



The Old St Beghian

July 2021

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From Our President Howard Graham (FS 80-87)

I think the saying goes, ‘time flies when you’re having fun’. Where has the last year gone?!

I hope everyone has a bit more normality back in their lives. On writing this I’m a little on tenter-hooks that the Indian variant is going to cause a major issue with the Cumbria Dinner, the first OSB event in over a year, but I guess it’s not worth worrying about things we have no control over. I’m sure everyone who has a special social event planned is so looking forward to it. However, after visiting the dinner venue, the outstanding Armathwaite Hall, and catching up with an old school mate as if it was yesterday not the thirty or so years it had been, this has fuelled my anticipation to new levels! Everything is crossed!

As we all start to surface, more OSB functions and dates will begin to circulate, and I hope as a whole we can support the organisers as well as the Society and that attendances will swell from previous years. I know the more vulnerable of our members will be concerned about mixing in larger groups for something like OSB Day, but please let us know your thoughts (as requested in this Bulletin) so that we can plan ahead and possibly organise something further down the line, if that fits better for members.

It’s great to see the pupils back at school. However the school is still in the early stages of its redevelopment, and without increased numbers coming through to replace the current membership of the OSBs, our Society will obviously eventually die out. Arguably the most important thing for the Society is to support the school. The school is offering a 50% discount in fees for dependants of OSBs which, I’m sure you will agree, is a fantastic offer, the details of which are

mentioned later within this Bulletin. I ask those reading this to spread the word and promote the school at every opportunity and, where possible, look to increase pupil numbers from within.

The Bulletin is not something I read from cover to cover when it first arrives. Who has the time! I tend to pop back to it over a few weeks or so and check out names I know in the notes, snippets and, unfortunately, the obituaries. I have more recently been flicking through some of my back catalogue (<http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/The%20Old%20St%20Beghian%20Bulletin.htm>) to get a fuller picture of what OSBs are up to. You should try it as well. I'm sure we all thought we had it hard at St Bees School during our years there, but reading through some of the notes from pupils of the 50s and 60s, it was certainly a different time. A few stories that caught my eye showed that times have changed but also highlighted the true slightly eccentric life in St Bees. These were Duncan Merrin's piece about his first year at school in the 1950s (<http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan19bulletin/OSB%20Notes%20-%20Duncan%20Merrin.html>), also John 'Little' Lever's note about The Magic Game and The Housemaster of Meadow House laying the law down on wiping activities: 'Boys, we are not half way through this term and we have used three quarters of the lavatory paper allocation. May I advise you that one sheet is adequate, two sheets are plenty and three sheets are down right stealing!' (<http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july20bulletin/OSB%20Notes%20-%20John%20Lever.html>). And only at St Bees, surely, Robin Rigby's story of setting up the School Morris Dancers Team (<http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july20bulletin/OSB%20Notes%20-%20Robin%20Rigby.html>). Have a trawl through, I promise you'll find many interesting stories that will put a smile/grimace on your face or bring up a memory....mainly good ones I hope. Enjoy catching up on life!

The opportunity is still available for those that wish to secure the future of our Society to set up an annual subscription of any amount to help fund the running of the Society. (<http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan21bulletin/The%20St%20Beghian%20Society%20Subscription%20Appeal.html>).

The new OSB Social Group Facebook page has been building in popularity but there's still plenty of room and memories and posts to share. Keep spreading the word or join up if you haven't already (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/427579695153162/?ref=share>).

If you currently get this Bulletin in paper form and could receive it electronically, please make the switch by contacting Pam. Let's look after the planet and the

coffers, also they are so much easier to file!

Please send me any ideas you may have of how we may expand the Society. I'd love to hear from you: howiegraham@hotmail.com.

Calendar of Events		
2021		
January	tbc	Hong Kong / Shenzhen Gatherings
February		
March	tbc	St Beghian Society Committee Meeting
April	Fri 2nd – Mon 5th	Golf - Halford Hewitt (Provisional)
May		
June	Wed 23rd – Sat 26th	Golf - Cyril Gray (Over 50's)
July	Friday 2nd	Cumbria Dinner
	Sunday 11th	Golf - Grafton Qualifier
August	tbc	Golf - August Meet up
September	Mon 6th – Sun 12th	Golf - Halford Hewitt
	Fri 17th – Sun 19th	Golf - Queen Elizabeth QE
	Saturday 25th	St Beghians' Day, AGM & Com. Meeting
October	Fri 1st – Sun 3rd	Golf - Grafton Morrish
	Friday 15th	London Social
November	Wednesday 3rd	North East Dinner
	Mid November	Scottish Gathering
	Late Nov/Early Dec	Singapore Lunch
December	Tuesday 28th tbc	Thomas Froggatt Rugby Match, Cumbria
2022	May tbc	London Dinner

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

St Beghian Society Finances

Since the closure of the school in July 2015, the Society's income has reduced significantly due to the complete lack of Life Membership subscriptions from school pupils, who previously paid prior to leaving the school.

As a consequence, the President last year found it necessary to write to members requesting an annual subscription of £20 (or more if affordable) and as mentioned below, this resulted in some 300 members coming forward to help.

The running costs of the Society in recent times have been approximately £15,000 per annum, which covers our Secretary, Pam Rumney's salary and the production and mailing costs of the Bulletin. Any further expenditure such as additional mailings, of which there have been a few since the closure of the school, would not be covered by this figure.

The £10,000 received as a result of last year's subscriptions' request, for which we are extremely grateful, has gone a long way towards covering current costs, but there is still some distance to go before we achieve a break-even situation. Financial support from members will therefore continue to be of the utmost importance during these difficult times.

On a separate note, Lonsdale Terrace, owned by the OSB Guarantee Trust Fund, a separate legal entity, was finally sold in April.

St Beghian Society Annual Subscription 2021

As you will no doubt be aware, last year 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 280 OSB Members who supported this initial request, and for those who did not, we should be very grateful if you would consider paying this year's subscription in September 2021.

The minimum subscription stands at £20.00 per annum; however, if you would be willing to pay a larger amount that would be very much appreciated. For those of you who have not set up an annual Standing Order, the ways in which you can subscribe are set out on the separate form included with this Bulletin.

Please do **all** complete the enclosed form and return, as requested, to indicate your intentions.

OSB NOTES

Sam Ashton (SH 47-53) has commented on our last issue as follows:

“My father was on School House 1919 to 1923. I’ve looked back and forth along the ranks of the 1921 school photo but can’t recognise him. However, a contemporary and friend, Gething, is clearly to be seen on the back row with his trademark ears, a characteristic handed down to his two sons, who were contemporary with me. The connection with my family is that the Gethings had a smart milliner’s shop on Deansgate Manchester, and my grandfather Will, was the second generation to manage the Ashton family firm, which made cardboard boxes, including circular and elliptical silk-lined models for the millinery trade. Also, one of the very few masters mentioned to me by my father was John Boulter. In addition to his achievements mentioned in the piece was his successful drainage project of the ‘Crease’; the boys dug the trenches. Anyway the nickname ‘Navvy John’ was coined.

I think that my father, well established as a chartered accountant in a senior job in a very large manufacturer (Global Markets) in Lancaster by the late thirties, was a subscriber to the rescue fund.

I was highly amused by ‘Cec’ Reid’s memoir, but he doesn’t tell us what a talented fellow he was; a fine tenor voice, and a brilliant actor. My best memory is his playing the part of the anti-hero in G.B. Shaw’s ‘Arms and the Man’. He was in other, darker productions but alas I can’t now remember the details.”

JDS (Tim) Brown (G 53-59) writes:

“I wonder whether any of my contemporaries picked up some information about Prince Philip amongst the plethora of his obituaries.

Apparently, he learned to fly in a Chipmunk at R.A.F. White Waltham, near Maidenhead, in 1952. Four years later ‘Spike’ Cawthorn took a contingent of St Bees air cadets to the very same airfield and I have a service book, signed by him, showing I had my first flying lesson, also in a Chipmunk. I’m sure none of us was aware that we were following in such a prestigious slipstream!

The airfield is now the largest civilian grass airfield in Europe and was originally bought by the de Haviland family before it was taken over by the government; the Chipmunks we might have shared with HRH were built by de Haviland.”

Some notes from Vaughan Evans (FS/AC 72-76):

In October 1976 I started at Imperial College, following in the footsteps of my father, who had attended there as a doctoral student thirty years earlier. I found there was a sharp transition from the life I knew growing up in West Cumbria to

living in central London; however, there were others from my cohort at St Bees School, also on undergraduate courses in the city, with whom I kept in contact. The early years of my career, likewise, followed a similar path to my father. I worked at UKAEA for several years until, by dint of postgraduate training in Glasgow, I moved into medical research, where I have been mostly since. My interest was in epidemiology, and having read much published work by Sir Richard Doll and colleagues at Oxford, I applied for a post there in 1993 and was recruited to work on systematic reviews of the treatment of cancer and leukaemia. I had interesting conversations with Sir Richard, who worked continuously up until a few weeks before his death in July 2005, aged 92; many were about St Bees and Cumbria more generally. His father had wanted to send him to St Bees School, in part on account of the opportunities for varied outdoor sports and activities; however, the wishes of his mother prevailed and he went to Westminster School, which was considerably nearer. Doll's studies on the harmful effects of tobacco were continued and updated by Sir Richard Peto and colleagues.

I continue to work on the systematic reviews of the treatment of cancer, although I have in more recent years worked on some other projects.

Michael Ferns (SH 53/58) writes:

Do you know of and where the following are in the world?

St Bees Island, Scawfell Island, Keswick Island, Carlisle Island, Calder Island, Wigton Island, Cockermouth Island, Penrith Island, Derwent Island, Brampton Island or Aspatria Island along with Silloth Reef, Workington Reef and Whitehaven Beach. For those who have a taste for Baileys, there is also Bailey Reef. A hint is that they are not in the Northern hemisphere.

In fact they are islands and reefs in the southern part of the Cumberland Group of Islands on the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Queensland, Australia, north east of Mackay to be more precise. Most are National Parks. I suggest that for more information you refer to Mr Google.

Two years ago St Bees Island was on the market for \$AUD 1.95 million or about £1.07 million at current (2021) exchange rates. Sorry - it has been sold. It has some very basic accommodation but also has development approval, so it will be interesting to see what the new owners do in the future. I was just wondering if any Old St Beghian was the purchaser?

Most of the islands in the group are uninhabited, however they can be accessed by private charter boat from Mackay or Seaforth. The group was named by Captain Cook, although the earliest visitors were probably the local aboriginal clans in bark canoes. It is estimated that European settlement and grazing began around 1900 on St Bees Island.

This information could form the basis of some interesting trivia questions. There are several posts on the web site and my immediate reaction is to compare St Bees, beach and hinterland in Cumbria with St Bees Island, the latter being very tropical as it is north of the Tropic of Capricorn and has a great sandy beach.

Charles Hedley (FN 58-64) has contributed the following:

Margaret Widdas - a very belated tribute.

“Anyone who was at St Bees School during the time when Margaret Widdas was on the staff, and who didn’t have art or music lessons from her, might be excused for not knowing who she was as she went about her teaching commitments in her typically quiet, purposeful and dedicated manner. She was a member of staff for approximately 45 years.

She was born in Cleator Moor in 1911 to Henry and Marion Widdas, and at that time Henry was employed by Lord Lonsdale with responsibility as the Mines Inspector for the Whitehaven Castle Estate, in the days of private mine ownership and long before the nationalisation of the coal industry in 1947. Mining runs like a rich seam (pardon the dreadful and unintended pun) through the Widdas family. Two of Henry’s elder brothers, his father and grandfather, were all part of the mining inspectorate and management. His nephew Walter had a very distinguished career in the industry, and was awarded the CBE in the New Year’s Honours list of 1965. In that same year he was also President of the Northern England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers. His two sons, Michael and Christopher were, like their father, also at St Bees and both had careers in the mining industry. Michael subsequently became President of the NEIMME from 1981/2. And so - the mining industry has been served by at least five generations of this family, which is an amazing record by any standard!

My reason for writing this tribute is because I am distantly related to the Widdas family, in that my mother’s grandmother was a Widdas. By pure coincidence my father was an exact contemporary of Walter’s at St Bees (only two weeks separated their birthdays); they played on the same rugby team, were on the same house (Foundation), but neither could possibly have imagined that years later in 1935 they would become related when my father married a descendant of the Widdas family.

This family connection was to become most advantageous. Michael Widdas (or Mick, as he was always known) began life at St Bees in 1949, and must have been invited to the odd Sunday afternoon tea at his Aunt Margaret’s. From that time, and in a steady procession, various cousins followed the same path to Whitehaven - R.J. Hedley (1950), J.N. Hedley (1951), J.D. Hedley (1952), C. Widdas (1957), C.A. Hedley (1958), M.A. Hedley (1959), R.M. Hedley (1963).

As you can see, many Hedleys did benefit greatly from this distant family connection, and we all have happy memories of those Sunday afternoon teas, which happened two or three times a term. Tea was always made with filtered rain water from a cylindrical ceramic Permutit water softener and then served up in a silver tea pot. Actually, I don't think that the water needed softening any further because Whitehaven water is already soft, but Margaret wanted to eliminate all possible impurities from her drinking water. The teas were wonderful occasions - superb food, plenty of it, and in luxurious surroundings. I don't know how she managed it - feeding hungry teenagers, sometimes four at a time! The food was all home-made and she must have spent ages in its preparation. There was also the luxury of sitting on upholstered furniture for a brief spell, before we all returned by bus to the Spartan life on Foundation with its hard wooden benches.

In her day Margaret was quite a sportswoman - good at tennis, squash and golf - and for many years she cycled from Whitehaven to St Bees to fulfil her teaching commitments. She did this journey on what she called her 'Flying Flea' - a very early form of motorised bicycle, which incorporated a petrol engine in the back wheel. It must have been quite a machine because whichever route you take out of St Bees, a significant hill is encountered. Eventually, as she lived close to the Corkickle railway station, she did this journey by train.

Music was her life. She studied piano at the Royal Academy of Music in London, gaining her LRAM qualification, and began teaching at St Bees in 1936 at the tender age of 25. Apart from a few years during WW2, when she worked as a nurse at Whitehaven Hospital, she continued teaching music and art at school till 1984. Quite apart from her St Bees pupils, she taught numerous private pupils to all levels on her much-admired Blüthner (or was it a Bechstein?) grand piano at her home. She established a musical relationship with the examiners from the Associated Board of the Royal College of Music, who used her home as an examination venue for an appreciable period of time. For many years she regularly booked herself a series of concerts at the Edinburgh Festival, so she could listen to world class musicians and orchestras. I think that these might have been in the days before the 'Edinburgh Fringe' type of entertainment became so popular. Somehow, I can't see that the Fringe would ever have been her comfort zone! She was also a very regular supporter at the Rosehill Theatre, just outside Whitehaven, which opened in 1959 and where international soloists and ensembles performed, and still do today. As a season ticket holder, she always sat in the same single seat upstairs in the front row at the right-hand side - 'her' seat! As well as her piano teaching at school, Margaret was also responsible for painting scenery for the various drama productions. In the mid 1950s, and in partnership with some members of the National Youth Orchestra, a fully staged

production of 'Ruddigore' was performed in the Memorial Hall. Margaret's artistic contribution to this event was considerable, in that she painted the seven full-length portraits of former baronets of Ruddigore which feature so dramatically in this Gilbert & Sullivan operetta.

She never married, and cared for her parents at home till they died – Marion in 1951, and Henry in 1957.

Away from music and in her spare (!) time she was a very keen organic gardener, and was totally convinced of the practice of sowing and planting according to the phases of the moon. The results were impressive, and she grew a small plot of comfrey, which she used both as part of her composting system and also for medicinal purposes. Many people probably consider comfrey as little more than an impressive invasive weed usually found in the hedgerows, but in Margaret's garden the leaves would be collected, carefully dried and then crushed into a grey-green powder which she would then incorporate into her food. I don't think she fed us any, but we will never know! She was also totally convinced of the benefits to be derived from drinking carrot juice – to the extent of her being able to tell whether one piano pupil had been drinking enough carrot juice by the quality of his piano playing. Apart from the advantages regarding piano playing, Margaret was also convinced that drinking carrot juice would help in dealing with acne! I only became aware of this recently when a certain person - a contemporary of mine at St Bees, and who shall remain nameless - was good enough to help me in my quest for information for this article. He also told me that he was perhaps not so keen as he might have been in pursuing his piano studies and so hit upon the idea of faking a rugby accident. This meant that his hands had to be bandaged and naturally meant that he was unable to practise, so avoiding piano lessons. This seemed a good idea at the time and worked quite well until the end of term when inevitably his music report found its way into parental hands. He was then confronted by his mother (well-known socially to Margaret) who knew nothing of the rugby wounds or accident. Mother was *not* impressed and I don't suppose Margaret was either!

From 1950 till 1964, with a gap of only two terms, my parents often stayed at her home when they came to visit me and my two brothers every term. There may have been some interesting conversations about the niceties of organic gardening as my father (himself a keen gardener) worked at I.C.I., which made vast quantities of artificial fertilizer on a global scale!

She did, however, have her own rather brutal 'scorched earth policy' which took the form of a wheeled paraffin flame thrower. She used this to wage war against any pernicious weeds brave enough to appear in her garden. Sometimes she subcontracted this activity to those hungry school boys mentioned earlier, while she prepared one of those fabulous Sunday afternoon teas. Great fun!

Margaret grew nettles for their nutritional value, incorporating them into her diet, which did seem to work well for her because she lived to the ripe old age of 91, and until her final years she always had an abundance of energy. Eventually, however, she found it increasingly difficult to live on her own at 6, Corkickle which had been her home for 40 years, and she was cared for by her friends Harold and Glenda Leach at their Scotch Street address in Whitehaven. She very much enjoyed her wheelchair outings around the town, and in the week before she died she attended an open-air concert by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra near the harbour, and also gave her last piano instruction to one of her pupils. Right up to the end then, Margaret's life was lived with music around her. Her funeral in 2002 was held at St John's Church, Hensingham, on the south-eastern outskirts of Whitehaven where for many years she had been the organist, and it was to this church that – fittingly - she offered her much loved grand piano. Sadly, and because of space considerations, this offer had to be declined. It was a large piano!

Margaret had strong views about most things, and so there was never any doubt as to what she thought on a whole range of topics ranging from the finer points of musical phrasing right through to homeopathic remedies, taking in organic gardening on the way. I was lucky enough to have piano lessons from her for six years, and to this day I still try to play pieces she taught me to the best of my ability and to the standard that I know she would expect of me.

I shall always be grateful for her expertise and guidance in the art of piano playing.

That surely closes the book on Margaret Widdas! However - please bear with me - I recall that back in 1994 I did a solo sponsored bike ride and cycled from here at Whitley Bay across to St Bees on the road (via Newcastle, Hexham, Alston, Penrith, Keswick, Whinlatter, Fangs Brow, Lamplugh, Egremont) because the C2C Cycle Route had not quite been invented then. The weather on that day was very good, but after staying over-night at Margaret's home, and following a large breakfast, I cycled back home the next day. I think the rain started in the Loweswater area and just carried on all day. Cycling up Hartside in the rain and mist was not the most enjoyable experience!

I should mention - perhaps - that on the return ride home, my long-suffering and non-cycling wife Gill did meet me at Keswick and provided the back-up support (chocolate biscuits etc) at intervals for the rest of that incredibly wet day.

I must have been mad! And I was quite a bit younger as well (just before my 50th birthday!). I did have the next day off work as a holiday.

As you might imagine, it does make me smile a bit to read of cyclists taking three days to do the single trip. Probably a better idea, when all said and done.”

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july21bulletin>.

Chris Lord (G 53-57) writes:

“Tim Brown’s letter in January exercised the old grey cells. I too was on that cycle ride led by HJB. I think that on the return journey we kept left at the fork just west of Ennerdale Bridge whereas we should have turned right. We cycled through Ennerdale Forest and returned to base via Egremont.

I was just behind HJ when he wobbled off the road and fell into the ditch amongst the trees. I thought Mike Green did a pretty good job with us new boys; he certainly gave me some useful tips. I think Tim Brown, HJB and one or two others were scholars who started in IVa; the rest of us were in one of the third forms and there was a certain amount of polarisation with the scholars centring on HJ. As well as Mike Green, another second termer was W. Morrison and I remember his having us fresh arrivals stand on a table one by one and sing. My bicycle was my dad’s pre war Raleigh. It had only one gear but the option of a fixed or free wheel. Unknown to me, R.A. Johnson changed the wheel round and took great delight in watching me mount the thing and wonder why my legs would not stop turning as I started down the hill!

I remember meeting Julian Eldridge in Liverpool when he was a medical student. My recollection from being a junior at school was that he was more approachable than most of the older boys, who often seemed aloof.

On cycling, I too liked getting to Keswick. With different companions I managed going via Whinlatter, Newlands and Honister but always returned on the main road through Cockermouth. Honister Pass was memorable for the downward leg into Borrowdale. On one occasion I was with Derek Rhodes, whose bike had defective brakes. He relied largely on dragging his shoes on the road to limit his speed. No such threat existed returning to St Bees as there was usually a strong headwind on the open road between Cockermouth and Whitehaven. How we change: nowadays I’d be knackered making those trips behind the wheel of a car!”

Terence Mayne (SH 47-52) recalls some bizarre encounters.

“At St Bees, and cycling in the Lake District on three quarter days, gregariousness was my extra subject, and so, since leaving, I have had many interesting encounters.

I met a man in Portrush, a bankrupt known to have lit a cigar with a five-pound note, and who would not sell his fabulous yacht buried in mud in Cannes. I once chanced upon a toothless solicitor, difficult to understand rattling on about sailing in Shamrock 2 in Lipton’s Americas Cup years. And then there was the farmer in Dakota, who told me there are 688 types of barbed wire, mostly made in the USA, Russia and Australia. He had a 95% collection in foot lengths and a misunderstanding wife.

The first stranger I talked to came from an encounter in my youth. Rising at 7.00am on a holiday morning in the late 1940s, a tall strange gentleman came out of the smoke-room having played poker with my step-father and some friends. He casually asked me to go and get his car parked some two miles away. So, this 14-year-old farmyard only driver, asked mummy if he should go do it. She replied, 'Certainly not!' So that was that. But not quite. When I told the stranger the negative news he replied 'Ridiculous, with your name you can do anything.' This advice has stuck with me, to do anything, often disappointingly badly. There were highlights however, at school the first fifteen, running eight, shooting eight and then farming. Four achievements entirely due to the stranger's advice! From the encounter with the poker player I obscurely concluded that talking to strangers was the learning way to live, occasionally verging on the unusual.

On the Dublin train I bumped into a Cuban-American, a woman who said she was Rosie Ruiz, who you may recall won the Boston Marathon in April 1980. She seemed about 66 and as fresh now as the newspapers reported after the race. A lovely lady, she answered all my questions and obviously loved running. Without complaining she had returned her medal and the money because it transpired she entered the race half a mile from the finish!

When I managed a Cat Home, strange customers would enquire if the residents went to Heaven. A friend advised, 'Just say yes whatever you believe, because they are there; it wouldn't be Heaven without them.'

How else would I know there is a silkworm farm in Carryduff if I had not interviewed a driver on a ferry with a container full of mulberry leaves all the way from Japan. Apparently the little blighters will not eat the common Ulster variety. In a coffee bar casually chatting to three young ladies about Montana, one of them asked me to come and stay at her holiday home in that state. What a house: looking down Cosley Lake with majestic mountains and rolling plains all around. What a state: its people and places don't just welcome you, they transform you.

At the Balmoral Show, as always, talking to as many as possible, I came across a fit young man who said he had had a clear round in the jumping arena in the early morning. 'Good horse?' I said. No, it turned out that it was a love of his. He goes up and over, arms out like aeroplane wings and lands on his hands to somersault gracefully onto his feet. Favourite course, Fairyhouse, with Aintree a close second!

I learnt much later that the poker player's name was Mayne (no relation). Perhaps with hindsight (useless pastime) I should have joined the S.A.S. to meet perhaps more, perhaps less, strange persons. By the way, the yacht can't be found and the wire collector's wife died from dusting and I'm going back to Montana.

Thank you St Bees."

Eric Wm Middleton (M 58-69)

Eric Middleton's latest book, 'William's Journey - Surprised by the Spirit' has just been published by a small local publisher, Peter Sotheran. It comprises an interesting collection of various people's (including several OSBs') descriptions of their own lifetime's 'special' locations and their reasons for choosing them. The emphasis is often, though not exclusively, on the 'spiritual' nature of these places and the impact they were subsequently to have on the individual's life. Eric's own experiences and reflections on all this are included in this deeply personal production.

Eric wishes to pass on his very grateful thanks to those who replied to his request for 'Special Places' contributions. OSBs who would like to acquire a copy or receive further details are invited to email Eric: eric.middleton2@btinternet.com.

Ivor Nicholas (SH 44-48) has submitted some reminiscences.

“I recently noticed that a custom-built contraption, designed and home-made for long-distance photography, is included in an exhibition scheduled for July 2021 (Covid permitting) at Whitehaven’s Beacon Museum. This prompted the following memories.

In 1948 I set up as a freelance press photographer in Cumbria when I left school. My father, Joseph W. Nicholas, had edited the West Cumberland Times during the war years, while my mother, Ethel, who was originally from Egremont, answered the telephone there. I was encouraged by my early successes, particularly with the large number of daily and evening newspapers and magazines taking my work and with Agencies ensuring their general circulation in the country at that time. There could not have been better encouragement for ‘doing one’s own thing’ to earn a living. Within two years I had pictures published both in this country and abroad. It was, for example, a period when rugby league was flourishing both at Workington and Whitehaven; Workington Town made the third division of the football league, and local clubs began to appear in the early rounds of the FA Cup. All this enabled me to contribute regularly to major Monday morning dailies such as the Mail, the Express, the Herald, News Chronicle and the Manchester Guardian, among others, as well as evening newspapers.

More ‘locally’, among possible recollections of OSBs, and taking me back to the exhibit at the Beacon, is the camera used to photograph house and team groups at St Bees School. Alf Scott, the school’s photographer, worked with a similar camera to the one in the exhibition from his photographic business in Roper Street, Whitehaven. This quarter-plate reflex model was the pride of Alf’s business. After arranging a group and setting up the tripod and camera, he hid himself under a large black blanket. After what seemed an age, he emerged to

take command of proceedings. Placing his hat over the lens, he would take a double-sided pre-loaded glass plate holder from the left pocket of his jacket, snap it into the focused plate frame holder, and after exposing this by removing the cover slide, quickly removing and replacing his hat, he would replace the cover slide and transfer the now exposed double dark slide into his right hand pocket. This procedure was repeated for each exposure. The use of a double-sided holder allowed a second repeat shot for each different group in case someone, in the unlikely event, blinked! Prints of excellent quality were later displayed around the school and orders taken from boys with the cost added to the bill at the end of term.

The School House pictures in the 1940s were of a superb quality considering the rationing of materials and equipment then in force. ‘Rip Van Winkle’ was a name given to the photographer by the boys. Perhaps it was something to do with the long delay involved in taking the photograph!”

John West (SH 61-64) has written regarding ‘Gus’ Walker.

“If anyone is looking for a good read, I recommend ‘Chastise: The Dambusters’ by Max Hastings.

Mentioned on pages 76 and 103 is Augustus ‘Gus’ Walker. He went to St Bees and in 1964 on CCF Day, arrived to inspect the troops in one of those Westland helicopters with the bulbous nose. I think he flew it himself despite only having one arm. I can’t remember exactly where he landed it, but I hope it wasn’t on Jack Holroyd’s beloved crease! As one of the erks I stood ‘at ease’ for well over an hour in the boiling sun waiting for him to arrive. I generally liked being at St Bees (it was a great place to be if you liked rugby, which I loved, and cricket, which I also loved, but wasn’t very good at!) However, I strongly disliked the CCF.

I regularly exchange emails with contemporary Robert Astin and after reading the book I asked him if he remembered that day. He did, although he didn’t remember that it was Gus Walker who had carried out the inspection. The reason he remembered it was that I pointed out that about five ‘soldiers’ had fainted on parade. I thought one of them was Haigh on Hostel, but I could be wrong (apologies if I’ve libelled you there!). Rob replied that he was one of those who was taken by stretcher to the cricket pavilion, where he spent the rest of the parade. What a good wheeze, I wish I’d thought of it!

I might have taken more interest in Sir Augustus if I’d realised Guy Gibson had been one of those who dragged him from the blazing Lancaster. I think at that age we all were enthralled with the story of the Dambusters.

This is Sir Augustus Walker’s entry in Wikipedia:

Walker was born on 24 August 1912 in West Garforth, Leeds, and studied at St Bees School in Cumberland, and St Catharine's College, Cambridge, where he

took a second in the natural science tripos. He played rugby for Yorkshire, and twice for England in 1939.

RAF career - He joined the Royal Air Force from university on 29 March 1933. In November 1940 during the Second World War he was appointed Officer Commanding No. 50 Squadron in which role he earned the Distinguished Service Order and Distinguished Flying Cross before moving on to become Station Commander at RAF Syerston in April 1942. While working as station commander at RAF Syerston he rushed in a fire truck from the control tower to a taxiing Lancaster bomber when he saw it was on fire. He then tried to remove incendiary bombs from under the bomb bay in the hope that he could prevent a 4,000-pound (1,800 kg) bomb from exploding, but it detonated and he lost his right arm as a result. Returning to active service with an artificial arm, he was referred to by personnel as the one-armed bandit. In February 1945 he was appointed Senior Air Staff Officer at Headquarters No. 4 Group and went on to receive the Croix de Guerre and Légion d'Honneur.

After the War he was appointed Deputy Director of Operational Training at the Air Ministry before taking up the role of Senior Air Staff Officer for the Rhodesian Air Training Group in 1948. In 1951 he became Officer Commanding RAF Coningsby and in 1954 he was made Commandant of the RAF Flying College at Manby where he developed flying techniques for jet aircraft: he received the Air Force Cross in 1956 for his work in this and the techniques for flights over the North Pole.

He became Air Officer Commanding No. 1 Group in October 1956, Chief Information Officer at the Air Ministry in 1959 and Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief at Flying Training Command in 1961. He held the post of Inspector-General of the RAF from 1964 to 1966 when he became Deputy Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces Central Europe. He continued his interest in rugby, acting as a referee and being President of the Rugby Union in 1965–6. He retired in 1970. Following his retirement he carried out various voluntary activities, notably for the Royal Air Forces Association, including the role of President. He Died on 11 December 1986 at Kings Lynn.”

See also the article on ‘Gus’ Walker by Gordon Peel in our last Bulletin <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/jan21bulletin/OSB%20Notes%20-%20Gordon%20Peel.html>.

John mentions that the Inspection photo, submitted by Paul Rew (which he assumes was taken by one of his parents and that he is somewhere in the photo), can be seen on the Society website at <https://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/miles/1960-70/1960s/Rew/index.html>. John assumes it was this day that he remembers and he thinks that Gus is on the podium, along with Major Alan Francis, who is certainly nearest the photographer.

Another of Paul Rew's photographs shows John West at Gretna.

In reference to it John says: "I looked at it several times, but the photo is almost certainly me; Rob Astin and Peter Royds agree. Rob says the haircut and sticky-out ears confirm it.

I cycled twice to Gretna, once on a three quarter day, which must be when this was taken. I always did long distance cycling with Colin Entwistle, but seem to remember a couple of others with us on that three quarter day - Paul must have been one of them. The other time I have already written about in a previous magazine. It was a Sunday and Colin and I were late back for evening Chapel. 'Lem' Parkinson gave us each three of the very best for our transgression! I have just seen a Facebook post with modern day St Beghians on the Scottish border, saying that the school is only an hour or so away. I couldn't resist adding this photo and saying that I hoped they biked it. It was longer than any hour on a bike!"

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july21bulletin>.

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:

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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.

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OBITUARIES

Alexander ‘Alec’ Joseph Bingham (G 49-51).

It is with sadness that the family of Alexander ‘Alec’ Bingham announce his death on Sunday 28th March 2021 at the age of 86. Alec died peacefully in Kettering General Hospital. He married in 1959 but sadly he and his wife Erna could not have children of their own. They had a long and happy marriage until Erna’s death just after their 50th Wedding Anniversary. He is remembered and will be missed by his nephews and niece and his many friends. Alec attended St Bees in the 1940s and left at age 16, a year after his father died when Alec was only 15. He enjoyed his years at the school and spoke with affection of his time there. Alec was a career civil servant and retired as a principal officer in the Ministry of Defence in 2005.

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july21bulletin>.

Dacre Watson has kindly forwarded the following notice from Carol Boulter:

Hugh Boulter (SH 53-58).

“When I was first engaged to Hugh in 1967 he took me to St Bees to show me all the places he had loved as a child and throughout his school years (he was born in School House). I have a vivid memory of a sea-washed pool to swim in carved out by his father, John Boulter, and a biting gale bending the trees! I am a soft southerner! Then when his mother came to live with us in the 1970s the importance of the school and the influence of his father John as Headmaster became even more apparent. John had died the year after he had married us in 1968.

After a gap year at Washington and Lee University in Virginia, Hugh went up to Corpus Christi College and read history. In fact, although deeply intellectual and scholarly, he was not a natural historian. But he was a natural geographer and loved travel and meeting people from other cultures all his life. He took the rather opaque comment by the Oxford careers office to heart ‘Mr Boulter, it’s a pity we no longer have an Empire, you would have made an excellent colonial officer.’ He did the next best thing and volunteered to teach in Nigeria with CMS at Okongwu Memorial Grammar School in Nnewi. Before many months he was the acting Headmaster. His administrative talent and quiet leadership had started to show.

On returning to Britain he took a postgraduate course in Teaching English as a Foreign Language at Manchester University, and lived on the 19th floor of the Mobberly Tower. With his parents living in Sawrey, Cumbria, where his father

was the priest, he was near to them which delighted them in that pre-internet age of little direct communication. It was at that stage that we met. Our eyes locked across the aisle of St Peters Sawrey at 8.00 o'clock communion and we married in 1968, 52 years ago.

He used his training to teach primary age immigrants from Pakistan who had newly arrived in Huddersfield. His class was recognised everywhere as being bilingual in Huddersfield and Oxford English. He loved teaching but even more loved visiting his pupils' families, and listening to the stories of their lives. His next career move was to take up a post as an Education Officer in Slough, with a special responsibility for immigrants. Our two sons were born there. In 1970 and 1971 we ran holiday clubs with hundreds of volunteers to help pupils newly arrived in Britain to improve their English and integrate. It was the time of Enoch Powell's inflammatory racist speeches, and we felt we were pioneers. Slough is now a truly multiracial town and the welcome we received there in 2008 when I was High Sheriff and we returned to visit pleased him so much. When local government was reorganised in 1975 we moved to Northamptonshire and he took up the post of Education Officer for Primary Schools in the county. There were many small rural schools there and he loved driving round the countryside to support them. It was at this time that he took a diploma in Managing Charities with the OU and did a piece of research on the survival of small schools. He loved living in the countryside again at Wootton. Watching wildlife was a lifelong interest.

Then another reorganisation landed him a job in the Finance Department of the Education Authority in Northampton. The budget ran to millions and the work honed his political skills as the council was Labour controlled and he needed to work with the unions, who were active on behalf of teaching and non-teaching staff. But this job was not so much to his taste; he missed the contact with families from across the world. His old boss from Slough, Charles Smythe, was about to retire from the Worldwide Education Service (WES) and recruited him to be the next CEO based at its London office near Great Portland Street. This was perfect and the next few years he spent travelling to set up and run British-style education, in schools and at home, in most of the countries of the Middle and Far East. In fact he was in the middle of writing the memories of those years when he died. I had inherited a family house in Theale with a good train service to London. The proximity to London reignited our shared love of the city and its culture, especially going to theatre and art galleries.

Then in his 50s he felt restive and decided he needed a final career change and Lord Young of Darlington recruited him to start his project, The Open School. So he left WES. It was a disastrous relationship, and within a short time he was eased out, and suffered a breakdown. I was working for my PhD in science education at

Reading University, and they took me into the staff which helped to make ends meet. He valiantly took on charitable work, notably running a large appeal for Leighton Park School, where the boys had been, and volunteering and travelling for Wells for India and Biblelands.

It took a long time to recover, and one day I asked him what he wanted to do with the rest of his life. Being an introvert he took three weeks to reply, but then he suddenly realised that he was being called to study interfaith relations. He registered for a PhD at Bristol with Gavin de Costa. The next and final passion had begun for promoting conversation and understanding between faiths. On gaining his PhD, a study of the role of the Holy Spirit in Christianity and Islam as a vehicle for building understanding, he plunged into work in this area within the church and charities. Almost his final words before he died on 28th June of a heart attack at 80 were ‘I am going to have to give up my interfaith work, I don't think I can manage the committees anymore.’

So a life of travel, administration and passion for integration came to a sudden but timely end. It was a life dedicated to understanding how God speaks through his Spirit to unite us. It was a life dedicated to his family, to supporting his mother and myself, to being a teacher, an academic, a public servant and to loving his sons and his grandchildren.”

Andrew Johnston (G 68-73) has kindly supplied the eulogy, of which this is an edited version, which was read at the funeral of his father, David Johnston (FN 41-44), who died in April.

“Dad was educated at St Bees School with his brother Arthur. He obviously enjoyed school and had fond memories of his time there. He was a member of the first fifteen for two years and was awarded a rugby cap as well as winning the school golf cup. He later became a governor of the school, from 1970 until 2004. He told me he volunteered for the Royal Marines but his father stopped this and, noting his artistic flair and interest in buildings and that he was a practical boy, decided he should leave St Bees early, aged seventeen. He subsequently obtained a place at the Architectural Association in London in 1944. Here he began his architectural education, but this was interrupted by his joining the army – the Royal Engineers – in 1945. Dad never really talked about his experience in the army, but occasionally mentioned that he was stationed in Munster, Germany, near Saten, which is close to the infamous Belsen concentration camp. He was involved in the repatriation of displaced persons from the concentration camps in East Germany and this had a very profound effect on him.

In 1948, after national service, he returned to complete his architectural education in London together with his practical training where, in 1951, he met my mother Jane, who was then studying at the central school of speech and drama.

In 1953 he returned to Carlisle to join his brother Arthur in the family architectural practice, Johnston and Wright, which became very successful under their leadership and achieved some fifty architectural awards and commendations. Although dad was involved in all aspects of architecture, his main interest and speciality was in the field of social housing, and in 1980 he received an OBE for his services to architecture.

In 1976 after many years of wild ideas about purchasing run down farms in odd locations, selling the land and adapting the buildings, he designed his own house at Longburgh Head. He would often disparagingly describe the house as two council houses banged together, but he was able to build a workshop, which allowed him to enjoy one of his main hobbies: working with wood. He enjoyed making benches, tables, restoring and fixing furniture, new barn doors for my dilapidated farm buildings and tuck boxes for Alice, Lucy and Robert when they went to St Bees, amongst other objects.

Of his many interests painting was one that fell away. He exhibited regularly at the local art exhibition in Tullie house for a number of years. I do remember him being very upset when one year his paintings were returned without being exhibited. Although some people requested paintings by him, he never enjoyed painting to commission.

In 1963 he bought Rosebank, a dilapidated cottage which he restored as a basic holiday cottage, a forerunner of today's Glamping – he always described the cottage as camping with a roof, hot water and large wood fire. This became the annual holiday-home as a family for many years. Tennis occupied each evening by walking across fields and crossing the burn to play on the local sloping grass courts with an uneven bounce! The cottage is unchanged and still in use, and it may come into its own again this year.

Sport and competing were important to him. Although always competitive, taking part was more important and winning not essential. He created a tennis court in the garden at Longburgh; this also was sloping but that didn't matter, it was part of the game along with local rules: change ends every odd game and have another glass of wine or gin and tonic. It was taking part that mattered.

Golf was another interest which he took up again seriously later in life after teaching me to play. He was a member of Silloth, Southernness and the R and A. Golf clubs. Negotiating strokes was always important and I remember as a small boy playing with dad in 'father and son' matches with Jack and David Hodgson (both OSBs) and later with the Dinwiddie's. The Dinwiddie matches had additional interest and honour as it was also St Bees versus Sedbergh. Stroke negotiation would still be going on at the fifth, if not the ninth.

Fishing became another hobby and major interest. His main enjoyment was fishing for trout and sea trout, particularly on the lochs in South Uist.

Dad was also a member of Burgh PCC for a number of years; he was the fabric officer and took a lot of interest in the church and graveyard. He was also a member of the Burgh Marsh committee for some 35 years and chair for fifteen years.

Another interest in his life was his love of music. He loved singing hymns and carols, also singing along to his recordings of choral works. He would have considered it better not to have hymns at all at a service if they couldn't be sung."

Richard Hughes (SH 60-64) has submitted the following notice regarding John D. Jones (M 59-69).

"St Beghians who attended the school in the 1960s will be sad to hear of the death of John Jones, teacher of biology and resident tutor in both Foundation and later School House. He succumbed to cancer at the age of 83 after a long and valiant struggle.

John grew up in Burton-on-Trent and the town remained his base for the rest of his life. That said, he was always involved in the boarding fraternity of the schools where he taught and spent a considerable portion of both his personal and professional life within the school community. John arrived on the Cumbrian coast in 1959 to commence his first teaching post at St Bees, having spent his university days at Imperial College, London followed by a year at Trinity Hall, Cambridge studying for his postgraduate teaching certificate. He remained at St Bees for a decade and then headed south in 1969 to St. John's School, Leatherhead, thus swapping the coast of West Cumberland for the Surrey suburbs. One of John's earliest classroom challenges was his attempt to implant some basic knowledge of biology into my reluctant brain; a task in which - we both admitted - he was largely unsuccessful. He also had some pastoral responsibility for me in his role as resident tutor in School House. It was a considerable shock for him, and for me, when some years later, in the mid-1970s, our paths crossed once more when I arrived at St. John's School and joined him on the teaching staff. I was Head of history; he was Head of biology; he was a Housemaster and I became one sometime later. I had made a similar journey from north to south, having previously taught at Rossall.

It was typical of John's good nature that he did not spread the word about my earlier life; in particular that my schooldays had been marked by an absence of any noticeable academic distinction. Indeed both of us increasingly found our shared past a source of amusement. In his quiet and unobtrusive manner John found most aspects of life amusing; he had a first rate sense of humour, which was sometimes hidden beneath a rather shy demeanour.

At both the schools where John taught he earned respect for his teaching and for his huge contribution to many aspects of school life. Two characteristics stand out

for me, both as a former pupil and later as a professional colleague: the long hours he worked and his love of the stage, as director, actor or simply audience member. The proximity of the West End of London had been a major factor in his decision to move south in 1969.

John retired early in 1994 on grounds of poor health. He returned to Burton-on-Trent but seemed to be rarely there for he was constantly on the move, usually travelling through Europe in his beloved campervan. He also took longer journeys to Canada, Australia and New Zealand. He made frequent and sometimes quite lengthy journeys in pursuit of a particular play or performer he wanted to see. He enjoyed returning for reunions to both the schools where he had taught and was always full of good-humoured gossip and nostalgia. Sadly he was diagnosed with cancer about five years ago, but it was only in the past year that his travelling and theatre-going was brought to a halt. He will be much missed by the many people who enjoyed his good company both inside and outside the classroom.”

John Graham Jones (‘Stig’) (F 53-56).

One of John’s children, Lindsay Jones, has kindly submitted the following notice:

“Graham passed away at his cottage in Hightown (as was his wish) on the 15th of May 2021 aged 82 years after a fourteen month battle with cancer, which he fought with dignity and strength. Graham, many knew him as Jonesy or even Stig, will be sadly missed by all. He was a one of a kind with an incredible zest for life - always smiling and cracking jokes right to the very end. He made a lasting impression on everyone he met and was a legend in his own right.

He was still working as a Chartered Surveyor until the middle of last year, when COVID restrictions allowed, and in the week before he passed away he even took two phone calls from clients requesting surveys.

His love of St Bees was evident in the way he would talk about his school days and being an OSB to all who would listen. Whilst only at St Bees for a short time it certainly set him up well for the future. I am aware that whilst at school he would cycle around the village and the surrounding areas and can only think this started his love of travel and road trips!

Part of the eulogy at his funeral was provided by his brother (R. K. Jones - FS 55-60).

Graham was born in Huyton attending Huyton Prep School followed by Marlborough College in West Derby, both of which closed, so at the age of thirteen he was despatched to St Bees as a boarder. Whilst at St Bees he obtained his nickname ‘Stig’ due to his slim features, whilst his brother became known as ‘Fat Stig’ for the same reason. He was proud of his nickname and even used it in his email address.

It was during his time away at school that his mother died in 1955, shortly after his brother had joined the school, and Graham was the one responsible for telling his younger brother what had happened and then bringing them both home. In the early 60s Graham discovered his liking for the Isle of Arran, especially Lochranza, where he spent some time as a barman in the Lochranza Hotel meeting there his first wife Thelma. His love of Arran continued throughout his life and he took advantage of the many golf courses on the island. His love of road trips took him to Aviemore, in particular Coylumbridge, where he spent his Christmases for the last 54 years. Through his mother's side of the family his Scottish heritage was also evident in the yearly pilgrimages he made to Murrayfield to support the Scottish rugby team, over the last twenty years he was accompanied by his youngest son. He was a member of Liverpool Rugby Club, Waterloo Rugby Club and Formby Golf Club.

He studied surveying in London, starting his first employment with the Liverpool firm of Sykes Waterhouse, moving on over the years with his own surveying and estate agency in Formby village. He was very well respected in his profession, carrying on way past retirement age due to his love of the job.”

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july21bulletin>.

James Kirpalani (SH 80-83) submitted the following regarding his father, Heeru Kirpalani (SH 56-58), who died in January 2020 aged 80.

“My dad came to St Bees in 1956 at the age of 16 to do his A levels. Prior to that he spent six years at The Doon School in Dehrdun, India, which is known as ‘The Eton of India.’ Here he followed a largely British-based curriculum, but his Father (my Grandfather) felt his son's prospects in life would be much better served by having British qualifications, so following his elder brother, Raju, he was sent 5000 miles away to school in the UK.

Initially his Father had chosen Gordonstoun as the British school he wished his sons to attend, as Gordonstoun had a similar ethos to The Doon School, however at the time Gordonstoun was full but the Headmaster there recommended St Bees as a very good alternative.

So to St Bees he came via ship around the Cape of Good Hope as the 1956 Suez crisis had temporarily closed the Suez Canal. Initially he found the transition to life in a British school rather challenging, but he soon got used to the way things were done. My dad did well in his A levels and in 1958 he went off to Leeds University to study economics and accountancy and in 1963 he qualified as a Chartered Accountant, which is the career he chose. He married my mum, Cynthia, in 1964 and three boys came along: James in 1965, Mark in 1967 and Nigel in 1970. All three boys also attended St Bees in the 1980s.

Not surprisingly, being Indian, he absolutely loved cricket and was a member of the MCC for many years. He was also a very avid horse racing fan and for a while he owned several race horses, which were trained by Martin Pipe and ridden by Tony McCoy. He was very fortunate in this pursuit and he enjoyed a fair degree of success. In 2004 he was awarded the MBE for services to the Ministry of Defence and he retired from work soon after. After having lived here for so many years he felt more British than Indian, but then again, when he was born in Mumbai in 1939, India was ruled by the British and consequently English was actually always his first language!"

Photo may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july21bulletin>.

A. N. (Neville) Wanless (G 45-47).

The following is based on the eulogy read at the funeral and subsequently sent to the Society by his wife and daughter.

A.N. Wanless, the beloved husband of Pat for sixty years and father of Melanie, died peacefully on 4th December 2020 aged 89 years.

Neville was born in Whitley Bay in 1931 and became a boarder at St Bees School in 1945. Unfortunately, he did not remain long at the school because in his second year he developed septicaemia and was eventually taken home to recover.

However, while at St Bees he found two interests which were to become very important to him for the rest of his life - golf and amateur dramatics. His school education ended in 1947 and he began work in the accounts department of his father's engineering firm, with a view to a career in accountancy, until called-up for two years' national service in Germany with the Royal Horse Artillery, whose base was directly opposite Belsen Concentration Camp! Following this, he returned to England and successfully completed a course at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts, which eventually led to an appointment with the BBC in Newcastle, initially as a freelance news reader and then as a regular broadcaster.

Neville went on to become Tyne Tees TV's longest serving Continuity Announcer over the next eighteen years, along with holding the role of Senior Announcer and Head of Presentations. In 1988 he moved into a part time capacity, though not with a view to permanent retirement, because he was still greatly involved with freelance work for both TV and Radio. For example, in the 1990s he hosted a very popular nostalgic music show for Radio Tees and County Radio. This complemented his long and voluntary involvement with hospital radio.

His main sporting interest was golf, which he enjoyed for some seventy years, mainly at the Tynemouth Club, and at Backworth, but over the years there were few courses in the North East on which he had not played. And then there was his

lifelong passion for the theatre. This began in his teens and included musicals, plays, and pantomime. He had appeared in numerous productions over the years and played a variety of parts both serious and comic.

A kind and generous man, fun to be with, and one who always had respect and time for others. He was ever the gentleman.

Photos may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july21bulletin>.

Notification of Deaths (Since the January 2021 Bulletin)

BINGHAM, A.J. (Alec)	Died 28.03.21	G 49-51
JOHNSTON, D.T. (David)	Died 27.04.21	FN 41-44
JONES, J.D. (John)	Died 12.01.21	M 59-69
JONES, J.G. (John)	Died 15.05.21	FS 53-56
KIRPALANI, H.L. (Heeru)	Died 21.01.20	SH 56-58
RACTLIFFE, M.W. (Michael)	Died ???.??.??	G 60-63
ROBERTS, J.S. (John)	Died ???.01.21?	F 51-56
RUTHERFORD, N.A. (Norman)	Died 03.11.20	FN 56-59
WANLESS, A.N. (Neville)	Died 04.12.20	G 45-47

OSB SHOP

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

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

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

SCHOOL NOTES

From the Headmaster By Roger Sinnett

I write this with one sad eye and one smiling eye. Sad because although the past two years have brought me into contact with so many truly good people and provided such a broad canvas upon which to paint a remarkable future for St Bees – it is clear that my new role as Director of Education for Full Circle will take me away.

Smiling, because I will still retain an oversight remit for the school and, through my future work with the St Bees schools in China, I may well be better placed to recruit students to come and sample the delights of a St Bees education.

One thing is sure – that like the Canada geese down by the brook, I will be a regular visitor to these shores. I can assure our new headmaster, Robin Silk, that I will support him as he takes the school on to its next phase of development, but without getting under his feet. Onward and upward.

Before I leave I do believe that one task is still outstanding, which I intend to address.

The tabloids, fuelled by Nigel Farage's rather inflammatory rhetoric, have reported on some kind of takeover of British schools by the Chinese Communist Party. Allegedly, St Bees is a victim of such an 'invasion'. At the risk of allowing real facts to cloud the discussion: there are around 2,600 independent schools in the UK, only 17 of which are cross-invested by Chinese finance. Most of this investment is more of a shrewd pursuit of dividends than some kind of ideological take-over. More about this later.

But let's focus on St Bees. Why did Full Circle choose to bring St Bees back from an ignominious closure? Why create a new future for the school and would Edmund Grindal approve?

First, some unavoidable realities. Indeed, we have 43 members of staff, of which 13 are part-time or full-time teachers, and this goes to show how many ancillary and support staff are needed to keep a school – even a small school - running efficiently. Catering, cleaning, grounds, maintenance, laundry, boarding, administration.... The list goes on. Indeed the fee income from our students falls well short of the overheads, and it is the Full Circle Education Group which makes up the shortfall until such time as the school can break even.

Fourteen years ago, a father sent his Chinese son to England for his education and the decision proved successful. This son worked hard and graduated from Cambridge University with a degree in Land Economy, but with something more

than just a certificate. He developed a mind-set which saw the advantages when the best of the East was fused with the best of the West.

He vowed to open up such opportunities to other children by creating a series of schools within a 'global campus' concept. Chinese children could spend time in a UK partner school and UK children could visit the partner school in China. Projects could be shared, horizons could be broadened, experience could be enriched.

In the meantime, the boy's father - a highly successful businessman back in China - provided the finance for such an educational venture to be realised. Danny Wang (the son) founded Full Circle in 2017 and together he and I started the enterprise, centred upon the heritage and the values of St Bees School. Following its relaunch in 2018 this school became the 'mothership' for a fleet of sister schools in China and, eventually, other countries as well. Chinese children have great strengths and also great weaknesses. UK children have different strengths and different weaknesses. By integrating the strengths from both educational cultures we created a hybrid school at St Bees, which has now produced two sister schools (soon to be three) in China which follow the same educational philosophy.

In answer to your possible questions as to how I reconcile my involvement with communist China with the Christian ethos of Edmund Grindal I would say two things. First, this is education, not politics. Children's education should be separated from national politics. Opening up closed minds and fulfilling children's potential was Edmund Grindal's vision in establishing St Bees School, and I'd like to believe that in my own small way I am carrying on his holistic mission. Indeed, the Christian mission has always been for outreach and the need for children to receive an enlightened education is as real today as it ever was. The children of today will be the adults of tomorrow and will inherit a world which we would find hard to recognise - as most of the jobs they will be doing have not yet been invented. We need to prepare them for the world of tomorrow and that means facing up to the challenges of a global world in which China will be a substantive player. Preparing them for this world requires the development of a confidence in operating in both the West and the East, and this is a strong component of what we do at St Bees. All students learn Mandarin and study Chinese-standard 'fusion' mathematics. They follow a course in Global Awareness. We purposefully broaden horizons.

My future remit as Director of Education for Full Circle has no truck with a communist government or politics of any persuasion. It is taking a strong educational vision, hatched and developed at St Bees UK, holistic in its content, global in its scope, and introducing it to the St Bees sister schools in China. The end result is that we will have substantial numbers of students graduating from St

Bees schools in the UK and China, having received a first-class education – enlightened, culturally and politically astute, holistically developed, and ready to take their place in society as the movers and shakers of the future. For the foreseeable future we will be receiving financial support from China, where some of the fees generated from our sister schools flow back to us at St Bees UK. In exchange we provide them with the ‘fusion’ educational framework, a fully-fledged educational philosophy and all the components which go with a quality British education. A very businesslike arrangement, I think you will agree. Education goes beyond petty politics. It has a higher purpose. Like any business, it takes financial support until it can support itself. As I head off to the other side of the world and bring the quality framework of St Bees to our growing family of sister schools there, I would dearly like our alumni network to stand behind me in establishing St Bees as a proud name for enabling children of whatever nationality to achieve their academic potential, well-rounded, well-supported, well-grounded – free thinkers, entrepreneurs and global leaders of the future.

<p style="text-align: center;">School Marketing Report – Summer 2021 By Ceara Hayden (Head of Marketing and Admissions)</p>

Well, what a year it has been! Challenging, exciting, unexpected, creative... a whirlwind of a year. And that’s without a pandemic. Put that on top of it all, and what do you have? One truly incredible and inspirational time upon which to reflect.

I believe in our previous update to yourselves from a Marketing and Admissions perspective here at St Bees, we outlined the huge success we were celebrating. We had grown from a student cohort of 15 to a thriving, ‘mini-population’ of 53 young people. An almost 300% increase, complete with a scintillating mix of international students from Romania, Germany, Turkey and Kazakhstan. Admissions this year have, not to dramatise it, been slightly trickier. A lot of our events to drive recruitment involve in-house activities – note Chinese New Year, Open Days or our fantastic Science Fair of last year. International students obviously want the security of travelling abroad, which at the start of this year, seemed less certain – though fortunately more likely now. And people all over the world were feeling a sense of unease or uncertainty – education was clearly not at the forefront of their minds.

However, this past year has enabled us to embrace technology, think outside the box and adapt creatively – and that is in the true spirit of St Bees. We have all learnt, most likely similar to yourselves, how easy it is to connect via Microsoft Teams/Zoom/Skype/WhatsApp. The world has instantly become a smaller place.

Here at St Bees, we are committed and dedicated to providing our students with a global mindset. Just like yourselves when you were students here, mixing, living with and learning from students from all over the world enables young people to formulate opinions and ideas in a more balanced and holistic way. Our multicultural community is vitally important and with the aid of online calls, even lockdown couldn't stop us!

In terms of Admissions: for the international market this just meant we couldn't travel abroad to meet new families – all was conducted online; but yet again, successfully. For the UK students, tours of the school again were conducted online until we were safe to reopen again. As such, numbers are looking healthy for September and are continuing to grow.

St Bees School is delighted to offer all relations of OSBs a huge 50% discount on tuition for the coming academic year. With places in fierce competition (and Year 8 entry already full), this is a great opportunity for your loved ones/relations to follow in your footsteps! To apply, please contact

Ceara.hayden@stbeesschool.co.uk today. We look forward to hearing from you.

A huge thanks to Stuart Lancaster (FN/AC 80-88), who kindly gave us some of his precious time as we hosted a 'Q & A' session to approximately 100 avid fans – a mix of OSBs themselves, in addition to rugby fans. Despite a mere technical glitch (isn't it always the way?!), the event was a roaring success – and we truly cannot thank Stuart enough for his support for the school. In May we held a similar event with some fascinating tales from Jeremy Davey (SH 79-86) surrounding his contribution to the team involved with the World Land Speed Record. It is these events which truly show the shining spirit of being an OSB and provide inspiration to our current and future students as to what it means to carry the flame forward.

Thinking ahead, as the world reopens, we look forward to hosting more events where the OSBs and school work more closely together – and therefore, I really hope to meet you all in person one day.

Many thanks for your continued support as we all embrace this journey together.

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>.

St Beghians' Day 2021

PROVISIONAL DATE: SATURDAY 25th SEPTEMBER

Given the continuing uncertainties surrounding the control of the Covid virus and what the government's requirements may be later this year, we are trying to gauge what the OSB attendance at such an event might be if it were permissible to stage it. Members will appreciate the difficulties involved in the Society's making commitments at this stage with the school and arranging for meals and general hospitality to be provided when the future is still so uncertain. With all this in mind, we should be grateful if OSBs would indicate their feelings by completing and returning the **form included** with this Bulletin or, alternatively, emailing or ringing us with the required information.

DOING THIS WOULD NOT COMMIT MEMBERS TO ANYTHING AT THIS STAGE.

This exercise is purely to enable us to ascertain whether it would be worthwhile even contemplating an event this year or not.

We shall ensure that all OSBs completing the form and advising of their possible attendance at OSB Day on the 25th September will be kept up to date with arrangements when decisions are made. Further general information will also be posted on the Society website and facebook page, as appropriate.

Thank you for your assistance.

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.

200 Club



....but we could give you more back!

A number of you will already know about, and be part of, **the OSB 200 Club**, which has been running for several years now.

By taking part, it gives you the chance of winning **Prizes** each month, whilst also helping to support the St Beghian Society and the school.

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

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

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

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

We currently have just 55 members and would like to increase this number to enable us to raise the prize money on offer and also to support the Society and school, when required.

In the bank we currently hold around £3,022.70, having recently supported the St Beghian Society during a difficult period.

The Covid enforced joint March and September Draw, which took place on 29th March 2021, produced the following winners:

PRIZE	No.	WINNER
£300	42	W.S (Bill) Affleck
£50	17	D.G.M (Donald) Smart
£50	11	E.A.L (Edward) Thompson
£50	9	D.G.M (Donald) Smart
£50	39	D.G. (David) Beeby
£40	56	A.F. (Alastair) Hayward
£20	65	S.H (Sam) Ashton

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

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

Many thanks and I look forward to hearing from you.

Darryl Davies.

Articles for ‘The Old St Beghian’ Bulletin

The next issue of ‘The Old St Beghian’ is due out in **January 2022**. We would welcome write-ups from any OSBs who would like to contribute. Whether it is a piece about life at school or your career since leaving, if you think others will be interested, please do send it in.

We would love to hear from you!

The Editor would be most grateful if you would let him have your write-ups by the **30th Nov, 2021**.

If any new or existing OSB Members would prefer to receive the Bulletin via email in future (with lots of additional photographs to enjoy)....

Please contact:

Pam Rumney on (01946) 828093 or osb@stbeesschool.co.uk

BRANCH NOTES & EVENTS

Forthcoming Annual Dinner and Other Dates:

During the last 18 months it has been a difficult time to hold events due to Covid and we apologise for the cancellations and postponements that have had to take place. Please do consider attending the various Dinners and get-togethers that are now beginning to be rescheduled. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Asia - Hong Kong and Shenzhen

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

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

E-mail: OSBinAsia@gmail.com or

WhatsApp: +44 7930 258791(Laurence Gribble).

Cumbria Dinner

We do hope that by the time you are reading this the Cumbria Dinner will have successfully taken place on Friday 2nd July at Armathwaite Hall, Bassenthwaite. A full write-up about the evening will we hope be included in the next edition of the Bulletin in January 2022. If for any reason the dinner was not able to go ahead, further information and any proposed new dates will be posted on the Society website and facebook pages. **Please contact** Darryl Davies for further details: darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com or 07970 180751 or 5 Marlborough Avenue, High Harrington, Workington, CA14 4NW.

London Dinner

Regrettably we have decided to abandon holding a formal dinner in London this year due to ongoing pandemic restrictions and uncertainties about a return to normal capacity at event venues on 21st June.

We are still aiming to hold the informal drinks in London on the 15th October, and plan to relaunch the formal dinner in **May 2022**, our historical time of year. We hope you will feel inclined to join us in October to make up for lost time!

In the meantime, please get in touch to express an interest in next year's dinner so that we can add you to the list of interested parties:

Graeme Bagnall at baggers@talk21.com / 07778 301584 or

Martin Birkett at martin.birkett@gs.com /07788 713039.

Please do also look out for further information on the Society website and Facebook pages.

London (Informal Gathering)

There will once again be an informal social get-together at The Pepys pub/restaurant (Stew Lane, EC4V 3PT) on **Friday 15th October 2021** from 6pm onwards. If you fancy eating and/or drinking or even just catching up, please do call in and join me. Nicola Shannon (nee Metcalfe-Gibson) (L/G 78-85) would love to hear from you if you are interested in attending:
nicmetcalfeshannon@gmail.com or 0776 619 5468.

North East Dinner

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

Scottish Branch

It remains the intention to have a Scottish Gathering in **November 2021**. Your Scottish representative would prefer to have the Gathering in Edinburgh. Scotland remains vulnerable to variants, but hopefully by November, we all will have had our second jabs and feel relatively safe.

The Scottish Representative would like to propose a slightly different format to the usual dinner. It would be a gathering for a refreshment at a central location, and for those who wish to stay on for something to eat, we can move to a restaurant. More to follow on the location and date. As venues begin to open up, the task should become a little easier.

If any Scottish Old St Beghian would like to suggest an alternative format, the Scottish Representative is open to ideas and will be delighted to hear from you, he can be reached on 07850 082583 or by email on timmackay5859@gmail.com.

In the meantime I wish all Old St Beghians a safe and pleasant summer.

Tim Mackay (FS 68-73) (Scottish Representative).

Please could OSBs get in touch with Tim to register their interest in attending a Scottish event. This will enable us to contact interested parties once further arrangements have been confirmed. Information about the gathering will also be posted on the Society website (<http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/>) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/osbsociety/>) nearer the time.

Singapore

A Singapore Lunch is tentatively being planned for **late November or early December 2021**. All OSBs and partners, whether living in the Singapore area or

not, are more than welcome to attend.

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

Sixth Thomas Froggatt Memorial Rugby Match: 28th December 2021.

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who got involved and donated in 2020's events, despite there being no actual rugby match due to Covid restrictions. We raised a total of £2,360 + £455 in Gift Aid for the Calvert Trust. Unfortunately, due to restrictions at the time we weren't able to do the big group walk we were hoping for, so it turned into individuals/smaller groups doing different things all around the country, including ten mile walks, runs up Dent, runs around Ennerdale, and a walk from The Oval cricket ground to Lords cricket ground and back again, in memory of Tom's love of cricket.

We hope the rugby match will be going ahead on **28th December 2021** if 'normality' has been resumed.

Should anyone like more specific information nearer the time, please contact me via facebook <https://www.facebook.com/jonathan.garrod> or by email jonathangarrod@hotmail.com.

Jonathan Garrod (G 03-10)

Additional events are sometimes arranged between Bulletin issues.

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

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

Wanted! - OSB Dinners and Events Photographs

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

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

Please remember to take your camera and capture the memories!
Please send to: osb@stbeesschool.co.uk or (01946) 828093 or by post.

Branch Secretaries:

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

Asia: Laurence Gribble, James Rebert and Chris Ma:

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

Bristol & West: Currently Vacant.

If you are interested in assisting with this position, please do get in touch.

Cumbria (South): N.J.V. Curry (Nick),

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

Cumbria (West): D.W. Davies (Darryl),

5 Marlborough Avenue, High Harrington, Workington, Cumbria. CA14 4NW.
Tel: (01946) 831650 or 07970 180 751. Email: darryl.davies1@btopenworld.com

Liverpool: I.J. Braithwaite (Ian),

Bramble Grange, Belle Vue Lane, Guilden Sutton, Chester. CH3 7EJ.
Tel: (01244) 300565. Email: ijb.1@virgin.net

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

Manchester: R.P. Calvin (Roy),

The Lymes, Priory Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire. WA14 3BS.
Tel: (0161) 928 9812. Email: rcalvin1@googlemail.com

North-East: W.E. Dove (Bill),

3 the Rowans, Baildon, West Yorkshire. BD17 5DB.
Tel: (01274) 585147. Email: williamdove15@yahoo.co.uk

Yorkshire: S. Crossley-Smith (Steve),

Garth Cottage, Moor Park Way, Addingham, West Yorks. LS29 0PZ.
Tel: (01943) 830640. Email: crossleysmith@btinternet.com

Scotland: Please see Forthcoming Dinner Dates above for contact information.

Golfing Society (OSBGS)

Old St Beghians' Golfing Society

Kirby Lonsdale – Northern OSBs

It was nice to hold an OSBGS event following the long winter months. A small northern gathering of five OSBGS members was held at Kirby Lonsdale on Saturday 29th May.

A sociable Stableford competition saw Gareth Edgar finish on top, with some steady playing, finishing with 39 points. Andy Deall came in a close second with 38 points with a round including four birdies on the back nine. Tom Wright was third, just behind on 37 points. It was good to see Rodney Atkinson and Ben Wilson, who also produced some decent scores; it was a strong outing from everyone.

Thanks to Andy Deall for hosting everyone at his home course. The course was in super condition with great hospitality as the sun shone on the Yorkshire Dales/Cumbrian border. We'll definitely be back at some point. Early plans are in place to have the next sociable northern round at Brampton/Silloth when appropriate.

Photo of 'Tom Wright, Gareth Edgar, Ben Wilson and Rodney Atkinson outside the Kirkby clubhouse; discussing modern affairs and cigars!' may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july21bulletin>.

Stephen Moss – Up and Over Hardknott

Stephen Moss ventured north in early May for some hiking and golfing. After a decent walk up the Eskdale valley, Stephen joined Tom Wright for a round at the Seascale Links. There was some good golf on display from both Stephen and Tom but it was Stephen's female companion, Jan, who took the winnings. After the round, Stephen explored the Wasdale Valley and all enjoyed a burger at The Sawmill Café in Nether Wasdale (now nicknamed the Wasdale Clubhouse).

Photo of 'Stephen and Tom at the Wasdale Clubhouse, advertising OSBGS merchandise' may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july21bulletin>.

Future OSB Events

This is by far the most important section of this Bulletin, with lots of golfing events due to take place from now to the end of the 2021 season. Following (over the page), are a list of competitions and social events planned for the rest of the year.

Cyril Gray (Over 50s), Worplesdon, **June 23rd – 26th** – Adrian Peckitt, Stephen Moss, Mike Stamper, Jeff Ellis, Nigel Costeloe, David Sim and Michael Coffey will represent OSBGS, initially against Glenalmond.

Grafton Qualifier, July 11th – Six members of the OSBGS will be fielded at Fixby, Huddersfield with the ambition to qualify for the Grafton Morrish Tournament that will be held later in the year. Andy Deall, John Currie, Ben Wilson, Gareth Edgar, John Berry and Tom Wright will be the six- man team for the event.

August Meet up, Location and Date TBD – Brampton and Silloth have been suggested. If we get a decent turn out, we may use this as an opportunity to run the Critchley Cup. Scotland and southern members are welcome to join.

Halford Hewitt, September 6th – 12th – The long awaited trip to Kent is not too far away. Preparations are already underway, with early squad announcements. This year the OSBGS will be turning up to Royal St Georges looking like a team that means business with squad blazers being spotted. The online photographs show Andy Deall, Andrew Goodwin, James Doggett, Charlie Crummey and John Currie modelling their recently purchased investment. These will look great in and around the George's Clubhouse and we cannot wait to get down there and show them off.

Looking good lads!

Photos of 'Andy Deall, Andrew Goodwin, James Doggett, Charlie Crummey and John Currie modelling their new blazers' may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july21bulletin>.

Queen Elizabeth QE, 17th – 19th September 2021 – Potentially two OSBGS weekends on the trot. Bring it on!

Grafton Morrish, Hunstanton, 1st – 3rd October 2021 – if all goes well with the qualifier!

St Bees Golf Club Progress Update

The volunteers at the club continue to work hard on the course and their efforts are clearly showing. The course is looking superb, with steady improvement following the recent warmer weather and growth. The club regularly continues to receive favourable comments from visitors, which is a nice indicator, and new members continue to join. Membership is very healthy, currently numbering 210. In October the club successfully applied for an England Golf Grant (part of the £2m Covid-19 Support Fund, provided by the Government, that was

administrated to England Golf to sustain golf across the country). Part of the club's commitment was to gain 'Safe Golf Accreditation', 'Women in Golf Charter' and 'Equality and Diversity Policy' approval. All have been achieved so far, with hard work from everyone associated with the Committee.

The club also took advantage of the quieter lockdown period to 'revamp' the clubhouse (through the grant scheme). Priority has been to improve the Ladies' facilities with new toilets and a new locker room. A new kitchen and bar have been installed plus upgrading the main lounge room with new ceiling and flooring. New windows are to be fitted. IT Facilities have been improved, with better wifi, a cashless payment system, computer and large screen display to promote golf matters, including digitising the Trophy boards.

The Gentlemen's locker room and toilets remain a priority and are planned to be upgraded later this year. The outside walls are scheduled to be re-rendered. Since 2016, the club has now reached a sustainable position whilst paying for all course maintenance and improvements, with the capability to replace/renew any of the seriously expensive course machinery.

Memorial to John Bragg – St Bees Lifelong Member

For those older OSBGS members, the name of John Bragg may ring a bell as a local St Bees member during their time at school. John, who was St Bees through and through, sadly passed away last year. This memorial, positioned on the top of the seventh tee (near to Alec McCaig's bench), is a fitting tribute to a top man, it looks over the course and down to Seamill Lane.

Photos of the 'John Bragg Plaque' and 'Memorial' may be seen at <http://www.st-beghian-society.co.uk/july21bulletin>.

Tom Wright (Hon. Secretary)

Contact Details:

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

Tom Wright, Secretary – tomosbgolf@hotmail.com.

St Bees Golf Club

For further information:

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

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

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

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

SOCIETY OFFICERS:

President:

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

President-Elect:

Vacant

Treasurer:

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

Secretary:

Mrs P.J. Rumney (Pam)

Committee:

R.P. Calvin (Roy) (SH 79-83)	R. Hall (Richard) (F 64-68)
Mrs S.J. Calvin (Sara) (G 77-84)	A.T. Johnston (Andrew) (G 68-73)
D.W. Davies (Darryl) (FS 62-68)	A.D. Lord (Alastair) (SH 90-95)
J.M.W. Dunn (John) (FS 64-69)	A.J.H. Reeve (Tony) (M 89-08)
A.P. Fox (Anthony) (G 62-67)	M.N. Roberts (Mark) (SH 93-95)
A.J. Haile (Andy) (F/SH 76-83)	A.J. Wills (Anthony) (F 60-64)

Trustees:

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

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

The next St Beghian Society Committee Meeting – Sat 25th September 2021
The AGM and St Beghians' Day, 2021 – Saturday 25th September 2021 (tbc)

Copy Deadline: As the target month for the next issue of 'The Old St Beghian' is **January 2022**, the Editor would be most grateful if Branch Secretaries and other contributors would let him have their notices and reports by **30th Nov, 2021**.

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

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

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

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