cases big and small.

Dad was a proud family man, always celebrating successes and encouraging us through our low points, and always delighted to welcome new arrivals. He had a boyish enthusiasm for so many interests.

He was aware of his fortunate circumstances and this gave him a real desire to do his best for others. His generous-spirited and trusting nature will live on in us in the years to come.”

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan23bulletin>.

Peter Wharton (GH 58-62).

We have received the following from Peter's family.

“It is with a heavy heart we announce the passing of Peter Ralph Wharton after a three year battle with cancer, which he bravely fought. Peter and his older brother David grew up in Keswick and he always had a special place in his heart for the Lake District.

He was on Grindal House and he enjoyed school life and made some good friends at St Bees, with many of whom he kept in touch and who were present at his online memorial service. Upon leaving school, Peter attended Hornsey Art College in London and later joined the advertising world which, after many years, led him around Europe, Southeast Asia and eventually Jakarta, where he started his own advertising business, Admanta. He left the UK aged 21 and never looked back.

Peter had an eye for detail and was a fond collector and restorer of antique clocks, particularly 400-day/anniversary clocks, which he kept in pristine condition. He was also a nature enthusiast and enjoyed spending most of his time outdoors with his corgis in his beautiful garden.

He attended a few OSB Society meetings in Singapore in recent years, which he thoroughly enjoyed. He leaves his wife Fei, daughters Amanda and Tanya and his brother David. May he rest in eternal peace and love.”

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan23bulletin>.

From Bruce Murdoch (FN 63-68).

“I met Peter rather late in life in 1996 when I was based in Jakarta and working for Schering-Plough, a US Pharmaceutical company. He was an adman to the core. In the late 90s and early 2000s he worked with me on various product campaigns which were well appreciated by our customers. As OSB’s we had a lot in common, so met socially and I got to know his family very well. Unfortunately, I left Jakarta in 2002 and came back to UK. However, I kept in touch through Christmas cards etc.

Very sad we have lost a very entertaining member of our team.”

We reprint below part of the obituary notice which appeared in the last Bulletin plus a supplement which, owing to an oversight, was omitted from that notice. We apologise to Anthony’s family for this error.

Anthony Joseph Wills (F 60-64)

Anthony was born on 28th April 1947 and lived at Angerton House near the Solway Firth, which has been in the family since the 18th century, and he was a proud Cumbrian.

At the age of seven, Anthony went to prep school at Lime House and then Rickerby. At the age of thirteen, he followed in his father’s and grandfather’s footsteps, and moved to St Bees where he joined Foundation House.

He greatly enjoyed his years at St Bees and made some very good friends while at school, including Richard Hughes, Anthony Rickerby, Neil Dumbleton, Richard Langhorne and David Griffiths, among others. He enjoyed lessons, especially history, but his highlights at school were cross-country running, playing hockey on the beach and having the freedom to explore the Lake District by bike with friends including stopping off for a sneaky half pint on the way home.

After leaving St Bees he spent time working on the family farm before a year in Edinburgh, where he shared a flat with Richard Langhorne and further honed his hockey skills at the Grange Club. His hockey playing continued when he returned to Cumbria, and he went on to play for Carlisle and for Cumbria County. He also

coached and umpired for Newton Rigg College, where he later worked. His passion for hockey was passed on to his three daughters, and he spent many Saturday mornings cheering-on from the side-lines. His hockey skills live on through his grandchildren in New Zealand and in Inverness.

Anthony met Joanna on Boxing Day in 1971 and they were married in October 1972. They were very happily married and were delighted to have three daughters, Charlotte, Louise and Claudia.

After a career in banking and farming, he changed direction and became a lecturer in horticulture at Newton Rigg College, Penrith. There he enjoyed working with young people and organising student trips to gardens across the UK, and to Finland. Anthony loved planning holidays (he may well have chosen to become a lecturer in order to have the long summer vacations) and chose destinations for the family that could combine a love of boats and water-skiing. He was determined to water-ski right through to his 70th, even after a hip replacement. Anthony's other great love was horses. He enjoyed riding with the hunt as a young man and going horse racing with his family. He often organised his college students' trips to gardens around a particular race meeting. He more recently enjoyed taking his grandchildren horse racing in New Zealand and celebrating his 70th birthday at races in Yorkshire with his family.

Anthony was proud to be an Old St Beghian and enjoyed many a social event in Cumbria and Edinburgh. In his retirement many hours were given to St Bees as President of the Old St Beghian Society (2011-2014) and he was also on the Board of Governors. Always a man to keep busy, he was Company Chairman of the Silver Grill Property Company and an active member and Chairman of Probus in Keswick.

Anthony could be serious at times, but always underlying that was someone who wanted to have fun and didn't like people taking themselves too seriously. His family will greatly miss the twinkle in his eye when making us laugh. He is sorely missed by his wife Joanna, his three daughters and their families.

Articles for 'The Old St Beghian' Bulletin

The next issue of 'The Old St Beghian' is due out in **July 2023**.

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, 2023**.

Notification of Deaths (Since the July 2022 Bulletin)

BELL, J.R. (James)	Died ???.?.22	F 63-66
BULLIVANT, J.G. (Jon)	Died ???.?.22	FS 45-49
CARDAUNS, B. (Burkhart)	Died 07.12.22	SH 48-48
LORD, P.G. (Peter)	Died 17.09.22	G 58-62
MORTON, N.A. (Neil)	Died 27.09.22	F 62-65
MURRAY, H. (Henry/Harry)	Died 17.10.22	FN 54-59
ROBERTS, W.G. (Bill)	Died ???.?.22	M 58-62
SCOTT, J. D. (Derek)	Died 11.08.22	G 44-48
WARES, M.P. (Michael)	Died 14.05.22	F 58-61
WHARTON, P.R. (Peter)	Died 03.11.22	G 58-62

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.

Have you recently changed your address?

Have you got married recently?

Have any other personal details changed?

Have you any interesting news?

Have you told us about it?

If not, please do so now on:

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

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

ST BEGHIAN SOCIETY NOTES

St Beghian Society Annual Subscription 2022/23

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. 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 details.

Data Protection Permissions

To update your permissions in respect of communications from the Society relating **specifically to Marketing and Fundraising** matters (including details of the OSB 'Shop' items for sale and School/Trust Information), please complete the online form at <https://forms.office.com/r/MmWi8QUk91> or contact the OSB Office.

Annual General Meeting – June 2022

The Minutes of the Society's Annual general Meeting which took place on OSB Day last year are now given below.

Minutes of the 27th (112th) Annual General Meeting of the St Beghian Society held in the Whitelaw Building on Saturday, 25th June 2022 at 11.00am.

There were 21 people present, including Howard Graham (President), Carter Croft (President Elect), David Lord (Treasurer), Pam Rumney (Secretary) and nine Committee Members.

- 1) Welcome by the President, Howard Graham** – Howard welcomed all those present to the 112th Annual General Meeting of the St Beghian Society and thanked everyone for their attendance.
He referred Members to the OSB Day Programme for a list of OSBs who had offered their apologies.

- 2) **Brief Silence in memory of departed OSBs** – A listing of 69 OSBs whom the Society had been advised had passed away since the last AGM in 2019 had been prepared and was made available for attendees to view. A brief silence in memory of the departed was proposed by the President.
- 3) **Confirmation of the Minutes of the 111th A.G.M. held on Saturday 28th September, 2019 (published in the January 2020 Bulletin). No AGMs had been held in 2020 or 2021 due to Covid-19** – The Minutes of the previous meeting in September 2019 were agreed as a true and accurate record. They were proposed by George Robson and seconded by Sara Calvin.
- 4) **Matters Arising** – There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- 5) **Election of Officers:**
 - a) **President 2022-2024 – Carter Croft (FN 60-65)**. Howard thanked Carter for offering to take on the role and wished him luck for the future. He went on to mention that Carter was an avid rugby man, currently living in Yorkshire.
 - b) **President Elect – Vacant.**
 - c) **Committee – Newly proposed Committee Member – Lucy Cox.** In Lucy's absence, through Covid, Howard thanked her for offering to stand for election on the Committee. It was unanimously agreed that the injection of younger blood would be of benefit to the Society. It was hoped that Lucy could be welcomed in person at the next meeting.
Retiring this year were John Dunn, Richard Hall and Mark Roberts. John, Richard and Mark had all expressed their willingness to stand for re-election.
 - d) **Treasurer** – David Lord expressed his willingness to continue.
 - e) **Secretary** – Pam Rumney agreed to continue.
 - f) **Golfing Secretary** – Tom Wright was willing to continue as Golfing Secretary.
 - g) **Accounts Checker** – Jason Spires was also willing to continue as Accounts Checker.
 - h) **Bulletin Editor** – Tony Reeve.
Recommendation: That the Bulletin Editor is recognised as an official officer of the Committee.
It was explained that for several years, the Bulletin Editor had attended and contributed to the St Beghian Society Committee Meetings. Therefore, a recommendation had been put forward to ensure that this position was officially recognised in the future.

A proposal to elect all the officers, as above, was made and unanimously agreed. This was proposed by Steve Crossley-Smith and seconded by Dacre Watson.

- 6) **President's Handover.** Howard Graham commenced by saying that, ironically, this was both his first and last meeting, due to the Covid situation over the previous two years. He once again thanked Carter Croft for offering to take on the role of President and then officially handed over to Carter as the new President of the Society.

Carter thanked Howard and briefly introduced himself to the meeting.

- 7) **School Update** – Robin Silk, the Headmaster, began by stating that it was 'work in progress' at St Bees. He confirmed that four years ago when the school re-opened, there were just nine students. Currently there are 72 and in September 2022, it is hoped that the figure will rise to 100. He agreed that there had been many bursaries awarded in the early years but confirmed that now many students were paying full fees. In September 2022 it was hoped that the 6th Form would comprise one third of the school and that just over half of the students would be boarders, including some local students.

Robin went on to remind members that the school buildings were owned by the St Bees School Charitable Trust and that they currently needed funds to invest in the properties. He confirmed that Full Circle had already invested around £5m in the development of the school.

Robin acknowledged that the new St Bees was a different school from the past, particularly with regard to the Fusion aspect of the curriculum. The way maths was taught and partnered with the University of Durham, School of Education, plus the learning of Mandarin Chinese for all students, were two examples of change identified by Robin.

He went on to emphasise that the interest in the school was growing and that they are still moving forward, despite the problems of Covid. This year's OSB Day, the school's first Founders' Day and the Black Tie Dinner were all testament to the school's advancing and overcoming the challenges of the last two to three years.

Robin praised the excellent staff, in particular mentioning David Lamb's 40 years' service, and the outstanding pastoral care offered in the school. He expressed his passion for the school-community and the exciting challenges ahead. Robin concluded by saying that, although it was a different school now, he sincerely hoped and believed that it would live up to the standards of the previous St Bees School.

Questions then followed from St Beghian Society members present at the AGM.

John Ogden asked about the school's plans should China invade Taiwan. Robin confirmed that there were currently no plans in place.

Steve Crossley-Smith asked whether there were any Ukrainian students in the school. Robin stated that there were currently three and that two more were coming. He went on to describe the huge amount of fundraising that had taken place for the West Cumbria Ukrainian Appeal. Around £1200 had been raised and 40m³ of aid items collected. Tom Kelly from the St Bees School Charitable Trust had driven a minibus to Poland to deliver the donations. Robin confirmed that this had been a very positive and successful venture.

David Lord enquired where the proposed increased number of boarders would be housed. Robin confirmed that both Grindal and Abbots Court were to be sold as, owing to their current state, the cost of refurbishing these properties was prohibitive. He went on to say that the school had looked at prefabricated buildings, similar to those used at Loretto School. The Bunkabin buildings, which had a 12 year life span, could be rented on a three year basis and erected in three days. Robin indicated that the school had considered two possible future sites for boarding accommodation, one near the cricket nets and the other on the stackyard site, where the existing porta cabin could possibly be used as a day room. He hoped that once the school had grown in size, the provision of permanent boarding accommodation could be considered.

Carter Croft asked whether the school currently ran a Summer School. Robin stated that they did, but that it was on a small scale and was not a huge income generator. The initial Chinese intake that had attended sadly diminished owing to Covid. The Headmaster hoped that in 2023 the Chinese market would regenerate.

David Marshall enquired about the ownership of the school and the involvement of China. Robin explained that the company running the school was owned by Full Circle, but that the site and buildings were owned by the St Bees School Charitable Trust. He went on to mention the two schools in China currently also owned by Full Circle, which are at present still fairly small operations but with the potential to expand. Robin emphasised that the Charitable Trust was in debt to Full Circle, but he also mentioned that Danny Wang from Full Circle had promised that any payment of debt would go back into the development of the school. Robin stated that he had faith in the individuals who were involved in the Full Circle group and that Laurence Gribble, an OSB himself, was a university friend of Danny Wang and was very much involved in the company. Robin concluded that, in his opinion, it was important to be an optimist and to work with China. David Marshall, who lives in Kenya, expressed his concerns, citing the problems between Kenya

and China. He acknowledged, however, that the UK was very different from Kenya. Howard Graham indicated that he believed that many OSBs had concerns about the school's involvement with China but, personally, he felt that the opportunity should be taken to get the school back on its feet and working towards a better future. He also stated his confidence in Robin and Laurence to achieve this aim. In addition, he reiterated the fact that Full Circle had rights to the school but not its infrastructure.

John Ogden raised the question of the proposed site to mine coking coal currently under discussion with the government. Robin confirmed that if it went ahead, a third of the mineral rights would go to the Charitable Trust, which would amount to around £250k a year and this income would in turn go back into the school.

George Robson conveyed his praise and thanks to the school for an extremely well organised Founders' Day, which had taken place the day before. He spoke of the immaculately behaved and presented students and the general success of the day. George requested that the event should be repeated in the future; however he did mention that not many OSBs had attended and hoped that more would do so next time.

Dacre Watson asked about the other students from Europe that had been mentioned and, in particular, where they were from and what attracted them to St Bees. Robin praised the admissions and marketing work done at fairs throughout Europe. He confirmed that Ceara Fisher, as Head of Marketing and Admissions, liaised with Full Circle over daily tasks but that Full Circle had no direct role in recruitment for St Bees UK. He went on to say that the traditional old school and its past pupils, such as Rowan Atkinson, plus the excellent pastoral care on offer are the most important factors to prospective families. Academically, he felt there was work to be done but he stated he had faith in future plans and improvements.

Dacre went on to ask if Robin saw St Bees as an international school or a British public school. Robin replied that at the present time, approximately one third of the pupils were international, however, the school was also beginning to attract several local students into the sixth form, who were very good academically. He stated that he did not want too many international students and nor did he want too many of the international pupils to be from China. He felt that a balance was required with international students from a range of countries. Laurence Gribble pointed out that most international students actually want more British students in a school. It was also stated that the school remit was to educate Cumbrian pupils first and foremost. It was confirmed that in September two Chinese students would be joining the school.

Robin mentioned that the many short-term students that the school attracts often stay on for a further couple of years at St Bees. He concluded by talking about the Chinese staff who are trained by St Bees UK and also about the online training platform which is gradually expanding to other Chinese schools.

Robin was thanked for a very useful and interesting insight into the current position of the school.

- 8) St Beghian Society Finances and Accounts (2021-2022)** - David Lord, Treasurer of the Society, presented the AGM with a copy of the accounts for the year ending 31st January 2022. He reported a loss of £5778 for the 2020/21 accounts, in comparison to a profit of £6492 for the previous year. Despite this loss being disappointing, David pointed out that a donation from the Kendal Branch of the Society on its closure of over £5k, a 200 Club contribution of £2k and several one-off subscription payments during 2020/21 as opposed to annual donations (£9k subs in 20/21 and £5k subs in 21/22), had all contributed to the difference in figures between the two years. David also drew attention to the lack of Life Membership payments received since the closure of the school. However, he reported that discussions had taken place with the school regarding a membership payment of £5 a term being paid by each pupil, which would then be transferred to the Society as their Life Membership fees. Although this had not yet come to fruition, David confirmed that this would be followed up with the school to resolve any problems causing the delay in implementation. He also referred to the cost of producing and distributing the hard copy issue of the Bulletin. Around £1500 a year could be saved if all copies were distributed electronically, though David stressed that he was not advocating this at the present time, as many of those who received such copies were loyal supporters of the school and Society and had, in many cases, contributed financially to continue to receive a hard copy Bulletin.

David identified the £56k loan to the GTF, but confirmed that now the Lonsdale Terrace properties had been sold, this would be repaid in the near future.

He concluded by confirming that the Society currently held assets of around £90k and therefore should survive for a few years to come.

George Robson raised the question of legacies and suggested that the OSB membership might be regularly reminded that legacies to the Society would be very welcomed.

Carter Croft recommended contacting surviving relatives of OSBs and inviting them to relevant OSB events.

9) **Lonsdale Terrace and GTF** – Anthony Fox reported that the Lonsdale Terrace properties had been sold in April 2021 and that, following the repayment of loans, the net proceeds of £400k had been invested. He stated that in 20-25 years’ time, following sufficient capital growth, it was the intention to use the income to provide educational bursaries. In the meantime, Anthony confirmed that the existing debt to the Society would need to be repaid.

Anthony concluded by requesting that St Beghian Society members consider putting themselves forward as Trustees of the Guarantee Trust Fund (GTF).

10) **Branch Activities** – The Dinners/Events List which had been distributed was referred to and the two London events, due to take place in September and October, were mentioned (London Dinner - 16th September and London Social - 14th October).

George Robson requested clarification about which regional OSB Branches currently existed.

11) **The 200 Club Report and Draw** – Darryl Davies presented a report to the AGM identifying the current number of members and also the funds held in the bank. He requested that new members be encouraged to join. A discussion took place about the cost to enter the draw and whether this figure should perhaps be increased.

Darryl also reported that there had been no March draw and recommended that the March and September draws were combined, both today and in the future, as it would increase the prize values and, in turn, potentially attract more members to join. There were no objections to this recommendation.

The subsequent draw produced the following winners:

PRIZE	No.	WINNER	PRIZE	No.	WINNER
£200.00	69	CH & CS Taylor	£40.00	53	Don Williams
£100.00	25	Terence Mayne	£40.00	5	Simon Daley
£60.00	65	Sam Ashton	£40.00	54	John Dunn
£60.00	58	Tom Lowrey	£20.00	3	Charles Graves

12) **Any Other Business** – There were no matters raised.

The President thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 12.12pm.

If any new or existing OSB Members would prefer to receive the Bulletin via email in future (with lots of additional photographs to enjoy), Please contact: Pam Rumney on (01946) 828093 or osb@stbeesschool.co.uk

BRANCH NOTES & EVENTS

Branch Activities:

London Social (Informal Gathering) - Fri 14th Oct 2022, The Pepys, London

The London OSB Social drinks was held again at The Samuel Pepys pub in the city on Friday 14th October 2022. It was an informal social event for OSBs to catch up over a drink and/or food and was a fun evening. It was good to see some new faces and to see an 80s school photo! Thank you to those who were able to attend and special thanks to those who travelled from Cumbria.

Attendees: Nic Shannon (**Metcalfe-Gibson**) (L/G 78-85) (Event Organiser), Graeme **Bagnall** (SH 85-91), Jane Barham (**Wilson**) (L 79-86), Martin **Birkett** (SH 83-90), Adam **Burdett** (FS 80-86), Tim **Crossley-Smith** (SH 73-78), Chris **Evans** (FS 74-79), Paul **Graham** (FN 79-81), Patrick **Hunter** (FN 78-83), Remi **Jibowu** (FN 82-84/AC 84-85), David **Lord** (SH 60-65), Rob **Page** (FN 85-91), David **Paul** (FN/AC 71-76), Mark **Spencer Ellis** (SH 62-66), Alan **Stewart** (SH 82-89) and John **McAdam** (Guest).

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan23bulletin>.

North East Branch Dinner – Wed 2nd Nov 2022, Northumberland GC, Newcastle.

Attendees - D.H. Williams* (FN 61-64)(Chairman), D.F. Lord (SH 60-65)(OSB Treasurer), W.E. Dove* (FN 57-60)(Secretary N.E. Branch), R. Silk (Headmaster), Dr Carter Croft (FN 60-65)(OSB President), Mrs P.J. Rumney (OSB Secretary), Mrs F.E. Lord (Retired Staff), F.O. Messenger (SH 50-55), J.M. Southern (FN 55-59), G.C. Robson* (FN 57-64), J.M. McBryde (FN 58-61), R. Lockwood (FS 59-64), A.O. Burn (G 62-65), N.W. Adams (FN 68-71), M.P. Windle (FS 68-71), D.G.W. Reid (FN 75-78) and Mrs R.V. Lewis (nee Larkin) (L 77-79). * Past Presidents of the St Beghian Society.

The N.E. Branch Dinner was held at the popular, plush Northumberland Golf Club at Gosforth on Wednesday November 2nd. On arrival members and guests congregated in the Club's Lounge Bar. In the Dining Room, the Chairman, Don Williams, welcomed everyone returning again after two years without having NE Branch Dinners. For the first time it was good to see Society President, Carter Croft, Headmaster Robin Silk, and Richard Lockwood (FS 1959- 64). Regular guests included the Society Secretary, Mrs Pam Rumney, David Lord, Society Treasurer, and Mrs Fiona Lord, retired school staff member.

On a sad note, Chairman, Don Williams, read a list of North East OSBs who have

died since our last dinner in 2019. This was followed by a minute's silence in their memory:

Sir Peter Graham (SH 1947-52); John Pearcy (SH 1953-58); James Bullock (FN 1944-48); Peter Hutchinson (SH 1940-42); Oswald Leach (G 1949-50); Michael Ferry (FN 1952-57); Norman Rutherford (FN 1952-57); Neville Wanless (G 1945-47) and Malcolm Dix (FN 1955-58).

This was the 48th N. E. Branch Dinner for our Secretary, Bill Dove, an achievement for which he was lauded and applauded by all present. Before the meal Chairman Don offered the traditional School Grace.

Everyone enjoyed a very tasty three course menu followed by coffee. For a 'first' for us there was the Loyal Toast to 'The King', and then a break. Before the speeches the Chairman proposed a toast to 'The School'.

Headmaster, Robin Silk, replied by giving an encouraging and upbeat report on activities at the school and in particular the plans to develop new accommodation for increasing pupil numbers. Importantly, The Headmaster outlined an appeal to raise funds for a school library complex and performing arts centre. Everyone was impressed with his presence and talk and we wish him every success with all of his challenging work for the school.

The Chairman then made a toast to 'The St Beghian Society'. The reply was given by Society President, Carter Croft, who rose to explain his plans for his term in office. Carter also asked George Robson to give his impression about the most enjoyable days in St Bees last June when he attended Founders' Day and OSB Day. George said he had already submitted an article about this for this edition of the 2023 Bulletin. Carter's words, aspirations and hopes for the Society were well received by all present. Before the evening came to a close there was a special presentation. On behalf of George Robson and through his personal benevolence, Chairman, Don Williams, presented the Headmaster with a framed 1583 sixpenny piece, the year of which coincides with the founding date of St Bees School. George explained the interesting history and features of the coin and kindly asked The Headmaster to ensure his gift was displayed in a suitable place at the school.

The formal part of the evening was concluded and everyone adjourned to the Lounge Bar. Convivial reminiscing continued well into the evening until the last of the members and guests departed on their return journeys.

For the future, we have arranged with The Northumberland Golf Club to hold our Annual North East Branch Reunion as a Lunch event. The first of these will be on Wednesday November 8th 2023. This follows a survey that we conducted with the help of Pam Rumney from the OSB Office. This change will make it easier to attend for those travelling any distance, particularly at night. We look forward to seeing and welcoming members and guests at that time.

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan23bulletin>.

Scottish Gathering

It was with regret that the November Scottish Dinner had to be cancelled due to a lack of support. It would appear that there are no longer the numbers of OSBs living in the Edinburgh area interested in coming together for such an event. We would like to thank Tim McKay for all his efforts in coordinating the proposed gathering.

If you are a Scottish OSB and would like to attend or suggest a different format or location in the future, we would love to hear from you. Please contact osb@stbeesschool.co.uk.

Seventh Thomas Froggatt Memorial Rugby Match - 28th Dec 2022

Fraser McNee (G 10-15) writes:

Following the success of last year's event, the annual Thomas Froggatt Memorial Day was held on the 28th of December 2022. The proceedings began with two teams taking the pitch from Egremont Rugby Union in a Sharks (u30's) vs Bulls (o30's) fashion. The typical Cumbrian weather didn't affect either side playing an entertaining brand of rugby on the day. The Bulls however dominated with some aggressive ball-carrying and effective handling. Credit must go to all players who turned out on the day; however the Bulls came away with the bragging rights in a 30-5 win. With the Christmas break out of the systems, the two teams joined the large crowd of supporters in the clubhouse to enjoy a night of fundraising, music and questionable karaoke. The collections made throughout the night raised £500 in support of the Calvert Trust in memory of Thomas. Thank you to all involved and we hope to see you in 2023.

Forthcoming Annual Dinner and Other Dates:

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 – Fri 3rd Feb 2023, Armathwaite Hall, Bassenthwaite

The 2022 event was a wonderful occasion last July, and I am hopeful that February's 2023 dinner will be just as good. There seems to have been a great deal of interest despite our moving the date to February. I know there is very little time between now and February, but there is still time to get your bookings in.

The cost is only £30.00 for live music, champagne reception, three- course dinner, and wine on the table. NO! you have not misread the price: IT IS £30.00!!!
Please contact Darryl Davies for bookings and further details about the Cumbria Dinner: Darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com or 07970 180751.

London Branch Dinner - Fri 26th May 2023, RAF Club, London

A reminder that the OSB London Branch dinner will be held at 19:30 on 26th May 2023 at the RAF Club on Piccadilly in London.

The dinner in 2019 was a terrific evening and once again we have reserved the President's Dining Room and its adjoining bar for our exclusive use. We would love to see you there for fantastic food and drink in a spectacular venue; partners are very welcome too. Why not get together with some of your year group or former house mates and come as a team?

Graeme Bagnall and Martin Birkett are the points-of-contact for the event, and if you would like to attend, please email Graeme at graemebagnall@me.com or call on +44 7778 301584.

London Social (Informal Gathering) – Friday 6th Oct 2023, The Samuel Pepys, London

Nicola Shannon (nee Metcalfe-Gibson) (L/G 78-85) would love to hear from you if you are interested in attending the 2023 London Social at The Samuel Pepys, Stew Lane, EC4V 3PT: nicmetcalfeshannon@gmail.com or 0776 619 5468.

A lovely evening to catch up with OSBs over a drink and/or a bite to eat.

North East Branch Lunch – Wed 8th Nov 2023, Northumberland GC, Newcastle.

It has been agreed in future to arrange the Annual North East Branch Reunion as a **Lunch** event at The Northumberland Golf Club. The 2023 gathering will be on **Wednesday November 8th 2023**. We hope this change will make it easier to attend for those travelling any distance, particularly at night. We look forward to seeing and welcoming members and guests at that time.

Please get in touch with Bill Dove if you are interested in attending: (01274) 585147 or williamdove15@yahoo.co.uk.

Thomas Froggatt Memorial Rugby Match 28th December 2023

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)**.

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: 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:

G. Bagnall (Graeme) - **(London Dinner)**,

Tel: 7778 301584. Email: graembagnall@me.com.

Mrs N. Shannon (nee Metcalfe-Gibson) (Nicola) - **(London Social)**,

Tel: 0776 619 5468. Email: nicmetcalfeshannon@gmail.com.

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: T.H. MacKay (Tim),

Tel: 0785 008 2583. Email: timmackay5859@gmail.com.

Golfing Society (OSBGS)

Old St Beghians' Golfing Society

Following a quiet two years without competitions, owing to Covid, 2022 saw some of the main fixtures returning to the calendar.

In September the QE Tournament which was scheduled from the 16th-18th, was respectfully cancelled due to the Queen's Funeral.

It is hoped that there may be the opportunity to play some golf at St Bees Golf Club on the St Beghian Society weekend in June.

The Golfing Society continues to run on behalf of Old St Beghian golfers. If anyone is interested in further information or joining the Society, please do get in touch with either myself or Michael Coffey, the President.

Tom Wright, Secretary
tomosbgolf@hotmail.com

Forthcoming Golf Fixtures:

Halford Hewitt 2023 - 30th March - 2nd April 2023.

OSBGS 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: Nigel Morton 07850 538848 or captain@stbeesgolfclub.co.uk
For any other **general enquiries** please email: info@stbeesgolfclub.co.uk

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.

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.**

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

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

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

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

SOCIETY OFFICERS:

President:

R.C. Croft (Carter)
(FN 60-65)

President-Elect:

Vacant

Treasurer:

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

Secretary:

P.J. Rumney (Pam)

Committee:

R.P. Calvin (Roy) (SH 79-83)	A.J. Haile (Andy) (F/SH 76-83)
S.J. Calvin (Sara) (G 77-84)	R. Hall (Richard) (F 64-68)
L.M. Cox (Lucy) (L 05-10)	A.T. Johnston (Andrew) (G 68-73)
D.W. Davies (Darryl) (FS 62-68)	A.D. Lord (Alastair) (SH 90-95)
J.M.W. Dunn (John) (FS 64-69)	M.N. Roberts (Mark) (SH 93-95)
A.P. Fox (Anthony) (G 62-67)	

Trustees:

R.P. Calvin (Roy) (SH 79-83)	N.A. Halfpenny (Nigel) (FN 62-67)
J.G. Craig (James) (FN 75-82)	D.F. Lord (David) (SH 60-65)

If you are interested in being involved,
please contact the Secretary or any of the above members.

**The next St Beghian Society Committee Meeting – Sat 4th March 2023.
The AGM and St Beghians’ Day, 2023 –Saturday 17th June 2023.**

Copy Deadline: As the target month for the next issue of ‘The Old St Beghian’ is **July 2023**, the Editor would be most grateful if Branch Secretaries and other contributors would let him have their notices and reports by **31st May, 2023**.

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>