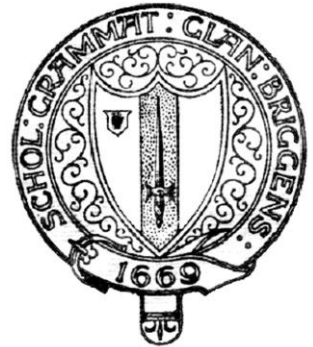


# Briggensians' Newsletter

March 2024



Fortitudine.



## Briggensians' Association 47th Annual Dinner

Saturday 18th May 2024 - 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.  
Elsham Golf Club. Tickets £25.00

**Guest Speaker: Helen Cresswell - Staff (1975 - 2009)**

## Welcome to the Briggensians Magazine 2024

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 into Dave Brittain at [dave.brittain@talktalk.net](mailto:dave.brittain@talktalk.net) or Julie Lawson at [julielawson7@hotmail.com](mailto:julielawson7@hotmail.com). Julie attended BGHS from 1970 – 1977 and has been assisting Mr Brittain for the last few years.

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

### 47th Annual Dinner 2024

**18<sup>th</sup> May at Elsham Golf Club**

### Golf

**Spring Meeting: Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup> at 12.30 (first Tee time)**

**Autumn Meeting: Sunday October 13<sup>th</sup> at 12.00 (first Tee time)**

**Past vs. present: Monday July 1<sup>st</sup> at 16.00 (first Tee time)**

**If you would like to play please contact David Harness – 01652 657270**

[dave.harness@outlook.com](mailto:dave.harness@outlook.com)

### Facebook

#### “The Briggensians Association”

The Facebook site continued to inform members but needs more posts. If you have any news that you could share please send it to us. ‘Likes’ will help will help to spread the word. Alternatively, you can email us and we will arrange the post for you. If you see something that should not be on our site then please email me so that I can take action as editor.

**On July 25, 1923 a meeting was held to form the Brigg Grammar School Old Boys' Association. The initial dinner was held on January 5, 1924 at the Woolpack Hotel, Brigg Market Place.**

(Thanks Nigel F)

# Annual Dinner Menu

## Starter

Roasted Tomato and Basil Soup

Chicken Liver Pate served with Onion Chutney

## Main – Traditional Carvery

Roast Beef, Turkey Crown and Yorkshire pudding, Roast potatoes and gravy

## Vegetarian Option

Vegetable Wellington

All Served with Seasonal Vegetables

## Dessert

Apple Pie and Vanilla Custard

White Chocolate and Raspberry Roulade with Cream

Tea and Coffee

***Please note, we require Briggensians to make their meal selections at the time of booking in order for us to inform the Golf Club in order to speed up service.***

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

# Guest Speaker Helen Cresswell (Staff-(1975 - 2009))

## My life in Sport

A local girl who grew up in Broughton and Brigg, I knew from an early age that I wanted to be a PE teacher. Teaching was in my family and being keen and good at all sports it seemed a logical career for me. After a few years in Wiltshire, married with a baby, we returned to Lincolnshire where I was soon teaching part time at Brigg High School 1975-7. I had a spell teaching at Foxhills before teaching full time at SJN in 1980. A sideways step into Special Needs in 1995, I combined the two subjects until retirement in 2009.

After that I threw myself into volunteering at major events including the London Olympics, two Commonwealth Games, world athletics and hockey events.

Recent photos taken at Rotorua in New Zealand last November



Briggensians Hockey 1981



I can see Mrs Key

# Chair's Report 2023-2024

After another year of political turmoil (albeit with only one prime minister), the Coronation of a new King and world domination by Taylor Swift, we can reflect on a somewhat quieter year for the Briggensians.

It is my privilege to have taken on the role of Chairman this year. I must say a big thank you to Clive Thompson who has been at the helm over the turbulent years of the pandemic and kept the ship steady and on course.

Many thanks also to all our committee members who bring their time and enthusiasm to meetings, events and our local community. If you might be interested in joining us then please get in touch - we are a welcoming bunch.

A lovely evening was enjoyed by everyone at last year's Annual Dinner. With an interesting talk by Nigel Fisher, retired sports journalist, and excellent food, it was a great success for our event team who do a superb job. Numbers have not yet returned to pre-Covid levels but they are improving.

On the sporting front, the golfing Past v Present match was tightly fought, but with victory for the Past, triumphant for the first time since 2017.

I was delighted to see that the school's latest Ofsted Inspection Report (Oct 23) confirmed that Sir John Nelthorpe 'continues to be a good school'. This is a fine achievement considering the challenges of the lockdown years. The parents' survey responses were overwhelmingly positive, with 97% of parents stating that they would recommend the school to another parent. Well done everyone.

On a personal note, I would like to remember Mr Nick Lyons who died last year. As my history teacher he introduced me to the joys of canals, railways, Jethro Tull's seed drill, Hargreaves spinning jenny, Arkwright's water frame and Henry Cort's puddling mill. He also took me on my first archaeological dig in a farmer's field off the A15 where a Roman villa was being uncovered. All of these things have remained interests throughout my life - you can't ask for more than that from a teacher.

Do enjoy the rest of the newsletter that always provides a fascinating read. Many thanks to those on the production side as it is quite a job pulling all the emails, texts, letters and photos together into a coherent whole.

We are hoping to see you all at the Annual Dinner in May.

**Mike Holmes**

# Head Teacher's Report 2023–2024

## Sixth Form Report from Matt Mosey

Assistant Head and Director of Sixth Form SJN

# News from Sir John Nelthorpe

## Ofsted

Andrew Gibbins was the lead Inspector in October

### The outcome was 'Good'

'The school celebrates the importance of being strong and faithful in everything pupils do. Pupils model these values through their positive behaviours in school. They demonstrate resilience and integrity in their learning. Pupils are polite and respectful to all members of the school community. When visitors arrive in classrooms, they are welcomed by pupils taking on the role of 'lead learner'. These pupils explain the theme of the lesson and how it links to what they have learned before. Pupils enjoy this responsibility. They are proud to explain their learning to others. Pupils, including sixth-form students, are happy in school. They enjoy learning. In lessons, they behave extremely well. They listen carefully to the expert input from their teachers and are keen to share their views at appropriate times. The school has high expectations for all pupils. They have carefully planned the curriculum to build pupils' knowledge over time. Pupils in all key stages understand connections between new learning and prior learning. There is a broad and varied enrichment offer, which includes a bird-watching club, a diversity club and a badminton club. Pupils and parents value these experiences and the opportunities these provide to develop pupils' talents and interests.'

## Ski Trip

As we write the magazine the school is on a Ski Trip in Italy. They travelled by coach, across The Channel by ferry at Dover and passed by Lake Como and enjoyed the scenic journey.

Earlier in the year pupils hosted an exchange trip with a German School. The exchange pupils visited York and Sheffield Hallam. It was an interesting day learning about life in former East Germany.



# Obituaries

## Dena Clatworthy (Staff from the 1970's)

Sadly we report the death of Dena after a long illness.

Dena was cremated on Friday 5th January. In the service she was remembered as wife of Syd and mother of Phil and Lydia, with all her many family and friends in attendance.

The service was conducted by Reverend Marian Toyne in line with her own devising and was a very warm and inclusive memory of Dena as a wife, mother and grandmother over the many years of her full and active life.

Dena was very fond of classical music and helped organise the Scunthorpe Music Society using her organisational skills as she did for SJN over many years as secretary based on the Wrawby Road site.

RIP Dena



## Mark Bellwood Tatum (1961 – 1968)

I bring the shock news that Mark Tatum passed away this week from a cerebral haemorrhage. More details to follow. We sent sincere condolences to Pam and all their family and friends. I am grateful for the following contribution from Neville Miller.

Mark Bellwood Tatum (1950-2023)

I first got to know Mark when I moved into the boarding house of Brigg Grammar School in September 1962. We were both in the same form (Lower IVa) under 'Tigger' Richards. Like many of the boarders at that time, Mark was the son of a local farmer. He was neither athletic nor sports-minded but was more of an intellectual. He was always reading and had a wide range of interests. He enjoyed discussion and was a keen debater. He gained a place to read Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Christchurch College, Oxford. There he mixed with the aristocracy. Many of his contemporaries were titled. After his time at Oxford he returned to Lincolnshire and took over the family farm when his father retired. Farming was in a state of flux particularly when the UK joined the European Union, but Mark took it all in his stride and diversified to keep pace with the changes.



In the late '70s he married a Scottish lass, Pamela, from a small town, Bridge of Weir, in Renfrewshire. They brought up a family of three children. For many years Pam ran a very successful market gardening business and their garden was something to enjoy at any time of the year. When the various barns and farm buildings were no longer required for their traditional purposes, Mark welcomed local artisans to occupy these spaces.



Mark and Pam have been big supporters of the arts in rural Lincolnshire and often hosted house concerts in their home. When Putin invaded Ukraine they offered their home as a refuge to a Ukrainian family. Mark was very community minded and will be greatly missed. I offer my condolences to Pamela and the family at this difficult time.

Neville Miller

### **Peter Jarvis (1959 – 1962)**

Please note that Peter Jarvis has died. His father was the Geography Master for many years.

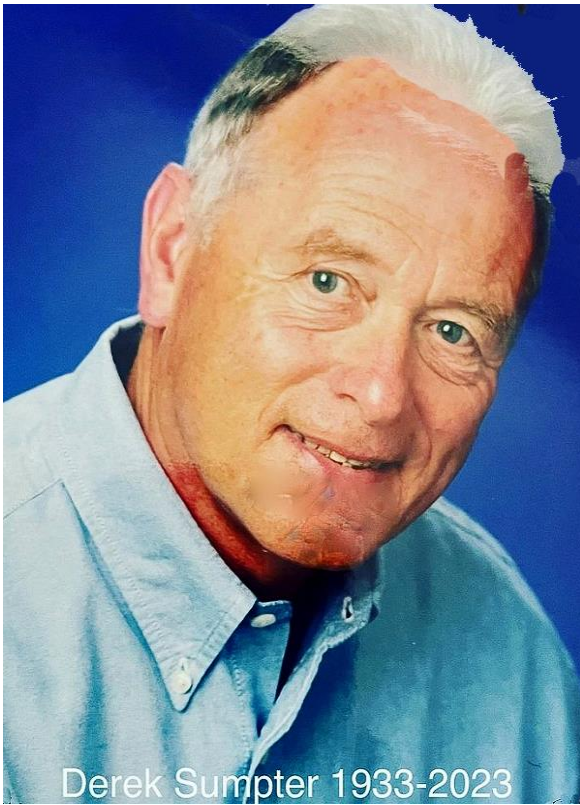
Advised by Bill Brocklesby

### **Pam Rounce (Jex) – BGHS 1964 - 71**

Pam passed away in Leeds in August 2023 from breast cancer. After leaving school she had a successful teaching career, ultimately becoming Head teacher of a primary school in North Yorkshire. She then took on a two-year volunteer role with VSO in Cambodia as an Education Advisor, and subsequently worked in international schools in Kuwait, Myanmar and China.



Informed by her sister Anne Munson



## Derek Sumpter 1943 - 1950

Very sadly Derek has died suddenly at the age of 89.

He was from a long line of Sumpter families attending Brigg Grammar School as one of the 60 boarders. His father and three uncles had all attended BGS.

Derek, when in the Lower Sixth, had to leave the school after his father died of cancer at 47 to support his mother.

After a highly successful life in journalism spending 27 years with the Sunday Telegraph where he rose to become the Assistant Editor for News covering home and foreign news. Latterly he lived in Cornwall with his daughter but regularly attended the annual Dinner at Elsham Golf Club, a round trip of 750 miles, and would, whenever possible, play a round of golf there with Dave Brittain prior to the evening get together. Derek sent a message to Briggensians at the Dinner on the Saturday before he died that the president, John Hastings, read out to those assembled. He was the driving force behind the 40's group and kept everyone informed; he became a great friend of Dave's and will be greatly missed by him and so many

others.

Sadly, Derek had been unwell since Christmas and his health deteriorated over his last 3 weeks but his death was unexpected so soon. He was only diagnosed with cancer on the Thursday prior to his passing on the following Monday.

This must have been an awful shock for the family and I thank his daughter, Lydia Bailey, for her information. Derek's funeral was held on Wednesday 5th April at St John the Baptist Church, Mount Hawke. His grandsons wore his Old Briggensian ties in his honour.

### Lydia added:

We've had rather a sad year actually as following my dear Dad's death, his cousin, **David Sumpter**, became ill & was diagnosed with aggressive lymphoma and he sadly passed away on Thursday, 19 October, in Crawley, West Sussex. He was a pupil at BGS in the 1940's & early 1950's I believe, being 6 years younger than my father. His career was in agriculture, in the agricultural chemical industry.

Mike Spencer let us know: David and I (together with people like John Furniss, John Henderson, John Rowley) joined BGS as boarders in September 1950.

As it happens he was thoughtful enough to leave behind a few notes which have formed an obituary on two web sites, The Hockey Museum (<https://hockeymuseum.org/david-sumpter-obituary/>) and also the web site of his local club at East Grinstead (<https://www.eghockey.co.uk/club-news/rememering-david-sumpter>).

## Stuart Wilson - Past Head of Music at SJN

Sadly Stuart has died at the Poplars care home in Market Rasen.

He died on 26th May and was 92 years old. Stuart was cremated at Scunthorpe crematorium on Friday 23rd June.

## David Culm (1954 - 1956)

I am sorry to have to report that David Culm died on 1st May 2023 following complications from COVID and Parkinson's. I have been his partner for the past 25 years and while I am very sad I am not sorry as he had no real quality of life and was dependent on others to care for him.

From Judy Pratt

## Hamish Ramsay

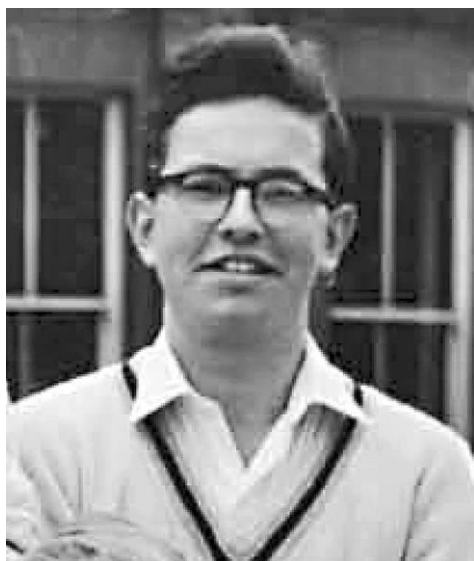
It is with great sadness that we report the untimely death of Hamish Ramsay at just 62 years old. Hamish was born 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1961 and died suddenly overnight Monday 29th May 2023. He was living at the Jolly Miller in Wrawby and managed to raise the alarm when he was suffering a heart attack but sadly the hospital at Castle Hill could not save him.



His dad was an Art Teacher at The Grammar School.

He had lived in Letchworth with his American wife but she died after about two years there and Hamish decided to return to Brigg area following her death. They are now resting together in Worlaby Church. He was a fine Quiz Master and will be remembered very fondly by so many.

## Val Jeffrey 1952 - 1960



Sadly Val (Valentine because he was born on February 14th) has died and we send condolences to his children Nicola and Dominic, their families and close friends.

Val was a contemporary of John Holland and Ted Cox and together they went to St. John's Training College in York.

Val taught at Baysgarth School in Barton and was well known for his early morning trips to Grimsby docks to bring back deliveries of fresh fish for the staff.

He was a very personable character and played cricket with Brocklesby Park and hockey with Brigg HC where he will be remembered with great affection. His enthusiasm and support helped many pupils to go on to play cricket and hockey. The funeral was held at Scunthorpe crematorium on Monday 3rd April.

1959 picture of Val in BGS cricket team

## David Jones BGS staff Physics



David taught Physics and resided in the Boarding House at the same time as Jack Moore, making a formidable team.

We sadly report that David has died, we think in April 2022 but this has only just come to light.

He left in 1963 to take up a promotion and was succeeded by Dave Brittain.

David left teaching to follow his passion for wildlife photography and soon came to international notice and his pictures were in great demand.

He returned to as guest speaker for the association in 1963 and illustrated his talk with captivating picture from around the world. We do not have a more up to date photograph.

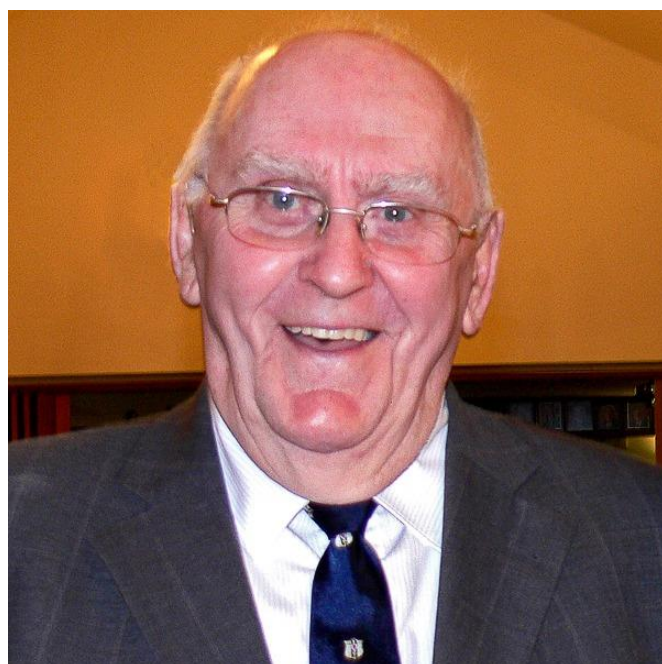
Older Briggensians may recall his illuminating talk or him teaching at the Grammar School.

## Peter Douce 1945 – 1949

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Peter Douce aged 89.

Peter had some mobility issues but was in reasonable health; however, he contracted sepsis and died suddenly in hospital.

He was a regular attender at the annual Dinner prior to COVID and took delight in umpiring cricket. He was a friend to so many but especially to President, John Hastings.



## Gordon Maw

Gordon's granddaughter April let us know that he sadly passed away aged 92 on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023

## James Wild (Staff)

I am writing to let you know that my father, James Wild passed away a few days ago. He taught at the school for a few years from the late 1970's.

From his son Ian Wild 1963 - 1970



### **Joyce Pierce Lab Technician 1960s – 2000's**

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Joyce; Joyce had suffered from a brain tumour for some time and lost her battle against this cruel disease on Tuesday 7th March 2023.

She was greatly respected, valued and was so well versed in the experiments and procedures in Biology that students often thought of her as one of the teaching staff.

We send our sincere condolences to Joyce's family and all who will mourn her passing

The funeral was held at Scunthorpe crematorium on Monday 3rd April.

# News of Old Briggensians 2023/24

**Committee Members:** If any Briggensian living locally would be willing to join the committee then please contact Helen Cresswell at: [hcresswell@westrum.co.uk](mailto: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.*

## Michelle Pendergast (Cook) 1979 - 1983

“It was a Sunday afternoon and as I sat with my laptop open about to embark on planning the week ahead and co-ordinating various team meetings, my mind started to wander and thoughts drifted back to my school years at SJN.

Often on a Sunday afternoon I recall planning netball practices for our team or neatly writing out the names and positions to pin up on the school sports team notice board. And whilst I was never going to be the next Heather Crouch/Natalie Metcalf or venture into the world of sport, these skills I was developing put me in good stead for what lay ahead.

When I saw that the speaker for the 2024 Briggensian dinner was to be Helen Cresswell, I thought what a perfect opportunity to support a former PE teacher and to meet up with former netball team colleagues! Hope to see former SJN’ers from the early 1980’s at the dinner!”

***Michelle would love to meet up with former classmates – do get in touch***

## Paul Church 1961 – 1966

Thought this might be worth a mention in an upcoming “Briggensian”.

Keith Whall (1961 - 1968) met up with Paul Church (1961 – 1966) for a Barbecue at the home of Paul & Maggie Church in Western Australia.



Keith is married to Sue (nee Robinson) and still lives in Brigg.

They came out to Perth W.A. to visit Sue’s sister, Linda Streatfield (ex. Brigg Girls High School – I thought it best to leave out a lady’s dates at school?).

Linda has been a family friend of ours for many years and lives in the same northern suburb of Perth as Maggie and I do.

The B.B.Q. was in early March 2023 and included a “few” drinks and a lot of reminiscing along with some other local Aussie friends.

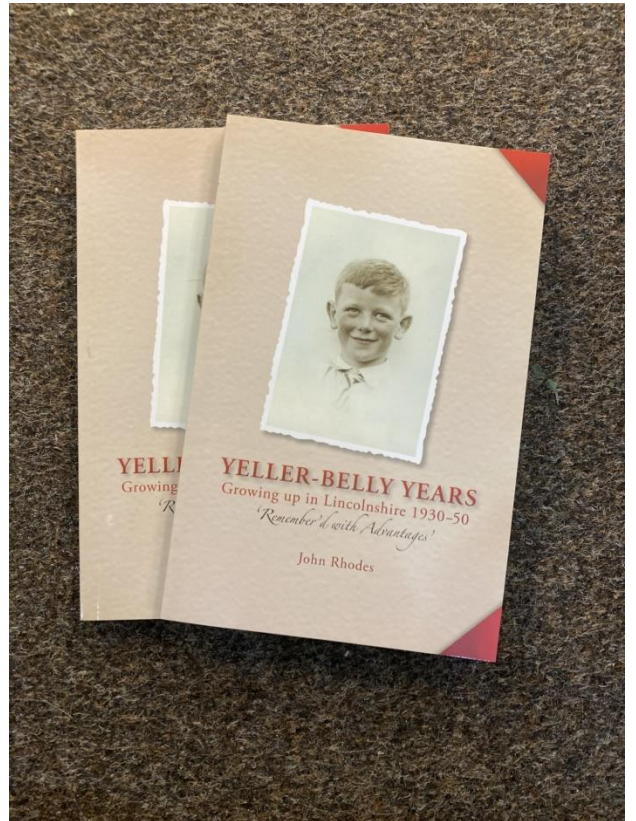
**Simon and Paul**

## John Rhodes 1941 - 1948

Author John, one of our most senior Briggensians, features today in a Facebook post by The Rabbit Hole bookshop, Market Place. He called in to drop off copies of his 'Yellerbelly' book about his time at BGS while living on Central Square. I think he wrote it about 20 years ago, and then came to speak at an annual dinner at Elsham not long after.



The Rabbit Hole is selling the book for a £5 - proceeds going to a local community cause. I plan to buy a copy having somehow lost the one John sent me to review for the Scunthorpe Telegraph long ago.



## Les Waby 1942 - 1947

Les is unable to attend the dinner but would welcome an exchange of updates with any member. He was a pupil at Sir John Nelthorpe Grammar School for boys. He lived in Broughton then Brigg, Grimsby and moved to the current family in Pocklington in 2001. We welcome Les as a newly registered Briggensian.

## We also welcome David Mercer 1977 - 1982

## Bill Phipps 1961 – 1968

Mike McCleave organised the annual meal for the 1968 cohort at the White Horse in Brigg....yes, I know it's a Wetherspoons, but the meals were great and the atmosphere very conducive. Sadly the numbers attending are diminishing for various reasons, but those who were able to come were Bill Phipps, Pete Wells, John Hastings, David Arbuckle, Brian Wesley, Mike



McCleave and we were very pleased that Dave Britten was able to come this year and be head of our table. A good time was had reminiscing about old times and catching up on present day news. Sadly Mark Tatum was not able to attend, and we are all shocked and saddened by his sudden death shortly after our meeting. Our thoughts are with his family.

## Simon Church 1975 – 1982

Good morning from a hot and sunny Perth, Western Australia. In a week when the average temperature has been 40C it is nice to look back on the cooler weather of 2023. In what was a difficult year with family illness and the sad passing of family and friends, our lives were enriched by the safe arrival of our first Grandchild in October.

Simon HENRY Arthur Church was born in Midland, Western Australia and already has his Nana and Grandad wrapped around his little finger! There is already big expectations on his tiny shoulders, with his mother's family originating from Hong Kong so he will learn Cantonese and his Dad (Simon Thomas) being fluent in Japanese, he is quickly having to come to terms with three languages. To add to that Grandad (Simon Senior) has him ear marked as an opening batsman, right arm over bowler, an orthodox boxer and a potential mixed martial artist!

I must clarify that obviously he will be representing England in all his sporting endeavours with Grandad being his number one supporter!

Our travel in 2023 was limited with no major overseas trips to report. However my wife (Joanna) and I did manage a most enjoyable stay in Sydney (NSW) to celebrate the significant birthday of Old Briggensian and my former cricket team mate Paul Jenkinson's special day. In a weekend packed with dinners, drinks and parties it was delightful to not only catch up with Paul, but also his younger brother Mike (Jenkinson) who was in my year at school (1975-82). After returning to WA it was lovely to welcome Mike, his wife Sandra and a few friends to our home in Perth.

I am pleased to report that our signage business (CHURCH+OSBORNE) continued to flourish in 2023. With a continued involvement in event and stadium signage, this year saw us heavily involved with the branding and





signage for international events such as UFC 284, Tottenham Hotspurs FC (Pre-season tour), the United Cup tennis, and Cricket Australia to name a few.

I am also delighted to report that my elder brother Paul (another Old Briggensian) is fit and well and still living about 15 minutes north of me in Perth. Paul and I communicate daily, try and catch up as much as possible and



often enjoy time together having a quiet drink at the numerous sporting and musical events here in Perth. Paul & I have plans underway to travel to Malaysia for the MotoGP at Sepang later this year (2024). Paul is still an active motorbike rider and regular meets with a group of like-minded guys for rides around the countryside of Western Australia.

In March this year we said 'Good-Bye' to our little Tenterfield Terrier dog (Missy) at the grand old age of nearly 18 years. We have decided not to replace Missy as 'No matter how many good days you have with a dog, you always have one really bad day at the end!' However, my wife came across the local 'Guide Dogs WA' website where they were crying out for temporary carers of a range of working dogs! We made contact, did some basic training and now regularly home an array of beautiful dogs on a short term basis. Our first 'guest' was a beautiful 15 month old black Labrador (Ellen pictured)

which we had for a month; she is now in her forever home assisting a 10 year old autistic boy.

Our next dog was a 12 week old puppy called Ojo. He was extremely smart but still a little mischievous. We had Ojo for 3 weeks and he is now in full time training and on track to be a guide dog.

Currently we have a 14 month old male black Labrador (Louis), he's a gentle giant and in transition from puppy training to full time working dog.

Wishing all you Briggensians a safe and relaxing 2024.

## Neville Miller 1961 – 1968

The years seem to fly by these days but we're still soldiering on. In March I ended up spending a whole day in the hospital emergency room due to excruciating pain in my left hip. It was diagnosed as pseudo-gout and after aspirating about 10 ccs of liquid from my hip everything settled down again.



So, I was out playing soccer again this summer, but not as many games as last year, around 24, and I'm definitely slowing down. It might signify the end of my soccer career (65 years)!



In June I went to Old Songs Music Festival in New York State and met up with my friend, Tom, from Australia who was performing as a member of a group called Forty Degrees South. I hadn't seen him for many years and it was wonderful to catch up.

On the racing front, I competed in all 4 rounds of the VRRRA (Vintage Road Racing Association) series and although I didn't win any of the races I managed to score enough points to win the championship and have decided to call it a day.

In October 2022 I was interviewed for a documentary about people who like old motorcycles. It was a project of videography students at a local college in Quebec. A whole production team invaded my house one day. It was quite overwhelming. However, the final product has now been released on Bell Fibe, a subscription streaming service in Canada, entitled *La Moto d'une Vie*. I'm the subject of Chapter 5.

My cottage, sadly, is in desperate need of attention as the foundation is unstable. I tried to get someone to take on the task but they wouldn't even give me a quote! The main problem is the drainage which causes frost heave in the winter. I must tackle it next year, if it doesn't fall down in the meantime!

After a two year hiatus due to Covid, I have revived the Mummers play this year. Some of the regular participants have aged out so I have had to conscript some new blood. We have a couple of performances later this week. I'm glad to see it back as an event in the calendar.

The folk singing and dancing were hit hard by Covid and are only slowly returning to pre-pandemic levels and now it seems that Covid is surging again.

I did manage a quick trip to England in September to see the family, but I have to say that the joy of travelling has disappeared. Airlines seem to be delaying and cancelling flights at will. I also went down to the US for their Thanksgiving. I have a long standing invitation from an old colleague from my Marconi days and it's a good opportunity to catch up, but the 7 hour drive put my back out and I've been in discomfort ever since.

That's about all the news from the frozen North where we already have snow on the ground. I hope you have an opportunity to gather with friends and family over the festive season and I wish you a safe and healthy New Year.

## Mark Seaward 1960 – 1965

Despite on-going health issues with myself and Vanessa I continue to research and co-author publications and visit the University from time to time but travel across Bradford is terrible – it takes me 30 minutes to travel about a mile, and I have picked up a £30 fine for travelling in a recently designated bus lane – there are also far too many cycle lanes, but one very rarely sees a cyclist. Last night I went with my son and daughter to the



carol service in Adel church (see attachment) – much enjoyed. Other than donations to numerous causes, I have not used the post to deliver seasonal good wishes. Sadly I have not been to Lincolnshire for more than a year – and this means that I have not seen Ann Hollingsworth since attending a funeral of David our close friend in December 2022; I am unable, due to medical circumstances, to visit Ann as she is on a 'life-support system' that restricts her to her home.

Sadly Mark's great friend Ann Hollingsworth has died and he is feeling very low as he approaches a cystoscopy under anaesthetic on 3 April 2024.

## George Jewitt 1968 – 1975

After what seems like an eternity, because it very nearly was, I have had my PhD thesis approved and been awarded my doctorate from the University of Sheffield, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, at the age of 66.

The thesis is titled "Narrative and the development of Scunthorpe" and may be of interest to Briggensians due to its local history content. It can be accessed here:

<https://etheses.whiterose.ac.uk/33979/>



## Koen Beckers 1968 - 1975



Our son Yonathan (our only child) was married in August to the love of his life (Jessica). They met 9 years ago in Denver and immediately struck up a great friendship which led to true love. They had a relatively quick engagement and a fabulous wedding in Telluride, Colorado up in the mountains. I have attached some pictures for you... I am on the far right and my wife Yolanda on the far left. We celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary last September. I remember Headmaster Williams suggesting in a maths class that statistically 50% of the entire class would get a divorce. I was determined not to fall into that category and feel immense gratitude that I was fortunate enough to have made the right choice, because you never really know for sure....



### **Mike Cossar 1961 – 1968**

Mike continues with his evangelism spreading the Christian faith especially across the southeast. With wife Jenny, he continues to help their busy daughter and son in law with the care of two lively grandchildren, now twelve and eight.

### **David Booth 1965 – 1972**

Sadly two of the four of us who left BGS in December 1972 and went to Oxford are no longer with us: Paul Reilly died in 2017 or 2018 (reported in The Queen's College Record, but I wasn't able to verify this or find out any more details - Paul and I had met frequently in the early 1980s when we both lived in South London)

Dr Martin Green (originally from Belfast, who was also at Queen's) in 2019. The College Record published an obituary which said had worked at Unilever throughout his career, retiring in 2015 as Head of Human Biology in the Life Sciences Group - and he had continued rowing from his College days until his sudden death from a brain haemorrhage.

The other person from my year who went to Oxford, Simon Bradburn, was at Christ Church and I lost touch with him after Oxford.

I have met Robert Smart on a couple of occasions at Queen's Mathematicians Dinners, the latest as recently as June: he seemed in good health as well as in good conversational form!

I continue to work as an independent strategy consultant (my book 'Strategy Journeys - a guide to effective strategic planning' was shortlisted for the CMI Management Book of the Year Award in 2018), and also to coach junior cricket at my local village club here in the Yorkshire Wolds (I still play the occasional game, as well as squash, but haven't played football since my mid-fifties - we goalkeepers have lengthy playing careers!). Our 3 adult sons all work in healthcare (General Medical Council, Leeds Health & Care Academy, and NHS Data Scientist), and we have one adorable 3-year old granddaughter who Vanessa and I have the pleasure of looking after a couple of days a week!

### **Howard Paynter 1960 – 1964**

Howard was playing at two Carol Services and taking the family for dinner and to the pantomime in December 2023. During the year he carried on singing and performing in both Basingstoke and Newbury and grandson Archie took leading roles at the Corn Exchange and in the School play. Typically, Howard has been causing havoc with certain financial institutions (Nationwide, Coventry and Teachers' Building Societies and ZOPA to name but four) and Skipton (FOS case imminent) for not following their regulations and his instructions and was duly compensated by them

## **Mark Proctor (1968 – 1975)**

A few years ago, I was at the local golf club and was approached by a fellow member, Alan Scott. “You’re from Brigg in Lincolnshire I hear, Mark”. Needless to say the conversation went on merrily and we soon discovered that we had both attended the Grammar School, Alan (1955-60) and myself 1968-75. It then turned out that Alan had known my brother Ken Proctor (1956-64) and they had both travelled on the Scawby/Scunthorpe Lincs Road car buses numbers (114 or 136, I seem to remember?) I made Alan aware of the Old Boys association and Alan now keeps in touch and hopes to attend the Elsham dinner sometime if classmates are available.

So, talking of classmates, a few months passed, and Alan announced that his great BGS friend, Roger Stokes (1955-62) would be visiting from Winnipeg, Canada for the first time in many years.



Pictured in Cheshire: L to R: Roger Stokes, Alan Scott, Roger & Mark Proctor September 2023

## **Alan Scott**

Roger and I last met in late 60s/early 70s when he went overseas to work, so there was over 50 years to catch up on – so good job our wives were there to prod our memories! At school, we were best mates, so where do you start catching up? We did vow not to wait another 50+ years.

## **Roger Stokes**

Alan and I spent many happy days together growing up in Scunthorpe and attending BGS. We used to cycle, fish and play football together. Don’t recall us being particularly scholarly!

I met the first love of my life in my late teens after which Alan and I didn’t see so much of one another.

Anyway, Alan left BGS after O levels and I continued at BGS to do A levels subsequently being fortunate to get into Leeds University to study Civil/Structural engineering. I worked for the consulting engineering company

Ove Arup in London for three years after that. During this time Alan and I met on a few special occasions, but I left the UK to work overseas in several countries in Africa. Then after marrying Annabelle, we moved to Canada. Unfortunately, Alan and I lost touch until we made contact again in November 2019 via the Old Briggensian Association that had our email addresses.

So that was our first contact after not being in touch since 1969 with half a century having passed but now we communicate on a regular basis once again.

It was certainly a real pleasure to meet face to face after so long and to exchange our life experiences and meet Ken's brother, Mark.

As for recollections of BGS I have them but those that stand out are not really reportable here as I think I was a bit of a renegade who had to persuade Mr Williams to let me stay on to complete A- levels. However, they were very good times, it's just that I was not a particularly studious fellow and perhaps should have followed the course that Alan took but no matter our different routes worked out for both of us anyway.

Now retired, I devote quite a bit of time and energy to my Catamaran, "Free and BrEasy" harboured at Fort Pierce. When we brought her back from Europe in early 2019 we left her on the hard (out on land) and because of Covid were not able to travel here for several years so she needed a tremendous amount of work just to clean her and subsequently check through all the systems.

A boat has many systems including engines, sewage, water makers, air conditioners, life rafts, dingy, flares, drogues and para-anchors for surviving heavy weather when crossing oceans. The list and the problems with each of them after standing unused for four years or more is endless.

Although I don't envisage doing another circumnavigation I may get a friend to join me to cruise the Caribbean once more.

## **Mark Proctor**

It was fabulous to meet some of Ken's pals from school in the 50's and 60's. I can scarcely believe it is 10 years since my big brother passed away. Always missed and here a couple of pictures from his BGS days to remember him by.

First image: I believe this was the school 2nd XI around 1962. Ken pictured 2nd from Right, Back row. The others unknown to me.





Second image, Ken in his last years at BGS, a prefect by now, towering over his younger brother and Grandfathers beloved Sunbeam Rapier!

### Richard Lawson 1961 – 1968

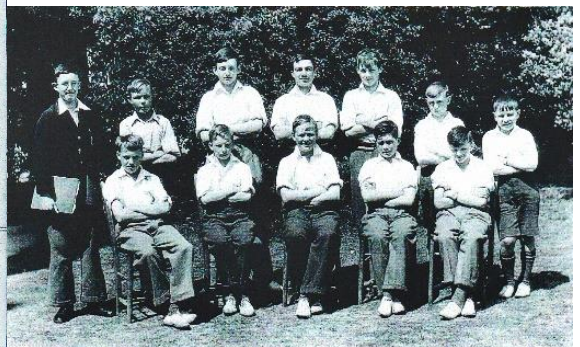
Those in the photos may no longer be



would find their father in them. I shall bring others), when hopefully Jan and I will



with us, they may be some like me, who



the originals with me (and one or two attend the Dinner in May.

My father, R R (Bob) Lawson was born in 1921 so I think the cricket photos (he is the scorer) are mid-1930s.

The first photo (1) has the players' names on the back and I have included this as well.

The (presumably) form photo will be slightly earlier than the cricket ones? The Master is Mr T G Richards ("Tigger"): was he still at school when you arrived? He went off sick (I can't remember the year), never to return...

For the record my father must be in the middle row, third in from the left as you look at the photo.



## **Dave Brittain (Staff) 1963 – 2001**

### **My 2 year journey with the Big C**

It was in March 2022 that I managed to get a GP appointment for a persistent sore throat. No infection was found so I was referred to Gastroenterology for investigation. 30th March 2022. After eight days I was at Scunthorpe Hospital for a throat and stomach camera-tube and biopsy. I was immediately diagnosed with throat cancer. On the 6th April I had a full body scan and then at ENT a camera check of the voice box which was clear and fascinating to watch.

The CT did not show any spread and so I was transferred to Castle Hill Hospital Queen's Centre for further assessment. Their CT scan showed that the cancer was inoperable so the choice was Radiotherapy or palliative care. I chose to take my chance at a longer life with Radiotherapy so a stoma feeding tube was fitted directly into my stomach on 23rd June 2022 because my throat would only be able to take fluids.

Weekly chemotherapy and weekday radiotherapy began on 14th July for 6 weeks (30 treatments) after which you get to ring the "end of treatment bell".

This is just the beginning of recovery from the brutal treatment; I was sent home with upper chest radiation burns, open sores and a mouth and throat full of ulcers. Now I knew why I needed a feeding tube. Mouth wash and special creams and plasters slowly did their job thanks to the dedicated nursing care of my wife Mickey. The frustration of loss of speech when you feel really poorly can also have it's funny side. Many men/partners complain that they haven't spoken to their wives for years, they can't get a word in edgeways. I had to write down anything I wanted to say to Mickey, visitors or telephone callers. We played a modern version of Chinese Whispers. Gradually my speech, taste and smell began to return and I could enjoy a glass of wine and a little solid food. Progress was carefully monitored and a CT scan showed just two small areas of uncertainty.

One late freezing Sunday night in February 2023 my feeding tube became dislodged; the inflatable balloon that held it in place had burst. Off to Scunthorpe A&E to get a replacement before the opening closed after 2 to 3 hours. Neither the nurses nor duty GP were familiar with the system so I was not believed. After 2 hours wait and a threat to leave, the duty GP tried to poke a drain tube into the opening into my stomach and only succeeded after many attempts then taped it in place. It was a very painful and bloody 'white knuckle' experience. Specialist Nurses called the next day to replace the tube. I braced myself with clenched fists at the ready – out with the drain tube and in with the new feeding-feeding tube, completely painlessly. What a difference properly trained and experience nurses make. However, I didn't use it again, preferring to drink a watered down mixture of my high protein drinks.

It took until the 14th April for me to persuade them to remove my tube. Freedom!

My recovery was checked with a PET scan (Proton Emission Tomography) using a short-lived radioactive tracer and no spread was found. The tracer collects in areas of high blood flow and will pinpoint cancers feeding.

In late 2023 my Oncologist ordered a full body CT scan and this came along in mid-January 2024.

On 8th February 2024 my Specialist gave me the news that there wasn't a sign of cancer anywhere. Time to celebrate with a glass of wine or two and Mickey shed a tear of joy into her coffee!

It has been a two-year journey along a bumpy road since it all began. Thanks to all those who have sent their best wishes and shown concern, I hope to have a few years left but behave more like an octogenarian if I can!!



# Briggensians Sports

## Football

### Gibby Memorial Match



The annual Briggensians football match took place on Wednesday 27th December at Brigg Town in memory of Adrian Gibbons. We woke up to torrential rain and had to have an early pitch inspection by Brigg Town but the pitch was passed fit much to everyone's relief. There was a good turnout of both old and young as Harry and Mark Cawkwell organised Briggensians FC who currently play in division 1 of the Scunthorpe league to play an experienced old boys 11 organised by Jon Taylor. The old boys included Col Mumby, Steve Jordan, Paul Neal, Mark Morris, Jon Taylor and Chrissy Rogers to name a few. The game started evenly with both sides creating chances and Gav Duncan in the old boys net was finding the ball difficult to catch but he did pull off some surprisingly good saves on the day. The young boys opened up the scoring with Altoft and then Dunderdale doubled the lead. The old boys would not be beaten and came back through a great header from Neal. Both Neal and S Jordan had a great game in the heart of the old boys defence. Altoft grabbed his second to make it 3-1 but then the old boys were awarded a penalty. It was then the time for the youthful Col Mumby in his seventies to come on and take the spot kick much to the annoyance of Dan Greaves. The kick was saved but the keeper had come off his line and Col kept his cool to slot home his second attempt. This made the game close and when Ben Lingard put in a late tackle on his old PE teacher Mr Taylor he was sent from the field of play for an early shower. The free kick was in a great position but came to nothing. Boden grabbed a 4th but Rogers then scored for the old boys to set up a great last 10 minutes. The old boys missed a penalty through Greaves but he had had a good game in midfield with the young J Jordan. The young boys held on and were presented with the cup from Jane, Kelley and Lucy Gibbons.

On such a horrible day a good crowd were in attendance. The old boys can take it as a moral victory as never before had they played such a useful 11 with good ex pupils like J Jickells, Ben Lingard and Luke Boden to name a few. This took us to the pub games where the old boys won the pool, darts and dominoes to take it to 3-1 and then a 10 man boat race saw an emphatic victory for the old boys making it 4-1. D Dewfall had clearly been practising all year and C Rogers put in a Stella performance with A Dixon. In fact the old boys won with 2 drinks

to spare. Then there were a number of other fun games and then with only the quiz remaining the old boys could not be caught. Amazingly, the young boys with their team name Google won the quiz to make it 4-2 on the day. Old boys ruled once again. We held an auction with A Taylor and throughout the day we collected for charity. Every footballer donated at least £10 and we raised an amazing £900 for charity which is amazing in these challenging times. Mark Morris accepted £355 which he took to Lindsey Lodge and £350 was given to Carl Sherwood for his mayor appeal as the other chosen charity was the British Heart Foundation and this and Lindsey Lodge are 2 of his charities this year. One of the young boys (S Benson) then agreed to have his hair cut for the cause and chopping off his pony tail got another £200 for the Mayor's Appeal Fund. The day was great fun for all and I would like to thank Harry and Mark Cawkwell for helping organise the young boys and the young referee who stepped in at the last minute after our referee pulled his hamstring. I would also like to thank Brigg Town for their hospitality, Alan Taylor for helping with the pub games and auction and Jane, Kelley and Lucy Gibbons.

## Cricket



Briggensians beat the School by five runs in the annual Summer Sports Reunion cricket match 2023 - continuing a number of close finishes to these games in recent years. Replying to the Old Boys' 134 for seven, the School

needed 11 to win when the last of the 16 overs began, but a fine boundary catch pegged them back and they finished on 129 for eight.

Ken Harrison attended with his camera prior to the start of the match, played on June 30th 2023, and kindly shared these pictures, one showing the coin toss for choice of innings.

Many talented SJN players performed, while the Old Boys called on the collective experience of hundreds of league games for Brigg Town Cricket Club - two of the players now being in their late 60s while others are still turning out for the local team.

Afterwards, the Old Boys met up in Wetherspoons White Horse pub to recall local cricket matches of note stretching back to the mid-1970s.

Other players arrived later to bolster the teams.

The parents of a number of SJN players turned up to watch, together with current supporters of Brigg Town Cricket Club.

There is documentary evidence that Old Boys v School fixtures were being contested by the late 1920s. The players have changed with time, but the old Brigg Grammar Boarding House has formed a backdrop to every match!  
Annual games were played on Sunday afternoons (often close to Father's Day) for many years, prior to a switch to Friday evenings (with fewer overs).

## Golf

### Spring Meeting

The spring meeting was a great day, there were 18 playing, the sun was out the whole time (there are a few tanned faces this morning) and on the whole the golf performance matched the fabulous weather.

First on the day was Matt Holmes with 39 points (on a 2nd 9 countback) & playing off 4.

Second on the day was Tony Instone with 39 points (who is ruing missing the putt on the 18th) & playing off 19.

Third on the day was PJ Dodd with 36pts, who deserves a special mention, as it was the first 18 holes he has walked for several years (the course was too wet for a buggy)

Joint fourth and a big shout out for Caroline Bayley on 32 pts – a great performance for her first outing with us.

The 2's pot was rolled over from October, and stood at £34, which was won by Richard Rivron with an excellent 2 on the par 3, 14th.



Thanks to all for coming along, David

### Past v Present

The annual Past versus Present match was held on July 10th. On the scheduled date (July 3rd) there was a school outing and both teams struggled to field teams, so it was decided to delay a week, which proved to be the better answer for the Past team as they were able to field a stronger team.

Again we were blessed with some excellent weather, and some excellent golf. The three matches were very tight, with the Past team winning 2 and the Present 1. It was the first time the Past team have been triumphant since 2017.

Game 1: (Past) Caroline Bayley & Keith Barnes won 3&2 playing David Baggott & James Baggaley

Game 2: (Present) Tim Smith, Wil Dulson & Owen Dunderdale won 3&2 playing Ross McFarlane & Dave Harness

Game 3: (Past) Kevin Turner & Chris Peters won 4&2 playing Cortez Riley & James McMillan

### Autumn Meeting

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 13 members were able to play, we had a great day, the weather was excellent for golf, overcast for the first half and sun shining for the second half, and the course was in great condition.

There was another tie, (also in April fixture) with both Matt Holmes and Ross McFarlane finishing on 37 pts, both had 16 pts on the back 9, with Matt just clinching it with 2 more pts on the final 6 holes.

So first on the day was Matt Holmes with 37 pts playing off 3.

Second on the day was Ross with 37 pts playing off 11.

Third was Richard Golland with 33 pts playing off 10.

(It feels like the handicaps are getting lower every year!)

We held a short AGM after the match and the following appointments were decided:

President - Dave Brittain

Vice President - Ross McFarlane

Captain - Nick Golland

Vice-Captain - Richard Golland

Secretary - Dave Harness

Many thanks to Mark Boast for being this year's Captain.

Across our 3 games this year we have had 29 different players - many thanks to everyone who has been able to play this year.

# Ties and Badges for Sale

The association has available for sale a few ties 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      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](mailto:hcresswell@westrum.co.uk)

## For those using the postal service

### I/We have received the 2023/24 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 2023/24 Newsletter (or you can receive it for free by email)**

# Briggensians' Association

## 47th Annual Dinner 2024 - Booking Form

I will be attending the Briggensians' Dinner on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024** (application closing date: **30<sup>th</sup> April**) at **7,00pm Elsham Golf Club** and enclose a cheque or Bank Transfer made payable to the Briggensians Association

To the value of £..... For..... Places at **£25.00 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. Email: <span style="color: red;">(please write clearly)</span>		Roasted Tomato and Basil Soup	Chicken Liver Pate with Onion Chutney		Roast Beef, Turkey Crown, Yorkshire Pudding and seasonal vegetables with gravy	Vegetable Wellington and seasonal vegetables	White Chocolate and Raspberry Roulade	Apple Pie and Custard
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. 47Dinner:  
 Dave Brittain. (Cheques payable to The Briggensians Association):  
Please send your forms to: Julie Taylor, 16 Kingfisher Close, Scawby Brook, Brigg, DN20 9FN or email to  
 briggensiansassociation@gmail.com