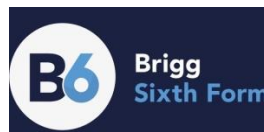
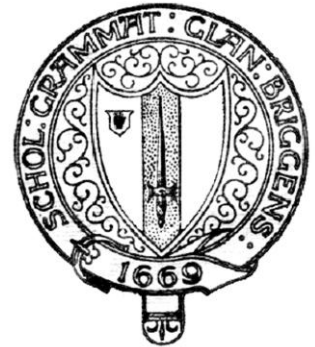
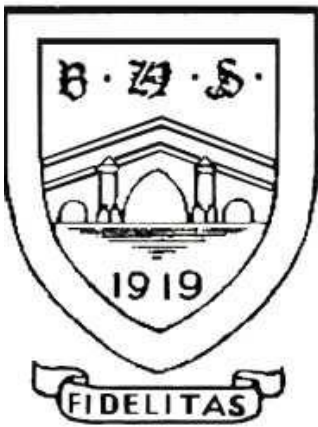


Briggensians' Newsletter

April 2026



Briggensians' Association 49th Annual Dinner

Saturday 9th May 2025 - 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.
Forest Pines (Forest Suite). Tickets £32.00

Guest Speaker: David Bradbury 1959 - 1966

Welcome to the Briggensians Magazine 2026

It is always wonderful to hear tales of travel, work and play from former pupils as well as the photos and stories that you send in. It would be great if the younger generations could get involved and let us know how they are getting on. If you have family or friends with interesting stories then please ask them to send them to julielawson7@hotmail.com. We have had a great response to "Where are you now" – interesting to hear where you went after Brigg. I attended BGHS from 1970 – 1977 and assisted Mr Brittain with this magazine. If you know of any former pupils who would like to read the newsletter, please get in touch so we can add to the distribution list. We need to keep email addresses up to date, so do let us know if you make a change. We hope that people will be able to attend the Annual Dinner and other events that are run through Sir John Nelthorpe School.

Dates for your Diary

49th Annual Dinner – 9th May 2026

Forest Pines

7.00 for 7.30

There is plenty of parking (at the rear) and if you would like to stay at the Hotel, don't forget to try the discount code

Golf

Spring Meeting: Sunday 19th April - first Tee: 12.00

Past vs. present: Monday 6th July - first Tee: 16.00

Autumn Meeting: Sunday 18th October - first Tee: 12.00

**If you would like to play please contact David Harness – 01652 657270
dave.harness@outlook.com**

Annual Dinner Menu

Starter

Roasted Tomato and Red Pepper Soup (VE GF)

Balsamic glaze and herb croutons

Chicken Liver Terrine (GFA)

Main

Chicken Breast Dinner

Yorkshire Pudding, pigs in blankets, roast potatoes with seasonal vegetables and gravy

Sliced Gammon Dinner

Yorkshire Pudding, pigs in blankets, roast potatoes with seasonal vegetables and gravy

Vegetarian Option

Vegetarian Sausage, Yorkshire Pudding, roast potatoes with seasonal vegetables and vegetarian gravy

Dessert

Sticky Toffee Pudding (V, GFA)

Caramel Sauce and vanilla ice cream

Rich Chocolate Fudge Cake (VE)

Tea and Coffee

Please note, we require Briggensians to make their meal selections at the time of booking in order for us to inform Forest Pines.

Booking forms on the last pages: please note reply address to Julie Taylor

This year's Speaker

David Bradbury 1959 - 1966

I was born In Scunthorpe in 1947. My primary education was at Henderson Avenue Junior School, apart from 15 months in 1957/58 when the family moved to Hove. ("Why did we move to Hove, Mummy and Daddy?" "Why did we come back to Scunthorpe, Mummy and Daddy?") Well, the answers to those two questions form part of a story full of intrigue, love, conflict, rejection, pain, discovery and joy: a story which could be condensed into a heart-rending after-dinner tale, but I have something else planned for the 9th May, so Briggensians will just have to wait two years for the book, or four years for the film, for all to be revealed.

So, after Henty Ave it was BGS. My parents had wanted me to follow my cousin and hero, Roger Dobson, into the boarding house, and I'd wanted to stick with my chums and go to "Green Grammar" in Scunthorpe. Being a day boy at BGS was the compromise, and one which I never regretted BGS was great for sport, and I loved it: especially football, athletics and tennis. And I loved being in the school play and the debating team. Perhaps, then, not enough time devoted to study? I recall the gist of the great E.B." Drac" Watts' comment on my English Lit. essay, done under exam conditions shortly before A- levels: "This is well written, and quite entertaining, but in three weeks' time you will have to convince the examiner that you have given the text more than a cursory glance."

.... which I failed to do. Three scraped passes meant universities did not confirm their invitation to me to join them to read law, and so in 1966 I accepted the offer of Articles of Clerkship (now known as a Training Contract) with Eric Kemp at the Scunthorpe offices of Hett Davy and Stubbs.

During my five years "Articles", I had periods at the College of Law in Guildford to study for parts 1 and 2 of the Solicitors' Qualifying Exams. Fortunately, I had learnt my lesson: that one can't rely on waffle (even if "well written and entertaining") to pass exams, particularly not on a subject as entertaining (I jest) as Constitutional Law. In a question inviting consideration of the constitutional position if the King of England wanted to marry a member of the Serbian Orthodox Church, I resisted the temptation to suggest to the examiner that the constitution was of no importance: If the King loves the gal, he should marry her.



In 1972 I qualified as a solicitor. I became a junior partner in the firm in 1974, and was second in the pecking order when, in 1984, a disagreement between the senior partner and one of the junior partners led (unnecessarily in my opinion) to the firm tearing itself in two. And so it was that on 1st May 1984 the firm of Bradbury Roberts & Raby opened its doors to an unsuspecting public, and 41 years later (and 12 years after my retirement) the firm still thrives.

In my career I covered several areas of law typically found in a relatively “small town” (Sorry, Scunny) practice. In my early days I did a lot of residential conveyancing: I enjoyed guiding first time buyers through probably the most important transaction of their lives. I also acted for several local builders and set up and administered what I believe was the first residential flat development in Scunthorpe, as my career progressed, I began to focus more on commercial property and business transactions. I never specialised in criminal law or civil litigation, but I was always happy to trot across the road to the Magistrates Court, and fire the bullets which others had prepared, if our specialist criminal law solicitors were elsewhere.

Apart from the intellectual challenges which the law throws up, I particularly enjoyed the interaction with clients, building and managing a successful business, and the “crack” with colleagues and staff.

In 2014 I retired after 48 years practising law in Scunthorpe (Well, someone has to do it!)

But on the 9th May I shall not be regaling you with tales from the career of a Scunthorpe solicitor: Briggensians, you deserve better than that!

Chair's Report 2025 – 2026

We have had another year of wars, natural disasters and political upheavals. But maybe 2025 will be mostly remembered for the explosion of AI into our lives. Is it destroying or creating jobs, providing facts or fiction, assisting us to advance or preparing to wipe us out? One thing is clear; our schools are already having to battle with the massive issues it creates for education. Despite all this at least the England (women's) football team brought home a trophy.

I was delighted to be able to attend the annual dinner in May. The response from those attending was very positive. Cllr Rob Waltham provided a very entertaining talk and took questions. As an added bonus a number of attending Briggensians went on a guided tour of the school in the afternoon – bringing back memories of distant times.

It is with sadness that I have to note the death of Dave Brittain, a stalwart of the Briggensians and indeed Brigg itself, who will be greatly missed. It was a privilege to attend his funeral in April along with many other old Briggensians.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow members of the Briggensians committee. It is through their enthusiasm, expertise and commitment that we are able to produce this Newsletter, run the Annual Dinner and manage an organisation with a mailing list of over three hundred.

As you can imagine we are always in need of new committee members, and I would ask you to seriously consider if you could join us. With just three meetings a year the time required is not onerous, but it would be a great benefit to the organisation. If you would like to know more or have questions about what is involved then please contact our secretary Helen Cresswell by email hcresswell@westrum.co.uk or telephone 01652 653216.

Do enjoy the rest of the newsletter and thank you to everyone who has contributed news and photos.

Mike Holmes

Chair

Write up from the 2025 Annual Dinner

The Leader of North Lincolnshire Council, Rob Waltham, thanked Brigg teachers and his old school and expressed gratitude for the fine education he received at Brigg's Sir John Nelthorpe School. Rob, who was awarded the MBE in 2017 for services to local government, lived in a council-built property on Hawthorn Avenue during his school years, and went on to read business studies at Hull University.

During the well-attended function at Elsham Golf Club, he stressed the importance "such an amazing school" with its "outstanding teaching staff" had made to him.

They included Stuart Wilson, Ken Lamming, Jack Moore, Barbara Kernon and Pam Braithwaite - all inspirational. He had fond memories of annual Third World Action Group (TWAG) fundraising weeks, which encouraged pupils to think about others across the globe.



Looking back on 25 years in politics and nearly a decade as local authority leader, Cllr Waltham said the school taught the importance of "good values" - something he endeavoured to apply during public service.

"I am passionate about people getting a better life," he stressed. Cllr Waltham said he was particularly pleased to see John Thompson at the dinner - both of them having been interviewed recently in Brigg by a major television channel. John had proved to be "a natural on TV."



Having celebrated his 90th birthday a couple of weeks prior the dinner, John is pictured here with fellow Briggensian Tony Beel (85) and Cllr Waltham, wearing his MBE medal.

The association represents former pupils and staff of Sir John Nelthorpe School (established in 1976) and Brigg Grammar and Brigg Girls' High which existed before 'selective' education was phased out locally and replaced by the comprehensive system without the 11-plus examination.

Matt Mosey, on behalf of the current teaching staff, gave guests an update on progress at Sir John Nelthorpe School, which included improvements being made to some of the buildings.

He screened two promotional videos featuring pupils and staff.

The 48th annual dinner included a welcome by Mike Holmes, chair of the Briggensians' Association, while toastmaster John Hastings invited guests to sing the School Song, Fortitudine, which pays tribute to Sir John Nelthorpe.

Guests on the Top Table



Through his will in 1669, Sir John founded and funded Brigg's initial seat of learning. The original building near Grammar School Road, now grade one listed, is still in use today.



A few hours before the dinner, many guests took advantage of a mid-afternoon guided tour of the school premises hosted by Mr Mosey, director of sixth form. A second 'walking tour' of the town centre followed at 4.30pm for some of the 'Old Boys' who had started at Brigg Grammar School in 1967.

It pointed out current retail uses of buildings which year group members had known decades earlier, including Woolworth's store, Tierney's sweet shop, Shaw's (provider of school uniform and sports kit) and K's Korner Cafe.

Thanks to Nigel Fisher

News from Sir John Nelthorpe

From Brigg to Berlin

In the October half-term a party of 30 pupils and four staff flew to Berlin for three days of learning about German history and language. We spent time viewing the remains of the Berlin Wall, paying our respects at the holocaust memorial, touring the German parliament and visiting Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

On the final day we stopped at the bomb-damaged Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial church, but we weren't the first pupils from this school to visit.

Peter King was the son of Doctor King from Bridge St. He left Brigg Grammar in 1938 but stayed local and returned in 1940 to take on leadership of the school scout troop. In the summer of 1941 he volunteered for service in the RAF and an interest in electronics led him to train as a radar operator. After qualification he was posted to 156 Pathfinder Squadron but still found time to occasionally return to school and encourage the boys.

On the night of 23rd November 'Putter' King took part in the raid on Berlin that badly damaged the Kaiser Wilhelm church, leaving a ruined spire that still remains as a reminder of the conflict. King's Lancaster bomber was lost to anti-aircraft fire during the raid and he rests in Berlin War Cemetery. We were pleased to be flying to Berlin in happier times.



David Waite (Dept. of English) has sent us some thoughts from Year Seven. I think that we all felt somewhat similar when we started our journey from Primary School

When I first started I remember being scared and cautious but now I am all settled and like most of my teachers. I feel like I have learnt loads, not just learning but life experiences.

- Frankie

When I first started Year 7 I remember feeling scared of starting a new school, but the amazing people and teachers helped me feel welcome. The buildings here are gigantic and a lot different from primary. I haven't tried the school dinners yet because I bring a pack-up but I have heard that they are great. The best part of school for me is most definitely PE. My favourite teacher is Mrs Pretsel because she has helped me massively and she is kind. The biggest differences from primary school are how many people there are, how big the school is and how we have to move to each lesson.

- Anon

When I first came to Sir John Nelthorpe I loved it. Did you know that the boarding house is over 140 years old? Knowing this made it really exciting as it felt like Harry Potter in real life. At first I was really shy but once I met some of my now best friends I came out of my shell.

Secondary school is really different to primary school, I would say it gives you more responsibility and makes you feel more grown up. Like, for example, you have different classrooms for different lessons and you have loads of teachers who are really kind. One of the last differences is that there are two parts to the school, Upper and Lower.

Back in September, one of my favourite memories was doing the fun run in PE. [Using the traditional course along Brickyard Lane] PE is my favourite lesson; it caused me to meet all my favourite teachers (Mrs Hurst, Mr Heath-Drury, Mr Aynsley and Mr Belton who always makes fun of my dancing!) Next up my favourite is the dinners; you can go into the canteen or get an unreal Panini. My favourite is BBQ chicken.

- Emmie

My first impression of the school is that it is big and I struggled to find my way to lessons. I eventually got the hang of it and it amazed me that the school has been here over 350 years. The Boarding House where we learn maths has been there for over 150 years, however the English block has been built for just 50 years. Also, the school has an Upper and Lower school. Lower has been here for roughly 90 years. It has just one corridor but has roughly 15 classrooms where we learn RE, History and Geography.

- Jack

Getting used to such a place wasn't too hard. Yes, it is a very big place. Upper school has a bigger selection of buildings and Lower has a smaller set of buildings on opposite sides of the field but there were teaching assistants and older prefect students to help with directions. You weren't expected to know where you were going too quickly.

The lessons are mostly the same as my primary except for technology which swaps around every seven weeks. Sometimes your class groups do get changed but usually your tutor can tell you beforehand if you're unsure of the specific direction and location.

The people such as students are usually rather nice if you need help. There can be a lot of movement but that's to be expected for the amount of people around and about. The teachers are glad to help you in a lesson or just around if you need directions, help with a situation or have a question.

- Nadia

When I started Y7 I was very nervous but I was also excited to make new friends. When I walked through the big gates at Lower I saw some people who seemed kind. That was my first memory I made in Y7. As I went into my tutor room with caring teachers I made new friends quickly.

I soon realized that all my humanities lessons were down at Lower. The big field was fantastic. I had never seen a bigger field in school ever. I wandered down the field to the other side. The massive boarding house that had been there for over 125 years was maths. The bag-drop area was perfect at lunch and the school dinners were good. Some of them are not my favourite but the chicken goujons on Friday are wonderful and the Paninis are the best. The swimming pool that used to be in school is no longer there.

This school is so much different to primary school. There are science labs and I walk to each lesson. The teachers are very supportive and I'm glad I joined this school.

- Primrose

Sir John Nelthorpe School is built across two sites, Lower school and Upper school, which allows some students to catch some fresh air between lessons. On my first day I remember walking up to the sculpture, which is made from the steps of the original building, and saying 'Fortis et Fidelis'. My favourite teachers are Mr Savoury, Miss Pretsel and Mr Jackson, who are caring and supportive between me and other students. The Nelthorpe community is amazing and it is easy to make friends. Furthermore, there is a canteen with delicious chicken goujons served on a Friday. At my Primary school (Wrawby) there was one classroom for each year but at Nelthorpe we move around.

- Anon

When I looked around the school it looked very grand. I really wanted to be a student at SJN. I was over the moon when I got in. Though my first day was scary, I got through it. The school was very big, unlike primary school. I only knew three people and was very scared, but change has to happen I thought.

The old school house looked old and special with its original steps, and outside a statue of books. We had to put our hands on the statue and say 'Fortis et Fidelis' then we shook hands with the Head teacher, Mr Biglands.

I made some friends in my first term which I was happy about. I had three, but now I have about thirty. My best memories were probably bus rides, my first day and the time Christmas music started playing. I laughed so hard.

- Anna

This year school ran a ski trip to Austria in February. Pupils attended The North Lincolnshire Music Festival with much success and the STEM Conference at Franklin Sixth Form College and Eco-Preneurs at UCNL.

In preparation for their exams later this year some Year 11 pupils were given 45 minutes to write to persuade others about their understanding of community.

Selfish or Selfless

Have you ever relied on your community? A community in which you feel recognised, appreciated and valued? A community where support and happiness is the goal? Imagine this safety on a national scale. Global even. Wouldn't that be ideal? Today I am writing to discuss the idea of togetherness and its importance.

In today's society, where global disasters and horrors infiltrate our everyday lives, it is vital that our understanding of community is thorough. So, what is community? It's a group or organization which people are part of due to shared interests, experiences or desires. Communities are the backbone to a functioning society; without communities we would live in isolation.

In my opinion, society will always function best with togetherness. This can be as simple as a smile or compliment. Think about it, when you receive a kind gesture it lifts your spirits, making you pay forward that joy. This is a simple example of how society is driven by societal actions. One kind act can influence multiple lives. Therefore, we don't live alone, we don't live in isolation, and we can't live without consequences. Every act an individual does affects someone else, so shouldn't this be positive? Shouldn't we use this to our advantage?

Yet, why don't we?

It cannot be denied that society doesn't function in this ideal way. Take billionaires as an example. Is that a representation of hard work or selfishness? Can a billionaire be selfless? This is the limitation to freedom of community. Arrogance and greed. Millions of people suffer in our world from hunger, poverty and neglect. Yet we accept people being billionaires. Is this fair? Are some people more deserving than others? How is it possible for the answer to be yes when there is a solution in the heart of communities. We, as a collective, can prevent this by accepting the realities of the power of community.

So, what can we do?

It is important to remember that working together doesn't mean causing a burden to our own lives. Responsibility stems from acceptance with ourselves and our own actions. We can help our communities in ways that have no detriment to our own lives. While this may sound self-centred, if everyone acknowledges their own personal ability to help it will allow individuality in the communities we build. There is no negative consequence to helping others; together we can create a national community built on the foundations of responsibility for one another.

Finally, it is vital that we realise the power of society. By understanding and acknowledging the significance a group can have in society we can begin to understand how on a global scale this could improve our lives. Every choice we make has a consequence. Every action we take has repercussions. Every person we help will make a change. This emphasises the fact that we do need others around us to work. The world needs care and love in it to be efficient and successful. It is ignorant to ignore that fact.

In conclusion, we must appreciate the need for community, the importance of responsibility and the efficiency of togetherness. Life does not exist without the support of others. So, change needs to happen. We need to change our mindsets. Think back to when you relied on your community, and be the change.

David also sent in this interesting article

The Briggensian Mourned by Hitler

There can't be many Briggensians whose death made headline news around the world, let alone be marked by a telegram of condolence from the Fuhrer. For Jack Creasey it was a tragic end to a promising life.

Jack Clifton Creasey was born in Ecclesall, South Yorkshire in 1913. The family later moved to Scunthorpe and Jack started at Brigg Grammar School in 1924. He was in the IV form when the school gained a new headmaster, 'Duffy' Daughton, and he left in 1928. At some point Jack moved to Carr Rd, Healing and joined the navy where he trained to become an engine-room artificer.

In May 1939, with the threat of war on the horizon, Jack was posted to the submarine HMS Thetis. This was a brand new vessel of the latest design, built by Camell Laird at Merseyside. The first test dive was scheduled for June 1st, when with great fanfare and full of guests from the Admiralty, shipbuilders and civilian caterers the Thetis set off from Birkenhead.

The torpedo tubes on the Thetis had two watertight doors, one at the rear for loading and one at the front. When the torpedo had been loaded the rear door was closed, the tube flooded and the front door opened ready for launch. To prevent the accidental opening of the rear door while the tube was flooded, a sliding cover revealed a tiny hole. If a jet of water came out, the tube was full of water and the front door needed to be closed.

Tragically, the brand-new submarine had been freshly painted and the safety hole was blocked. No-one knows how the front door of the number 5 tube came to be open, but the crew were unaware and when the rear door was unlocked it spelled disaster. The front compartment of the submarine rapidly filled with water and it immediately nose-dived to the bottom of the Mersey with 103 people on board.

Once the surface vessels realized that there was a problem there were frantic attempts made to raise the Thetis and rescue the crew. Eventually divers attached a chain to the stern and managed to lift the rear of the submarine above the surface. A plan was made to cut a hole in the hull, but before this could be done the chain snapped and the Thetis sank back down to the sea bed. There were two escape hatches on the Thetis, one fore and one aft. Only the aft hatch could be used and four men managed to get to the surface before the hatch jammed, trapping the remaining men on board.

As the time ticked by the story of the 99 men trapped below the surface became world news. There were offers of help and desperate families waited for news of loved ones. However, it proved impossible to raise the stricken vessel and two days later it was sadly accepted that all on board must have suffocated. It was the biggest loss of life in a British submarine accident. Telegrams and letters of condolence flooded in from world leaders who had followed the tragedy as it played out. Among them was one from Adolf Hitler.

In September 1939, as war broke out, the Thetis was dragged to an isolated shore and the grisly recovery of bodies took place. Jack Creasey was one of the last 34 brought out and he is buried in a mass grave in Holyhead, Anglesey. The Thetis was rebadged as 'Thunderbolt' and relaunched in 1940. She was sunk in the Mediterranean in 1943 with the loss of all hands. Although two Briggensian RNAS pilots died in the war, Jack Creasey remains the only naval casualty from this era. Having died three months before the start of the war his name doesn't appear on our memorial.

[Briggensians have made a donation to school to provide new Table Tennis tables and bats. Attendance at the dinner helps boost the Fund, thanks to all who attend the dinner](#)

BGS and BGHS Photos on display in Brigg Heritage Centre

Two school photos are now on display in the Churchill room at Brigg Heritage Centre. The BGS photo is 1930 and the BGHS is 1933. Other school information can also be found in the period room there. It was a former bedroom of the former Angel Hotel, now set out as a reference room with many books, leaflets and newspaper cuttings about the local area. The Heritage Centre is located above the library and is open on Tuesday, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays 10am to 2pm.



Obituaries

Dave Brittain (Staff 1963 – 2001)

When Julie approached us to write something about our Dad, Dave Brittain, I initially thought that would be easy but actually it is almost impossible. How do you condense a lifetime of memories into a small piece for a newsletter and how do you make it relevant to the audience many of whom have only seen him through the lens of the school, but here goes.

Dave joined Brigg Grammar School as his first teaching role following his university days in Leicester. When telling our mum, Mickey, he said that he expected them to stay in Brigg for a few years and then have to move on as was the way in education if you wanted a career. However, he continued to progress within the school so no move was necessary and as they began to put down roots in Brigg and Scawby where they lived, with the arrival of us two children, they settled down to becoming part of the community.

Alongside becoming Head of Physics Dave played hockey, cricket and squash, with all the associated travel, social activities and kit washing that entailed. This alongside marking, additional lessons for some, and parent's evenings, it was a very full and busy time!

In 1976 Comprehension was forced on both the Grammar School and the Girls High School by Humberside County Council, a desire to be seen to remove anything that smacked of 'privilege' meant an end to the Grammar School and the idea of single sex education in one. However, learning politics fast Dave and Brian Williams worked together to make the transition smooth but still all the teachers had to resign and compete for roles in the new structure and Brian had to work very hard to gain agreement that students currently studying under one curriculum could finish their education in that system whilst the new students were educated in the new.

Within this turmoil Dave became Head of Science with additional responsibility for timetabling which, way back then, involved an enormous board of Lego stuck to a wall by the swimming pool with each year and subject timetabled by hand to ensure all pupils stayed on the right curriculum and were able to still select the variety of choices for their external exams that the school was rightly proud of. Coupled with having to also embark on a programme of building for the school to install toilets for both sexes (rather than boys at the Grammar, girls at the High School) and create a joint sixth form, the work alongside the usual teaching load was intense! Certainly as children, at this time we didn't have days out or holidays but got to 'go to school with dad' in the summer which really meant running around on the school field playing sports or games of our own making – we definitely kept fit.

Dave and a small team of senior staff working tirelessly but at the end of this period they had managed to change the two schools into a 'lower/junior' and 'upper/senior' school model, with a purpose built sixth form block and now the ability to teach cookery and needlecraft and offer better facilities for art and drama. The Sir John Nelthorpe School as it is today had now become a reality.

Dave continued to progress within the school, taking on the Deputy Headship, something he really wanted to do but didn't expect to get the job, not being the most senior teacher at the time. As a child, when he was appointed it was one of the few times I remember us going out to eat to celebrate! He held this role for 13 years, again overseeing a period of change under the new head, David Coulson. Dave took on the acting headship when David went on a placement to industry and, when he chose not to return, applied for the role as Head more in hope than expectation! Competition was very stiff for such a role in a thriving school but Dave secured it much to his surprise. His knowledge of the school and the community as well as his clear dedication

to his students must have won the day. He stayed as Head for another 13 years – for Dave, the number 13 was definitely not unlucky!

Whilst the school was progressing unfortunately a rule change by the MOD meant an end to the Boarding House. Partners could no longer travel in the same way with serving forces personnel and therefore children more often stayed at home rather than needed to Board. Dave sadly closed the doors to the Boarding House for the last time during his Headship. The Boarding House had been so integral to the School for so long this was a profoundly sad day to those older teachers who had given up their time to oversee the students, staying overnight, supervising homework and helping with games on a Saturday. The building remained unused for two years while necessary funding was found for the conversion of what was a very old house into classrooms. To this day the family have a painting of the boarding school in the living room a clear indication of the memories it provides.

Beginning to feel outstripped by the pace of change and feeling the role of Head moving further away from teaching and developing students to politics, Dave decided in 2001, after over 40 years at the school, that retirement beckoned. As was usual, he was not keen on sitting still so had a few weeks off and then began to remodel the house and garden, played golf much more regularly as well as fitting in a few long haul holidays to see one of his best friends in Australia as well as to America, Canada and parts of Europe. A few stints as 'grandad' taking small people to multiple activities were also some of his highlights.

Sadly for someone who had been fit and healthy all his life, the onset of throat cancer spelled a period of inactivity, no social engagements, no whiskey, wine or food that he loved and an inability to be as fully involved with his grandchildren as he had been. Whilst he battled bravely against the brutal treatment of radiotherapy and chemotherapy concurrently, eventually age was against him and he succumbed to pneumonia almost a year ago on the 23rd March 2025.

Dave influenced and/or oversaw some of the most significant changes in the history of Sir John Nelthorpe School, supporting his staff to progress and develop as he had done, remaining committed at all times to education over bureaucracy as he wrestled with governments, politics, rules and budget constraints. However, at no point did he fall out of love with the school, with his pupils or team and stated always that he couldn't think of a better job!

Many thanks to Helen and Richard for this touching tribute to their dad

Nigel Fisher writes:

I first got to know Dave Brittain soon after joining Brigg Grammar School, back in 1967. Then a young physics teacher, he was always kind to new pupils; even those, like me, who found this form of science a challenge.

Patience was something Dave always displayed in abundance.

Later, in the annual Staff v School cricket matches, he showed his talents with bat and ball, being good enough to play this sport at club level to a good standard.

While head teacher at Sir John Nelthorpe School he supported and contributed to Nelthorpe News supplements, published within the Scunthorpe Telegraph, which I was often called upon to produce, as a journalist, in liaison with senior school staff.

As members of Brigg Men's Hockey Club, we enjoyed many happy after-match chats in the Queen's Arms, White Hart and other hostelrys over the years.

He was a skilful performer on the pitch, even on testing grass pitches, and played for Brigg through many decades, seeing the arrival of artificial surfaces and adapting to those without difficulty.

Dave was held in very high esteem by pupils, fellow members of staff and sporting colleagues.

Tony Parker

Former Brigg Grammar School pupil Anthony Gilbert Parker has died aged 87, in May 2025.

Tony was a Freeman of Brigg - an honour awarded by the Town Council to mark many years' loyal service as Footpath Warden, "promoting a healthy lifestyle to residents" - a voluntary role. A very keen walker and rambler, he kept a close eye on local public rights of way - rural and urban - to ensure they were in good order and passable on foot.

He delivered many reviews of local footpaths for consideration at Annual Town Public Meetings.

When inducting Tony as a Freeman during a ceremony held in the Angel building, the Council noted the former Scout had "trekked all over the world, and is a good neighbour to many."

Educated at the Grammar School in the late 1940s and early 1950s, he went on to hold administrative posts within the Scunthorpe steel industry - initially at the Lysaght's complex.

He later spent many years in a senior role within the staff salaries section of the British Steel Corporation's Scunthorpe Works.

Some of the photographs Tony took during the 1960s of local railway scenes and also steam and diesel locomotives featured, years later, in nostalgic publications produced by the Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph newspaper.

Tony's well-attended funeral service at Brigg Methodist Church opened with a sound recording of a steam locomotive hard at work.

A talented amateur artist, he produced many paintings and drawings. He also loved classical music and played hockey for Brigg.

Freemen also receive a badge of office and are invited to attend various functions and events, as well as taking part in official parades, including those held on Remembrance Sunday. Only 10 Freeman of Brigg have been inducted by the Town Council since its creation more than 50 years ago.



Tony is pictured here in September 2019 being presented with his framed Civic Award Freeman's Certificate by Councillor Sharon Riggall, Town Mayor. Freemanship is the highest honour a local authority can bestow on members of the community. Donations in Tony's memory were received for the Ramblers' Association and the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

Footnote:

Tony's trekking career reached new heights in the late 1970s.

An extensive local newspaper report revealed that the 39-year old secretary of the Scunthorpe and District Ramblers' Association had been to Mount Everest. Tony ascended more than halfway up the globe's tallest mountain, staying in the world's highest hotel at an altitude of more than 17,000 feet. This 'hotel' only offered very basic accommodation.

Unfortunately, time ran out on his Asian adventure at this point and he had to begin descending as part of a lengthy homeward journey. Tony had hoped to make it up to Base Camp, from where the first successful ascent to the top of Everest had set off almost a quarter of a century earlier.

Tribute to Paul Chapman (Born 1966, Died 2026)

An impressive piece of music composed by a well-known Briggensian, Paul Chapman, was played to family and friends who attended his funeral service at Brigg Methodist Church in February.

Unlike Mozart's mournful Requiem (and final work) Paul's farewell music was upbeat.

A recording of the Easy Love song, featuring Paul, was played during the service when all seats were occupied at the local church - just a stone's throw from the Sir John Nelthorpe Upper School premises.

Many fellow Briggensians were among the mourners.

Paul often played in church, accompanying hymns and as part of various fundraising events.

Educated at SJN, he was a talented musician, particularly on keyboards.

Paul enjoyed success in the Scunthorpe Rock Open 'battle of the bands' contest which culminated in a grand finale at the steel town's major Baths Hall entertainment venue on Doncaster Road.

He devoted many hours of his time to voluntary work at the church and in helping the Oikos charity, which provides local support to members of the community from a base on Wrawby Street.

This includes a Food Bank/Pantry - collecting, storing and distributing supplies to families and individuals.

'Chappie' - as he was known to many - played local league football in his younger days, notably for the Brigg Sugar Factory Club, whose ground in Scawby Brook was close to his home.

He was also a useful medium-pace bowler with Brigg Town Cricket Club during the 1980s and 1990s while it was hiring the Sir John Nelthorpe School 'square' and the nearby wooden pavilion (since demolished) for matches.



Smith, Ernest Roland (1931-2025)

Former Brigg Grammar School pupil (~1942-46) and Old Briggensian, Ernest Smith, passed peacefully at Caer Gwent Residential Home, Worthing on Sunday 22nd June 2025.

Ernest grew up in Barnetby-le-Wold and after attending Brigg Grammar School went on to complete his National Service in the RAF and work in Customs and Excise before beginning a career in insurance. He married local Scunthorpe girl, Margaret Bainton in 1954 and they moved to London in the late 50's where they started a family with Nick (1962) and Alison (1964). After establishing himself in the Insurance industry he was offered a new position on the south coast in Worthing (1968). After having son Andrew (1970), Ernest and Margaret started their own Insurance Brokerage, Bainton Smith & Partners, which grew to be one of the largest on the South East before it's sale, on the retirement of the couple in 1995.

As part of the Worthing business community Ernest was a Past President of the local Rotary Club, held Committee positions with a number of local clubs and was a Freeman of the City of London. He still took an active interest in keeping his Lincolnshire friends and roots through the Elsham Wolds Association and the Briggensian Association.

He will be dearly missed by family friends.

Celia Warren 1964 – 1971

I'm sorry to tell you that Celia Warren, nee Barker, has died.

Celia was a well published poet and author, writing or compiling several school reading schemes for various publishers including OUP, Scholastic, Schofield & Sims and others. Being quite well known, there were several obituaries, but one of her friends and peers published this one: <https://childrenspoetrysummit.com/2025/04/17/jane-clarke-a-tribute-to-celia-warren/> . I particularly liked it, so you might care to insert a link there.

I knew Celia for 53 years. We were a couple for 52 & married for 49. I am still grieving and struggling to recover enough brain power to deal with her literary affairs. People from a number of other organisations to which Celia belonged (but not known to me) have responded to news of her death with requests for more information. If that happens with the Briggensians, you might wish to point people to the following couple of paragraphs:

Celia was an active member of 'BlipFoto' an international group where each member posts a single photograph with comments every day. It formed a kind of photographic diary and Celia combined her artistic and poetic talents under the moniker 'PicturePoems'. She posted thousands over the years and achieved millions of views. You can go back from here to gain some insights <https://www.blipfoto.com/entry/3337547488109267750>.

Celia wrote poetry using a variety of verse forms, but contributed many entries to the OEDILF project. A good example is one featured by Janet McConnaughey when she was interviewed on an American poetry programme. It is available on Spotify <https://open.spotify.com/episode/4svsPBanueHXeUusi8y1oP> . Some might recognise Janet's name from her work at the Associated Press, where she was a writer for 48 years. She appears at 4m 58s from the start and recites one of Celia's poems from 20m 45s.

Celia's father, Mr Barker was at teacher at school.

Thank you Ray for letting us know

Penny Smith adds: Thanks to our other poet Alison Brackenbury for giving me the sad news. Quite amazing how one small year group can produce two published poets and writers.

Jill Craig (Staff): died aged 93 in November 2025

Thank you for being here today as we come to celebrate the life my mother who was an extraordinary lady who meant so much to us all.

My mum was born in Southampton. When war broke out, her mother concerned for her safety as the city was bombed heavily every night, arranged for her to be evacuated to a convent in the countryside where she stayed for the duration of the war.

Mum attended Southampton University in 1950 where qualified with a 1st Class Hons Degree in French & Latin. After University she was offered a position Minehead in Somerset and gained her teacher training qualification.

My mum ambitions to travel and Canada beckoned which I where she meet my father.

However, when it came to marriage, Jill was drawn back to her roots in England and the wedding to place at the local church in Southampton: they honeymooned in Paris and Venice.

My parents set up home in Salt Lake City Utah and that's where my brother was born in 1966. After my grandfather became unwell, my mother returned home to Southampton, where I was born.

On returning to Canada, she went back into teaching Banff Alberta my father sadly passed away, mum made the 6-week steam liner crossing with 2 young babies and landed back home in Southampton.

Soon she offered a position as Deputy Head Mistress at Caistor High School where she stayed for several years.

My grandparents moved up along with my brother and I to Westrum Lane. Mum continued to live there for a total of 53 years.

Most years we went on holiday, mum choosing always something different; the Outer Hebrides, France where you had to drive to Dover without a Sat Nav.

Mum took early retirement but continued to study gaining a master's degree in Literature.

Mum read the telegraph every morning and crossword would be completed before lunch; she would write to the editor and complain about the grammar and spelling mistakes.

Jill has been

- Secretary or Christian Aid
- Treasure for Women's Institute
- Helped with Meals on Wheels

But still found time to play the church organ

I had been working in London and would travel daily from Grimsby and Hull all these journeys entitled to complimentary first-class rail tickets. My mum made good use of these tickets I would joke that I had reserved a park bench for you having booked her into a 5-star hotel. When she was studying for her master degree she would come to London for the day and spent in the British Library. We enjoyed a full English breakfast on the way down and an evening meal in the buffet car on the way home.

Mum and I enjoyed meeting up at local cafes for breakfasts or lunch and on several occasions we ate at Wintringham Fields where she managed to finish a 9 course tasting menu with ease washed down with bottle of champagne. We once the Harrogate Flower show (VIP Tickets only the best) I went to get some bulbs and my mother got drunk with Mayor of Harrogate.

Covid came along and she lost Andrew who was living in Toronto which I believe had a profound effect on her. The last few years have been tough for her losing so many friends and not understanding modern technology.

Today, we come together to celebrate the life of a woman who meant the world to so many – my mother. Mum's life was a testament to love, resilience, and selflessness. She gave her all to her family, her friends, and her community, leaving a mark on everyone who was fortunate enough to know her.

I hope that she is in better place now and I will miss her wisdom and guidance and love.



This was sent in by her son Matthew. The Eulogy was delivered by Howard Gadian, son of Madame Gadian, Jill's French teacher colleague.

News of Old Briggensians 2025 - 2026

Committee Members: If any Briggensian living locally would be willing to join the committee then please contact Helen Cresswell at: hcresswell@westrum.co.uk or Tel: 01652 653216. There are only 4 meetings annually and they last approximately 1 hour so the commitment is not great but the value of your opinion to the association is huge. Please help if you can.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed towards this Newsletter and remind Briggensians that they should advise me of any email address changes so that they continue to receive notifications about events, news and activities of the association. If anyone is in contact with other Briggensians who do not receive our emails please encourage them to contact us so that they can be added to the circulation list. We look forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Dinner.

Singing the Brigg Grammar School song, Fortitudine, is now generally a once-a-year occurrence during spring's annual dinner of the Briggensians' Association.

However, this song received an unexpected, and impromptu, airing in February 2026 during a public session of the Brigg Yellerbellies local history group at the Lord Nelson Hotel, Brigg Market Place.

Members were being told about a website which offers all the Brigg Grammar School quarterly magazines from 1914-1921. They are in fully searchable PDF format and make fascinating reading.

Nigel Fisher (BGS 1967-74), one of the group organisers, was explaining this 'online find' he had recently chanced upon on the worldwide web. It then struck him that some of the Yellerbellies present would be unfamiliar with the old school tune. So, tendering apologies in advance, he decided to sing a verse or two of Fortitudine, from memory. Some other Yellerbellies, who had also been to Brigg Grammar joined in. Among them was Brigg architect John Thompson, now in his 90s.

Comment was made that hitting the highest note in Fortitudine was always a test.

Helen Cresswell (current association official and ex-school staff) attended this monthly session of the Yellerbellies.

She suggested that the online location of these 1914-21 school magazines should be highlighted in the association's Annual Newsletter 2026.

To access them, visit <https://worldwar1schoolarchives.org/?s=Briggensian> then click on 'The Briggensian' to view the magazines. They are nicely presented and easy to navigate by turning the pages with a click of the mouse or tap of the keypad.

Association members still living in, or near, Brigg are welcome to attend meetings of the Yellerbellies 'chat and memories' group, held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Lord Nelson, from 2pm-4pm.

Admission is free and no membership or pre-booking is required.

We have had a request from Ian Sparrow if anyone knows Mike Hall

I am attempting to contact Mike Hall, who I believe attended Brigg Grammar school until 1964. I'm part of a group of Nottingham University, Lincoln Hall, mid 1960s Alumni hoping to get together this summer. Mike will remember Geoff Jenkinson, Tim Worswick and John Gilbert and many of the other invitees from his time on campus. If you do have his details, please contact Briggensians, thank you.

Where are you now?

We have had a lot of responses to this which is great. Thank you all very much

John Henry Haresign 1954 to 1961

I taught in Wigan and Lowton near to Leigh in Gr Manchester - early retirement at 54 - Associate tutor in Education at Edgehill University for 12 years - eventually moved to York to live near to family two years ago - hope some of my ex Briggensian school mates are still with us.

Ron Metcalf 1955 to 1961

I left BGS in 1961, was one of Mr Watts woodwork boys. I managed to go through school without creating much of a ripple, not a bad thing I think. I studied Heavy Craft, as it was then called, at St John's, York. I left there in 1964 & taught these subjects, which have had many name changes, in Yorkshire & Hampshire for 44 years. I am now long retired & live in Bournemouth.

Julian West 1973 to 1980

After 6th form I went to Grimsby College of Technology and did an HND in Mechanical Engineering Specialising in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning.

My first job was as a Technical Design Engineer with a refrigerated display cabinet manufacturer in Leeds / Bradford. I left in 1986 to take up a position as a Project Manager with a Refrigeration Contractor in Suffolk, carrying out installations for many of the national supermarket chains. In 1996 myself and three colleagues left and started a Refrigeration Design Consultancy business, Oaksmere Design, which carried out refrigeration, mechanical & electrical design work and facilities management again for the national supermarket chains. The Company was bought out in 2005 by a large American corporation called Emerson and I "retired" from the refrigeration industry in 2009. I have since spent my time buying and renting out a small number of residential properties in and around Bury St. Edmunds, mainly to the large USAF contingent that are based in the area.

I still get back to Brigg a couple of times per year to meet up with my old school friends that still live in the area and to reminisce about my teenage years tearing around the area on motorcycles and in cars! I now live just outside Bury St. Edmunds with my wife, Samantha and we have a 20 year old son who is currently doing a degree apprenticeship with Jaguar Landrover at Warwick University (and I am still into fast cars and motorcycles).

David Mercer 1977 - 1982

I'm in Normanby by Spital. I left Lincs in 1984, arrived back in 2021. I'm still working - in the City of London, where I've worked for several Lloyd's Brokers and Syndicates. Had a great time, travelled the world, met some great people. I'm starting to try and slow down a bit, and looking forward to retiring at some point in the near-ish future.

Robert Smart 1961 to 1968

After a wonderful time at Brigg Grammar School, I read mathematics at Queen's College, Oxford, and qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Arthur Andersen & Co. in London. My exciting business career took me to the Middle East (auditing oil companies and fighting a refinery fire), Hong Kong (running a fraud investigation for the Government), listing a worldwide travel group on the London Stock Exchange with a subsequent MBO, advising Disney on Europe, numerous acquisitions setting up airlines including setting up airlines in Europe and hotels in London and Europe, acquiring a hotel group in the UK, running a worldwide travel group in Boston, USA, and private equity bids for the likes of Thomas Cook and Saga.

My political career has included rescuing the Bow Group at the request of Lord Howe, appointment to the Conservative Party's candidates list but without fighting an election due to business commitments.

As my business career faded I have undertaken charitable and public sector roles including running the International Mathematical Olympiad in Glasgow, appointment as Audit Chairman of an NHS Health Trust, and now keep busy as a Councillor on the "sunshine coast" in Eastbourne, where I am happy to welcome Briggensians, and on holidays with our nine grandchildren.

Lee Eardley 1988 to 1995

Been away from Brigg, joining the air force where I served as an electrician and mechanical technician. Completed 11 years' service and got to see the world.

Currently working as a IT field Engineer at a shipping firm in North Killingholme.

I am happily married to Caroline Sanderson, we have 1 grown up child and living back in Brigg.

Rob Waltham 1983 to 1989

I was elected as a councillor to North Lincolnshire Council for the Brigg and Wolds Ward in 2007.

I became Leader of North Lincolnshire Council in 2017, a role I continue to serve in.

Honours:

Awarded the MBE in June 2017 for services to Local Government.

I received the honour at Buckingham Palace in November 2017.

Brendan Thorpe - 1970-1977

I left the Grammar School after A Levels to study for a BA in French and German at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. After a change of plans (not to teach), I went on to study for the Executive Secretarial Linguists' Diploma at Newcastle Polytechnic (as it then was). After completing this course I ended up at Design magazine. This was followed by jobs at Creative Review and Design Week. I then moved to admin and PR at Leslie Millard Associates (a design consultancy), when that went under, I moved to Springett Associates (another design company), where I remained for nearly thirty years. I am now happily retired in Oxfordshire.

Caroline Sanderson 1989 – 1994

I still live in Brigg, never strayed very far.

I have 3 children and am now married to Lee Eardley, who was the school year above me.

I am a school librarian in a local secondary school (Fred Gough).

John Duffelen 1957 – 1964

I studied Pharmacy at Nottingham University from 1964 to 1967. I worked for Weston's Chemists in Birmingham, London and Scotland from 1967 to 1974 and then joined Guinness Retail holdings in 1975 until 1983. I acquired my own pharmacy in Newbury in 1984 which I sold in 2006. I bought a guest house in Oxford called Pickwick's in 1998 with my wife, Tina and we sold that in 2011. We have been happily retired in Wheatley near Oxford since 2011.

Katie Spencer 1980 - 1985

I moved to Scotland in 1998 and been here ever since, in Livingston, west of Edinburgh. I'm an Office Manager for a financial adviser firm. We were taught PE by Mrs Cresswell and Mrs Key.

Nic Salmon Boarder 1966 - 1973

Currently living in Cleethorpes
Retired but still pursuing my photography.

Kirsten Gill, nee ELDER 1977-1981

After leaving school I trained to be an NNEB nursery nurse in Manchester. I then moved to Lincoln and worked with children with severe behavioural issues, and then within the Mother and Baby unit at the Peter Hodgkinson Centre. I then took the plunge and became a Registered Nurse in 1988.

I followed that by getting married and having four children who are all grown and flown and are happy and well. I became a senior in a nursing home for several years and following a time of upheaval in my life found myself in Durham married to a lovely lad who I met through Terry Wogan's old geezers and girls Facebook group. I then worked with people who needed complex care in their own homes and then as an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant in a special school, with children who had severe behavioural issues. I left to support my in-laws with palliative care and then I retired. My husband has just retired and we are slowly finding our way through being home together.

In the interim I have written and published two children's books, ran story times in libraries and knitted all manner of things. I have a Facebook group, The Story Shed.

Durham is a lovely place to be, I keep in touch with a few people from school and apart from a few health issues Life is good.

Robert Maguire (1957-1964)

I went on from BGS to do Chemistry at UMIST. In 1967 I joined Procter & Gamble (P&G) as a production management trainee at their Manchester factory in Trafford Park. I fully intended to use P&G as a training ground expecting to move on to other companies, but somehow it never happened, and found myself still working for P&G until retirement in 2006. In the meantime, I had married Christine in 1968, moved to run a distribution centre in East London in 1975, moved to P&G's then UK HQ in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1978 and, after a spell in Purchasing, moved to R&D, which in 1989 led me to the European Technical Centre in Brussels. After Brussels, Christine and I retired to Poole in Dorset where we enjoy entertaining our two children, children-in-law and five grandchildren.

Christina Newton 1971 - 1978

I joined British Steel as a Clerical Apprentice age 18 in September 1978. This involved study at North Lindsey Collage HNC conversion course business studies. I chose the position of wages clerk after the training was complete. This role evolved in the 16 years I worked there to a Section Leader in The payroll Department and also TQP facilitator.

I opted to give up my career to be a full time mum to two daughters born 1994 and 1995. I was involved in mother and child groups, then the Brigg little Angels Playgroup. I became chair of the group, running and fundraising since we didn't have government funding back then. I volunteered in the primary school too. This all led to me becoming a teaching assistant at Sir John Nelthorpe. I gained the NVQ in Learning Support and attended many courses over the 16 years I worked there, leaving in 2016 for several reasons.

My plans for retirement were changed with the break-up of my marriage and being a part time carer for my mum.

In 2018 I started a Foundation degree in Floristry at Bishop Burton College. Covid happened during my second year and I also opted to do the 3rd year and I gained a 2:1 in Floristry design. Health and economic climate meant I didn't set up a business as originally planned.

I now consider myself, at 65, to be retired but do plenty of art, floristry, singing in Rock Choir and activities at Ancholme Leisure Centre.

Mark Leaning – 1970 to 1977

Mark's 6th Form experience suffered from a significant level of distraction, and in June 1977 he left BGS with E Grade A levels in Biology and Geography. He worked first at the Brigg Sugar Factory and then at the Steelworks in Scunthorpe, essentially to give him time to consider the future.

During this period he happened to read a book about the famous Royal Navy battle cruiser, HMS Hood, became inspired and on the 5th of January 1979, Mark entered the Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth in the rank of Midshipman.

Over the next 33 years, Mark served as a diving officer, a navigating officer, a helicopter pilot and in the latter part of his career, a recognised specialist in aviation regulation, safety and air accident investigation. In his last appointment, he led the Royal Navy's Flight Safety and Air Accident Investigation Centre, and on the 5th of May 2012 he retired from the RN in the rank of Commander.

Along the way, he supplemented his two dodgy A levels with a BSc in Psychology, a Graduate Diploma in Law, an MA in Defence Studies and a Master's degree in Legal Practice, all gained through part-time study.

However, careful planning to seamlessly transition into a second career as a solicitor was stymied by the financial crash of 2008/9 and its subsequent effect on the Legal Profession's recruiting throughput.

Undeterred, and looking for a complete change from his life in the Royal Navy, in November 2012 Mark was appointed to be the Clerk (aka CEO) to the Worshipful Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers, one of the 114 Livery Companies of London. In July 2024 Mark retired from full time employment, but not yet ready to hang up his quill for good, with his wife Rachel, he founded Convivium Event Services Ltd, a company providing locum Clerk support to London Livery Companies that might find themselves "between Clerks".

Mark currently lives on a patch of North Lincolnshire with Rachel, 5 horses, 3 sheep, 2 cats, more wildlife than a David Attenborough documentary and, according to Rachel, more motorcycles than is necessary.

Michelle Pendergast (formerly Cook) 1979 – 1984

Where I live now: High Peak, Derbyshire

What I do now: Finance Director at Lowry, Salford Quays (the theatre and art gallery). I'm also a Certified Lyengar Yoga teacher and I still dance every week.

Dr Kirsty Edmondson-Jones (née Nicholson) SJN 1984 – 1989

I lived in London for many years but relocated back and now live in Bishop Norton. I'm Director in an NHS Hospital Trust in South Yorkshire. I also recently started writing and illustrating Children's Neuroscience books and my first, published last October, reached #35 in the Amazon Best Seller list for Children's science books.

Claire Brumby (1983-1989)

After surviving a life-threatening illness, Claire went on to found Scrubbys Crisps, a multi-award-winning healthy snacking brand, taking it from a kitchen-table idea to an internationally recognised FMCG product range. Her journey through the highly competitive world of fast-moving consumer goods, spanning brand-building, sales, marketing and strategy, give her deep, hard-earned commercial insight. She later pitched the business on Dragons' Den, further cementing her reputation as a credible and resilient entrepreneur. Claire is the author of the best-selling *The Winning Mix: Launch & Grow Your Food Business Without Selling Your Soul*, shortlisted for the Business Book Awards, and her forthcoming book, *Forget Normal – I Want Magic* (publishing April 2026).

Clive Thompson and Niamh McIntyre

Clive let us know that their twin daughters were born in February 2026 and along with their brother, they are all doing very well.



Revd. Doctor David Bryan (taken from Link magazine, written before he retired)

The Principal of Lindisfarne College of Theology has announced he will retire from his post in the summer. Revd. Dr David Bryan said he had been “hugely privileged” to have led the college in training and supporting those who feel called to ordained or lay ministry. “Time has flown by but I have absolutely loved it,” said David, who joined Lindisfarne in 2011 and served as Director of Studies for five years, before being installed as Principal in 2017. “As a college we’ve given people support to widen their horizons and expectations.” David’s journey to Principal of Lindisfarne has been long, eventful and absolutely not a path he had previously envisioned. Having served his curacy in Abingdon, Oxfordshire in the early 1990s, David moved onto the second city, where he taught New Testament Studies at the Queen’s Foundation, Birmingham. In 2001, he headed north to Darlington and served for a decade as Rector of the town’s St Andrew’s Church at Haughton-le-Skerne. A willingness to travel around the UK, and a passion for exploring theologically significant destinations abroad, have had a huge impact on David’s teaching. “Moving to Darlington made me tune into the North East and wherever you are based for a job, you must tune into the locality. “I try to get enriching placement experiences for students training for ministry. Each place has its own character. To help you tell the good news of Jesus, you must learn to understand the people and the place.” In addition to placement experience, David has embraced opportunities to take students on residential trips to challenging locations. Indeed, the Corrymeela peace and reconciliation organisation in Ballycastle has supported trips to Northern Ireland; while Lindisfarne students have also visited Jerusalem, thanks to the Tantur Ecumenical Institute; and even Auschwitz in Poland through the Centre for Dialogue and Prayer. David added: “It’s transforming to go to these places and meet people who are longing for peace. Conflict resolution is a key part of any minister’s toolkit - learning from how they deal with these conflicts and bringing that knowledge back.” The college, previously known as Lindisfarne Regional Training Partnership (LRTP), underwent a revamp shortly after David’s arrival. It is now widely recognised as the learning centre for both Newcastle and Durham dioceses. He added: “It has been a huge privilege. Joining Lindisfarne when I did was an ideal next step. There was a sense of calling about it – to build on what I had been learning at Haughton-le-Skerne – but I did not expect to become the Principal. “I tried to raise the spiritual temperature of the place. This is not just about theologies but also about becoming a community of prayer and moral support to foster Lindisfarne as a learning, praying community. “The buzzword was attentiveness, noting what God might want to do. What is going on? Eyes wide open and ears pinned back.” In the last seven years, Lindisfarne has supported 93 people in becoming either reverends or licenced lay ministers. A published author, David is an avid Fan of Liverpool Football Club and enjoys visiting the Peak District with his family. In terms of his next chapter, he added: “Something that is life giving but I’m not sure what that will look like yet. I will continue to be a passionate supporter of our churches in the two dioceses, and I will still have a strong interest in Scripture, the historical significance of Jesus, the Biblical languages in their Hebrew and Greek texts. Israel and Palestine and what is happening there remains close to my heart.” A farewell service for David will take place at Newcastle Cathedral on 22 June at 11am, led by Bishop Helen-Ann and the Bishop of Jarrow. David added: “All friends of Lindisfarne are welcome. It is an opportunity to acknowledge the college as a whole and the part Lindisfarne plays in the life of both dioceses.”



Baptising a student in the River Jordan

David was the No 1 athlete at Brigg Grammar School, 1967-74. He excelled at the high jump, cross-country running and other events. He was also a talented, speedy footballer. He sent us this photo of Sport's Day 1968. I'm not sure if I recognise anyone apart from David



Briggensians Sport

Briggensians' Bowls

Anyone interested in a Briggensians outdoor bowls afternoon should contact the secretary:-

hcrosswell@westrum.co.uk

Golf

The golf society had another good year successfully playing the Spring and Autumn games, and changing the Past versus Present game to a 9 hole Texas Scramble, which was also very successful.

Spring (May): 9 golfers were able to play; it stayed predominantly dry and was mainly overcast with a chilly wind - felt like 10C, a far cry from 2 days previously when it was 27C. The course was in great condition despite the very dry Winter and Spring, and the golf was very good with most scoring over 32 pts.

In first place was Phil Gillard, with a playing HCP of 23 on 43pts

In second place was Allyson Golland with a playing HCP of 21 on 36pts

In third place was Ross McFarlane with a playing HCP of 8 on 35pts

The 2's competition was won by Phil Gillard with a 2 on the 9th hole.



Photo has Captain Richard Golland presenting the trophy to winner Phil Gillard.

Past versus Present (July): There were 6 past members and 6 present members, which enabled us to have 3 mixed teams of 2 Past & 2 Present for a 9 hole Texas Scramble. The intent was to create a more social event than previously and it seemed to work very well, everyone enjoyed themselves.

Coming in first were the team of Keith Barnes, Jon Taylor, Sam Collins & Tim Smith with a gross score of 35, net 26.

Second were Caroline Bayley, Allyson Golland, Charlotte Gray and Bella Lowery with a gross of 39, net 28. Third were Nick Golland, Dave Harness, Ollie Cormack & Reece Preston with a gross of 42, net 31.

Autumn (Oct): The game was played in excellent sunshine, once the fog lifted, the course was in great condition and there were 11 players.

In 1st place was Richard Golland with 38 pts

2nd place was Ross McFarlane with 37 pts

3rd place was PeterJon Dodd with 35 pts

The only 2 was had by Nick Golland on the 6th hole, who kindly volunteered to roll it over until the Spring match.

AGM: The AGM was held following the Autumn game, and the following officers were elected for 2026 season:

President - Nick Golland

Vice President - Ross McFarlane

Captain - Adam Ellis

Vice-Captain - Matt Holmes

Secretary - Dave Harness

This was the first AGM without Dave Brittain and we toasted his many contributions over the years, and wished him well on the next part of his journey.

Cricket

Many thanks to everyone who has taken part in this year's competitions, and kept the tradition going

It's very much hoped that the annual Briggensians' cricket match will take place this summer. It would be a great shame if this sporting tradition fell by the wayside. For various reasons, the historic fixture has not been played during the last few years.

Prior to this, and for many seasons, the Briggensians fielded a team against Sir John Nelthorpe School on the latter's square on a Friday evening in late June or early July (from 6pm). This fixture was established well over 100 years ago when Brigg Grammar School used to take on a team made up of former pupils.

It had been thought this Old Boys v School fixture commenced during the early 1920s, not long after the establishment of the Brigg Grammar School Old Boys' Association.

However, recently discovered written evidence shows the Old Boys' match can trace its roots back a further decade.

A tabulated scorecard has come to light from a BGS v Old Boys XI fixture played during the First World War, in May 1915. With many ex-pupils away serving in the Forces, the Old Boys could not field as strong a team as would have been possible during peace-time, so 'younger' Old Boys were called up to deputise.

This may explain why scorecard entries for this match inserted inverted commas around the team's name, written as 'Old Boys'.

Captained by S. Goates, the OBs (or 'OBs') were bowled out for 96, with the skipper 50 not out when he ran out of partners at the crease – last man Allen being stumped for 'a duck' (0 runs).

It was said Goates 'batted exceedingly well'.

The School team scored much more freely, losing only two wickets in securing victory.

Sumpter (40 not out) and Adair (29 not out) took the eye with telling contributions as the final 20 runs required were knocked off in as many minutes - a cut-off finishing time having been agreed before play commenced.

Several friendlies of note were played by Brigg Grammar School, towards the end of WW1, against the Royal

Flying Corps at its base in Elsham.

After one of these fixtures, the school team passed on its sincere thanks to the commanding officer for the hospitality extended to the visiting senior pupils from the 1st XI.

What form did this hospitality take, we might wonder?

On that topic, if the School v Old Boys fixture does return this summer, the usual after-match tradition for ex-pupils is to meet up for drinks at the nearest pub - Wetherspoons White Horse, on the corner of Grammar School Road South and Wrawby Street, from about 9pm.

There was a Grammar School Old Boys' CLUB, with a small membership, which operated prior to the much larger ASSOCIATION being formed. The association continued until the demise of the Grammar School in 1976 when comprehensive education was introduced, following which our current Briggensians' Association came on the scene.

Into the 1970s, Brigg Grammar Old Boys v School matches were played during Cricket Week, held at the start of the summer holidays.

By the 1980s, in the Sir John Nelthorpe era, the Briggensians' Association team played the School 1st XI on Father's Day. These Sunday fixtures began at 2.30pm with a break for tea (served on school premises) and often progressed into the evening, depending on team scores.

The school side was sometimes bolstered by teaching staff members like all-rounders David Brittain and Gerry Longden who had played good standard club cricket in the district.



Pictured here are views of School v Old Boys matches from the 1980s and July 2022



Football

Gibb's Game raises funds for worthy causes

A charity football match held annually in memory of Adrian Gibbons - Brigg Grammar School pupil 1962-70 and long-serving teacher at Sir John Nelthorpe School - was played on December 27, 2025 (see pictures).

The venue was the EC Surfacing Stadium (formerly The Hawthorns), with the kind permission of Brigg Town FC - Adrian having played for this club's first team.

Known as Gibb's Game, it raised £910 to be shared by MIND, Prostate Cancer UK and a Parkinson's charity. Players from both squads paid match fees, with additional funds being raised in various ways including a raffle and auctioning donated Football League club shirts.

After the match a social get-together was held in Brigg Town FC's clubhouse.

While teaching at Sir John Nelthorpe School, Gibb established Briggensians FC in the Scunthorpe & District (Saturday) League. His aim was to introduce promising players from the school to adult-level club football. Gibb and other staff members bolstered the side and offered coaching.

Adrian passed away in 2014, aged 63. An annual memorial match was then established. The current Briggensians FC triumphed in a cup final played at Brigg Town's ground in April this year.

A 4-2 win over Scotter United saw the club secure the league's Ironstone Cup for the for the 2025/26 campaign. Briggensians' Owen Dunderdale was named man of the match.



Goal scorers for Briggensians FC in the Ironstone Cup final were James Jackson (2) and Ben Lingard (2), with 150 spectators watching this tie.



Ties, Mugs and Badges for Sale

The association has available for sale a few ties, mugs and pin badge.



Members who would like to purchase these items can: Append a note to their Dinner booking form and add the appropriate payment or

1. Email Helen Cresswell requesting items are reserved for purchase at the Dinner or
2. Send an S.A.E and remittance to Helen



The very attractive pin badge is approx. 2cm x 2.5 cm with a butterfly securing to a pin on the reverse
Badges £10 each Mugs £5.00 (plus postage) Ties £10 each

New members

Membership of the Association is open to all former pupils of:

- Brigg Grammar School
- Brigg Girls' High School
- Brigg Sixth Form College
- Sir John Nelthorpe School
- Staff of either school

The life membership charge is **£5** (It would be helpful if those living outside the UK could arrange to pay via a friend in the UK) and anyone wishing to join should make contact giving their details:

The Briggensians' Association, c/o **Helen Cresswell**, 3 Westrum Lane, Brigg, North Lincolnshire. DN20 9EY. Telephone: (01652) 653216 Email: hcresswell@westrum.co.uk

For those using the postal service

I/We have received the 2025/26 Newsletter

Name, Address (Block capitals please) plus telephone number and email

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Post Code: _____

Email: _____

Postage is charged by size so we ask you to **send to Secretary, Helen Cresswell, a self-addressed A4 envelope stamped with a 'large A4 letter stamp' to confirm receipt of this Newsletter and to ensure that you receive a copy of the 2025/26 Newsletter (or you can receive it for free by email)**

Briggensians' Association

49th Annual Dinner 2026 - Booking Form

I will be attending the Briggensians' Dinner on **Saturday 9th May 2026** (application closing date: **20th April**) at **7.00 pm** at **Forest Pines** and enclose a cheque or Bank Transfer made payable to the Briggensians Association

To the value of £..... For..... Places at **£32.00 each**.

**Tables are set for
8 or 10 places**

Name:

Address:

Post Code: Email:

Please indicate if you have any seating preference other than with your guests or year group:

Contact Person's Details:		Starter		Main			Dessert		
Name:	Tel. No.	Roasted Red Pepper and Tomato Soup	Chicken Liver Terrine	Roast Chicken Dinner	Sliced Gammon Dinner	Vegetarian Sausage	Sticky Toffee Pudding	Rich Chocolate Fudge Cake	
Email:	(please write clearly)								
Guests Names	School Dates								

Please send this completed booking with menu choices, along with payment to:
 The Briggensians Association by cheque or bank transfer to
 Barclays Bank Account: Sort Code: 20-76-14 Account: 90194050. Please add your name to the transfer, i.e. 49Dinner:
 Julie Lawson. (Cheques payable to The Briggensians Association):
Please send your forms to: Julie Taylor, 28 Manley Gardens, Brigg, DN20 8LW or email to
 briggensiansassociation@gmail.com