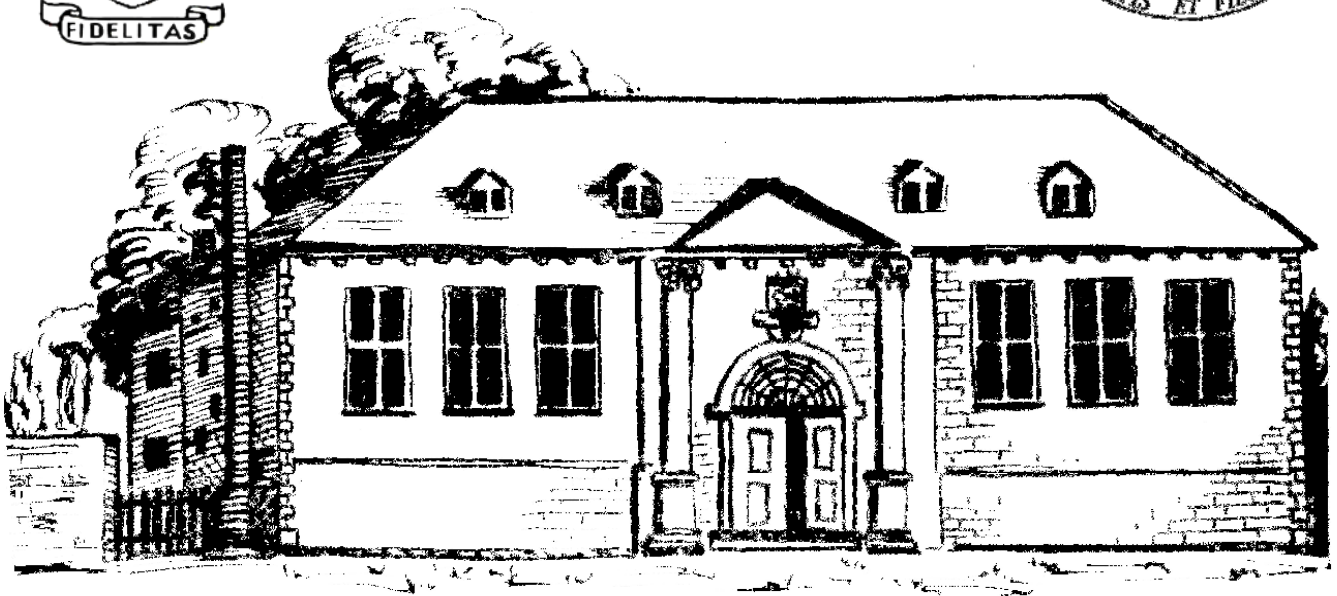


BRIGGENSIANS' NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2012



Briggensians' Association 35th Annual Dinner

Saturday, 17th March 2012, 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

£21.00 Elsham Golf Club £21.00

Guest Speaker: Commander Mark Leaning 1970-1977

Booking slips are located on the last pages of this Newsletter

Dates for your diary:

2013: 36th Annual Dinner
Saturday 16th March 2013
Elsham Golf Club

Summer Sports 2012

School Field

Tuesday, 12th June 2012

at 6.00 p.m. for 6.30 p.m. start

Cricket or Rounders

Youth vs. Experience

and afterwards at the

Yarborough Hunt

School Sports Day:

**Friday,
6th July
2012**

Winter Sports 2012

School Field

Friday 14th September 2012

at 6.00 p.m. for 6.30 p.m. start

Football, Male and Female Hockey,

Netball and afterwards at the

Yarborough Hunt

Football + Pub Games, 27th

December 2012 – 10.30 am start

Briggensians' Golf Championships 2012

Individual Stableford Rules

Spring meeting at Elsham Golf Club

Sunday, 25th March 2012 – 1st Tee off 12.00 noon

Autumn meeting at Elsham Golf Club

Sunday, 21st October 2012: 1st Tee off 12.00 noon

Match Play

Past v Present Monday, 9th July 2012 Elsham Golf Club 4.00 p.m. start

Annual Dinner Guest Speaker

Commander Mark Leaning Royal Navy

1981

2011



The visible effect of over 30 years of Naval Service

After leaving Sir John Nelthorpe School in 1977 with modest A level results and a somewhat relaxed approach to the future, Mark spent 18 months working in the Appleby Frodingham works of the British Steel Corporation at Scunthorpe. A chance encounter with an old recruiting booklet of the Royal Navy and an account of life on the battleship HMS HOOD led him to the Lincoln branch of the Royal Navy's recruiting organisation. In 1979 he was admitted to the Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth as a commissioned officer in the rank of Midshipman.

After two years of training and promotion to Sub Lieutenant he took up his first assignment as the Diving Officer of the Type 12 frigate HMS PLYMOUTH, during which he saw action in the Falkland Islands in 1982. Returning to the UK he joined the Minehunter HMS BRECON as the Navigating Officer and in 1984 he was selected for flying training, promoted to Lieutenant and joined the Fleet Air Arm.

A further two years of training led to his qualification as a pilot flying Anti-Submarine Sea King helicopters with 814 Naval Air Squadron from HMS ILLUSTRIOUS. In 1986/87 he spent 17 out of 24 months deployed from the UK including the Global 86 world deployment. In 1988 he converted to the Maritime Lynx Helicopter and joined the Type 21 frigate HMS AMBUSCADE as the Flight Commander during which he completed his second deployment to patrol the waters surrounding the Falkland Islands.

In 1990 Mark was promoted to Lieutenant Commander and qualified as a helicopter flying instructor, spending over two years on 702 Naval Air Squadron training aircrew to fly the Lynx. In 1993 he was selected to attend the Naval Staff Course at Greenwich and successfully achieved an MA in Defence Studies from Kings College London. In 1994 he was assigned to be the Squadron Aviation Officer to Captain 3rd Destroyer Squadron concurrently with the role of Flight Commander of the Type 42 Destroyer HMS LIVERPOOL. In this role he spent 8 months deployed to the Gulf with LIVERPOOL in support of UN embargo operations before returning to the Sea King Fleet in 1996 to serve as the Senior Pilot and Executive Officer of 819 Naval Air Squadron based at Prestwick in Scotland.

Although he did not realise it at the time that was to be his last operational flying tour as a series of staff assignments have since followed. In 1998/99 he served in a key Human Resources role on the staff of Flag Officer Surface Flotilla before returning to the Fleet Air Arm as the Staff Aviation Standards Officer. In this assignment he spent two years traveling the world conducting mid-deployment assurance assessments of ships to ensure that they were operating their embarked aircraft correctly; this led him to hold what was once described by the Dover Customs Staff as a "very interesting passport". In 2001 he became the Officer-in-Charge of the Lynx Simulator Facility at Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton, once again contributing to the training and development of Lynx aircrew, from where he was promoted to Commander in 2002.

Since then, apart from a two-year stint in a second high profile Human Resources assignment, Mark has served in a series of related assignments in which he has become a recognised specialist in aviation safety management, the development of safety policy and regulation and the maintenance of aviation standards and practices. He is highly experienced in auditing aviation activities against relevant regulation and he is a specialist in Human Factors. Since 2010 he has led an internationally respected Air Accident Investigation Centre and Flight Safety education facility. On 16 March 2012 he hands over his job as the Royal Navy's Command Flight Safety Officer and serves his last day in uniform on his current commission, retiring from active service on 5 May 2012. Along the way, and very much making up for his relaxed approach while at BGS and SJN, he has studied in his own time to collect a BSc (Hons) in Psychology from the OU and was recently admitted as a member of the British Psychological Society. He has also successfully completed the Graduate Diploma in Law and Legal Practice Course with the Institute of Legal Practice in Leicester to qualify academically and vocationally to be a solicitor, and he is currently topping up his LPC with a dissertation on the role of the expert witness to qualify for a LLM in Legal Practice.

Recognising his deep specialist skills and experience and his unique range of academic qualifications, the Royal Navy is retaining his services on a Full Time Reserve Service Contract commencing on 5 June 2012. In this newly created role he will serve as the Royal Navy's Command Sea Safety Officer with the task of developing the Surface Flotilla's sea safety regime to the same level of sophistication as that enjoyed by the Fleet Air Arm.

Outside of work Mark has pursued a life-long interest in all forms of motor sport but particularly historic car and motorcycle racing. He is a custodian of several classic motorcycles and is occasionally allowed to exercise his wife's 1960 MGA coupe. Married to Rachel, herself a retired Royal Navy Air Traffic Control Officer now working as an Air Traffic Management advisor with Lockheed Martin, he has embraced her lifelong passion and is also now a provider to three horses (with a foal on the way) and he is an active participant in dressage competition with a little bit of show jumping thrown in to keep things interesting.

Mark's son Michael is 27 but at the age of 7 he was asked what he wanted to do when he grew up. With an earnest look and without hesitation he answered: "*I want to join the Royal Navy so that I can see my Daddy more often!*" Happily Mike survived the trauma, saw the sense to pursue his own interests and is now a successful Sound Design Engineer in the computer games industry.

Briggensians' Association *35th Annual Dinner 2012*

Menu for the 2012 Dinner

(v) Tomato and Basil Soup

Or

Prawn Cocktail

Or

Fan of Melon with a Champagne Sorbet



Chicken stuffed with herbs and cream cheese, wrapped in Parma Ham

Or

(v) Nut Roast

**Selection of Fresh Vegetables
and Potatoes**



Pineapple and Treacle Sponge and Custard

Or

Chocolate Scrapheap Mousse

Or

Cheese & Biscuits



Coffee or Tea and Mints



(v) Vegetarian option

Please note that, as last year, we require Briggensians to make their meal selections at the time of booking in order for us to inform the Golf Club and speed up table service. Booking forms on the last pages.

BRIGGENSIANS A.G.M. 19th SEPTEMBER 2011

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2010/11

It has been an honour to be the Briggensians' Chairman over the past year and it has been a busy year in which the association has continued to keep the Briggensian members up to date with one another and we have continued to attract an increased membership with recent school leavers continuing to join the association. I would like to thank Mr David Brittain for all his hard work keeping members informed with the newsletter.

The Briggensian Annual Dinner at Elsham Golf Club back in March 2011 was very well attended and was enjoyed by all. Mr John Rhodes was an excellent choice of speaker and he entertained us all with his fond memories of his days at Brigg Grammar School. The next dinner (the 35th) is scheduled for Saturday 17th March 2012 and we already have confirmation that Commander Mark Leaning will be our guest speaker, so I look forward to another successful, well-attended dinner.

The Briggensian sports evenings have continued to be well supported with many turning out for football and rounders matches. I must thank Elsham Golf Club for hosting the many golf competitions on the calendar and the hard work of all who help make such events a big success such as Derek Stones, Dave Brittain and John Hastings. I would appeal to all Briggensians to come and join us in forthcoming competitions.

I would like to congratulate the school on this year's examination results and the continued hard work of the dedicated staff that do the teaching. I would also like to acknowledge the time and effort the students have evidently put in to achieve their GCSE and A level grades and wish them every success in the future.

Finally I would like to thank all committee members who have supported me in chairing the committee and I look forward to this year as Chairman once again. I hope to see you all at the 35th dinner in March. **Jon Taylor**

Headteacher's Report 2011/12

The GCSE examination results achieved by Year 11 pupils in summer 2011 were our second highest ever with 65% gaining 5 or more A*-C grades including English and Mathematics. The national figure for 2011 was 57%.

A number of subjects improved on last year, science subjects did very well with a 97 % pass rate over all. The separate science groups achieved 100% in physics and 92% in biology and chemistry. The mathematics department maintained their high pass rate at 75% (national 66%) again ensuring that our 'specialist subjects' continue to support improvement for all pupils.

The English Baccalaureate, which is the government's new measure for schools, requires pupils to achieve GCSE A*-C grades in mathematics, English, 2 sciences, a modern foreign language and a humanities subject. This year we achieved 23%; national figures are not yet available but were 15% last year.

The A level results maintained their usual high standards with a 97% pass rate. Once again the results enabled students to access the places they wished at a range of higher and further education establishments to follow a wide variety of courses.

Prizes and certificates were awarded at the BSF Presentation Evening on December 19th. The speaker was Major Jon Cresswell, B.A of the Royal Artillery. He gave an inspirational account of his career in the army including tours of duty around the world.

We had only been back at school two days in September 2011 when Ofsted rang to give 48 hours notice of a full inspection of the school on the following Monday. This was a surprise as it was just over two years since the previous inspection. Teachers had not met their classes and the sixth form had not enrolled. Despite this the sixth form was rated as 'good' in all aspects based on exam results and lesson observations.

During the Ofsted Inspection we were informed that Sir John Nelthorpe School was the first in North Lincolnshire to be awarded the Gold Standard for Careers Information and Advice (IAG). This combined with good attendance and examination results explains why the majority of our pupils continue into education and employment after the age of 18 despite the current economic climate. Congratulations go to all staff and pupils involved.

At the end of term Mrs Nellie Slater, retired from the modern foreign languages department after 17 years' service. She had been involved in numerous exchange visits as well as hosting visitors to the school. Mr Vic Rowe, head of R.E. retired after being at the school for 10 years. We wish them both long and healthy retirements.

In November we lost our long serving chair of governors Roy O'Neill. Roy had served as governor and Chair of Governors for almost 40 years. He had also been President of the Briggensians' Association for several years. Such dedication is rare indeed. I will remember him as a true friend of the school and will miss his humour, advice and support on both a personal and professional level.

Linda Hewlett-Parker

Brigg Sixth Form College Advanced Level and BTEC Results 2011

	A*		A		B		C		D		E		U		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	Total
ART & DESIGN					1	100									1
BIOLOGY			2	15.4	2	30.8	3	53.9	3	76.9	2	92.3	1	100	13
BUSINESS STUDIES	1	50	1	100											2
CHEMISTRY					1	14.3	3	57.1	2	85.7			1	100	7
DRAMA					1	9.1	2	27.3	2	45.5	6	100			11
ENGLISH LIT	2	16.7	3	41.7	3	66.7	2	83.3	2	100					12
FRENCH					1	100									1
GENERAL STUDIES			1	14.3	1	28.6	3	71.4	1	85.7	1	100			7
GEOGRAPHY			2	50	1	75			1	100					4
GERMAN									1	100					1
HISTORY			4	30.8	4	61.5	2	76.9	1	84.6	1	92.3	1	100	13
MATHEMATICS	2	22.2	1	33.3	2	55.6	2	77.8	1	88.9	1	100			9
MEDIA STUDIES			1	33.3			2	100							3
MUSIC TECHNOLOGY			1	20	2	60			1	80	1	100			5
PHOTOGRAPHY					1	14.3	2	42.9	3	85.7			1	100	7
P.E.					2	100									2
PHYSICS			1	25	2	75					1	100			4
PSYCHOLOGY			3	17.6	3	35.3	4	58.8	5	88.2	2	100			17
APPLIED COURSES:															
ART & DESIGN			2	66.7					1	100					3
SCIENCE					1	25	1	50	2	100					4
NO. & % BY GRADE	5		22		28		26		26		15		4		126
GRADE%	4.0		17.5		22.2		20.6		20.6		11.9		3.2		
CUMULATIVE %	3.8		21.4		43.7		64.3		84.9		96.8		100		
BTEC	A*		A		B		C		D		E		U		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	Total
MUSIC			18	100											18
PE	1	50					1	100							2
ICT			8	61.5			3	84.6			2	100			13
														Total	159
UCAS POINTS	840		5760		2800		2400		1560		680				14040

Brigg Sixth Form Prizes 2011

ART & DESIGN APPLIED ART & DESIGN APPLIED SCIENCE	Taylor Prize Taylor Prize Nelthorpe Foundation Prize	Ebony Clipson Adriana Tavares Charlotte Altoft
BIOLOGY	Nelthorpe Foundation Prize Derek Appleyard Memorial Prizes	Rebecca Hall Julie Ann Heynes
BUSINESS STUDIES	Henthorn Prize SJN Parents' Associaton Prize	Joseph Green Connor Burton
CHEMISTRY	E F Brown Memorial Prize	Oliver Stublely
DRAMA	Production Prize	Amy Parkinson
ENGLISH	Spilman Prize Briggensian Prize	Joanne Hainsworth Clare Jenkins
FRENCH	SJN Parents' Association Prize	Edward Gordon

GENERAL STUDIES	Baker Prize	Richard Smaller
GEOGRAPHY	SJN Parents' Association Prizes	Richard Smaller & Clare Jenkins
GERMAN	SJN Parents' Association Prize	Samuel Scott
HISTORY	Taylor Prize Sergeant Prize	Clare Jenkins Robyn Burman
ICT	VoA Parents' Association Prize	Abbie Weston
MATHEMATICS	Briggensian Prizes	Yasmin Simpson & Roberto Wraith
MEDIA	VoA Parents' Association Prize	Julie Ann Heynes
MUSIC & MUSIC TECHNOLOGY	Morris Prizes	Rebecca Hall & Christopher Shorrocks
PHOTOGRAPHY	Subject Prize	Adriana Tavares
PHYSICS	Stephenson Prize Nelthorpe Foundation Prize	Oliver Stublely Roberto Wraith
PSYCHOLOGY	Subject Prize VoA Parents' Association Prize	Jade Ronald Samuel Scott
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Brigg Sixth Form Prize	Amy Parkinson
SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM EVENTS	Lardelli Prizes for Music	Lucianne Yates & Christopher Shorrocks
PROGRESS IN: MEDIA STUDIES ALL SUBJECTS	Lardelli Prize Lardelli Prize Vale Academy Parents' Association Prizes:-	Kelly Grant Ryan Prescott & Levi Bond Charlotte Altoft, Rebecca Hall, Joanne Hainsworth & Ria Ellen Peake
PRIZE FOR ACHIEVEMENT	Judy Howitt Memorial Prize Cusworth Preston Memorial Prize	Richard Smaller Julie Ann Heynes
Head Boy and Head Girl	Sir John Nelthorpe Vale of Ancholme	Richard Smaller & Clare Jenkins James Morris & Bethan Wilmot

Lower Sixth Prizes 2011	
Applied Art & Design Art & Design Biology Business Studies Chemistry Drama & Theatre Studies English French Geography German History ICT Mathematics Media Studies Music Music Technology Photography Physics Physical Education Product Design Psychology Prize For Contribution To School / Sixth Form Promotion of the Sixth Form in the wider community	Chloe Beever Charlotte Frith Matthew Broadey Frazer Fairbank Talullah Shepherd Frazer Fairbank Lewis Wilcock & Catherine Fleming Emily Worthington Talullah Shepherd Davey Hennessey Lewis Wilcock Chloe Tong Ellie Hunt Sarah Talkington Kieran Peacock Joanne Watson Charlotte Frith Joanne Watson Daniel Wormald Samuel Dray Chloe Tong Lewis Bartlett, Matthew Broadey & Zoe Sparling Ashley Garratt

DESTINATIONS 2011

Charlotte Altoft	Hull University	Social Work (+prof qual)
Ricardo Benson	Brigg Sixth Form	
Jacob Betts	Apprenticeship	Electrician
Levi Bond	Lincoln University	Audio Production
Jessica Brown	Lincoln University	Equine Sports Science
Robyn Burman	Hull University	History
Connor Burton	Lincoln University	Business & Management
Shaun Casey	Seeking Employment/Training	
Samantha Clarke	Lincoln University	Forensic Science
Ebony Clipson	Hull University	Foundation in Art
Louise Cooke	Hull University	Nursing
Rosemary Croft	Brigg Sixth Form	
Oliver Cross	Bishop Grosseteste University College	English Literature
Daniel Crunkhurn	Brigg Sixth Form	
Levi Dawson	Grimsby Institute	Art Foundation
Hannah Duggan	Hull University	Education & Early Years
Edward Gordon	Exeter University	History & French
Kelly Grant	Grimsby Institute	Make-up Design
Joshua Green	Brigg Sixth Form	
Joseph Green	Sheffield University	Business Management
Joanne Hainsworth	University of Bradford	Pharmacy
Rebecca Hall	Nottingham University	Environmental Biology
Benjamin Halls	North Lindsey College	Learn Support Programme-Teaching
Kimberley Harding	North Lindsey College	Child Care
Julie Ann Heynes	Manchester University	Biology with Industrial Experience
Roseanne Hodgson	Brigg Sixth Form	
Joshua Holt	Brigg Garden Centre P/T	Seeking full-time employment
Eleanor Jackson	University of Sunderland	Psychology
Clare Jenkins	Gap Year	Applying to University in 2012
David Laffan	University of Worcester	Education & English Literary Studies
Nicole Lister	Gap Year	Lincoln University-Nursing
Scott Marshall	Seeking Employment	
James Norris	Seeking Employment	
Alexandra O'Brien	Lincoln University	Audio Production
Amy Parkinson	Chester University	History, Sport & Exercise Sciences
Ria Ellen Peake	Lincoln University	Biomedical Science
Jessica Powell	Gap Year	
Ryan Prescott	Hull University	History & Archaeology
Jasmine Richardson	Seeking Employment	
Natasha Roach	Brigg Sixth Form	
Natasha Ronald		Application for Apprenticeship
Jade Ronald	Grimsby University	Creative Writing
Samuel Scott	Hull University	Psychology
Christopher Shorrocks	Lincoln University	Audio Production
Yasmin Simpson	University of York	Mathematics (4 years)
Richard Smaller	University of York	English
Thomas Smith	Services	RAF
Joe Steede	Huddersfield University	Music
Oliver Stubley	Sheffield University	Chemical Engineering (4yrs)
Erica Swaby	Employment	Vale Academy - T/A
Adriana Tavares	Huddersfield University	Textile Crafts
Abbie Weston	Apprenticeship	Administration at Sedexo
Roberto Wraith	Sheffield University	Accounting & Financial Management
Lucianne Yates	Sheffield Hallam University	Nursing Studies (Adult Care)

NEWS OF OLD BRIGGENSIANS 2010/11

Staff Related Section:

French Exchange 1948 or 1949: Marlene is 5th from left 3rd row down and Miss Chandler teacher on the left.



Brian Williams: Ed.- I had the pleasure of transporting Brian and Margaret Williams from Louth to Brigg for the Thanksgiving Service for Roy O'Neill and all those who saw them will agree that for 90+ year olds they look remarkably good and still mentally very alert. We wish them many more years together and look forward to their next visit.

Jack Moore: Many Briggensians continue to enquire about Jack's health and welfare; he remains at home with support and is enjoying a better spell at the moment. His memory is not what it was and visitors may not get recognised

immediately so do try to be understanding but talk of the 'old days' and you will be hard pressed to keep up!

Barbara Kernon: This sad but expected note reached me following the heart attack suffered by Barbara ~ "It is time for me to "retire" as Secretary of the Briggensians Association after many years. How much I have enjoyed the contacts, news etc and of course the Annual Dinners. I thought there was plenty of life in the old dog yet but my heart attack in August and subsequent triple by-pass in October have made me face reality. Helen Cresswell has kindly volunteered to take over and I do wish her many happy years in office. We have an Association to be proud of. Sadly President Roy O'Neill, who had been associated with the School since 1936, died in November. In the weeks before my op he and his wife, Margaret, had given me encouragement and confidence to face the future. Thanks to Dave Brittain's messaging service on e-mails I received good wishes from all over the world. These were much appreciated. Jim Flewker does an excellent job with the web and keeps us up to date with news. I look forward to seeing some of you at the 2012 Dinner in March. Do keep getting your money and seating requests/menu choices in on time (as you always did!!)" Barbara Kernon

Jim Flewker: Jim has done a magnificent job creating and managing the web site since his retirement and we owe him a great debt of gratitude for his unpaid labour of love.

It is now time for him to step aside and we are very pleased that one of our well known Briggensians with the necessary skills, **Nigel Fisher**, has agreed to take over the mantle. As changes happen we will keep members informed but rest assured all the back issues of the Briggensian magazines hosted by **Mike Spencer** and other links we anticipate will be retained.

Steve Burton: Steve emailed to say, "I have been in contact with some of the ex pupils over the last month or so and they told me to look on 'Briggensians.net' site for news. I didn't realise that this site existed. Good to see some old faces in the photographs.

I was sad to read about the passing of Gerry Longden and John Allcock. What a shock. I have mailed Andrew Longden to pass on my belated respects. He has replied and given me a run down of what is happening in the Longden family. From what I read on the net site it appears that John Allcock was in a new relationship and therefore I do not know how to pass on my respects.

As I have some time on my hands at the moment and just turned sixty I thought that I might try to re-trace some of my history. Managed to find friends right back to my Junior School days. I had been told several years ago that SJN School had closed down, but as I can see now, it has not. Did try at one stage to contact Richard Rivron but had no reply.

I now live in **Goiania**, a large city in central **Brasil** about two hours drive from the capital of Brasilia. Moved here about nine months ago. How did you manage to end up there? I hear you ask. Let me give you a short history from leaving Brigg.

As you might remember I left Brigg to become Head of PE at a brand new school in Bedford. It was brilliant, new buildings, no limit to what equipment that I could buy and a tremendous challenge. I stayed there for thirty + years. In that time I was given a year's secondment to go to London University and I also did a year's secondment as Acting Advisor of PE for Beds. Education Authority. I turned down the permanent post after the year as I didn't like the travelling involved and to be honest I missed the teaching and the students. However, the opportunity for promotion was available within the school. I became Head of Year, then Senior Manager, then Deputy Head.

I have two sons, Shane and Jamie. My first wife passed on when they were sixteen and fourteen years old.

Shane, the eldest is now 32 and a Major in the Army. He has command of the 1st Rifles the Gurkhas and they are at present preparing to go to Afghanistan sometime in 2012. This will be his third stint in Afghanistan. He has also been to Bosnia, Iraq and Iran. Jamie, the youngest is a Chartered Accountant and lives and works in Bedford. I have three wonderful grandsons and a beautiful granddaughter. Re-married seven years ago once the boys had finished University and had got married. My second wife is a Brazilian Lawyer and fifteen years younger than me. Hence the move to Brasil! We met whilst she was on a case in England working for the Brazilian Government. She came to live in England but was not allowed to practice Law so she worked for Social Services.

I took early retirement three years ago but did some supply teaching to keep my hand in.

It was always our intention to come and live in Brasil as my wife wanted to get back to practicing Law. We now have a Law Office and a small (two classroom) English Language School where I teach private lessons to mainly Pilots, Doctors, Lawyers and their children. However, my ambition over the next five/six years is to get involved in the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympics which are being held here. The need for British English is in great demand and as long as I am willing to travel to Brasilia or Rio the opportunities are countless.

After the Olympics I will retire properly. We have bought three acres of land out in the country. The land overlooks a small lake and we are about to start building a four bedroom Villa and pool. We need somewhere for the grandchildren to relax during their summer holidays. Rio is only an hour's flight away. It is absolutely wonderful there and so much to see.

Well, that is a quick summing up of what has happened to me. What about you?

June Denton: June is living in Brulon, France in a converted farm house and barns and was hoping to finally cut ties with her old house here but the sale fell through and plans have had to be delayed. Simon and June are planning a family 'get together' in France to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary later this year.

John Slack: John was 70 in November and he enjoyed plenty of celebration only slightly restricted by his wheelchair and surrounded by his burgeoning family members for support. His latest book is 'The Secret Life of St Neots Station'. Any railway nerds should contact John.

Peter Gray: Chairman of Governors Peter had to spend Christmas in hospital awaiting a heart bypass operation in early January. I can report that he is home now and doing well. We all wish him speedy progress and a return to full fitness ~ keep up the physio' Peter!

Helen Cresswell: Helen tells me, "I have been selected as an events management leader at the Olympics and Para-Olympics for Hockey. I'll just have to find accommodation in London!"

I wondered if any Briggensian could help me with accommodation. My role is unpaid but I am willing to pay my costs etc.

Alumni News: Eventually we received the following:

'Grammar School – A Secret History'.

Programme One will air on Thursday 5th January 2012 at 9pm on BBC4

Programme Two will air on Thursday 12th January 2012 at 9pm on BBC4

In this two part series we hear from a mix of less well known ex grammar school pupils and a cast of some of Britain's most well-known and well-loved household names, all from humble working class or lower middle class backgrounds, many of whom passionately believe they owe much of their success in life to their grammar school education. They include, Sir David Attenborough who for the first time on TV shares some heart-warming anecdotes from his grammar school days; Dame Joan Bakewell, Lord Neil Kinnock, Lord Paul Boateng, Sir Roy Strong, Michael Portillo, Edwina Currie, Michael Wood, Roy Greenslade and Bob McCartney.

This is the story of Britain's grammar schools. They have been regarded as Britain's most illustrious schools, amongst them many can boast a long and successful history; their founding principle was based on providing otherwise unattainable opportunities of a top class education to the very brightest pupils from some of the poorest families in the Country. From the early days of grammar schools they were seen as a vehicle for upward social mobility and continued in this vein until their demise in the late 60s, early 70s. Programme one looks into the history of these landmark schools and how they paved the way for many children from less advantaged backgrounds to enter into top professions and for some to reach the very peak of their professions.

The key values enshrined in these schools were competition, good manners, academic excellence, sporting achievement, pride in the school and social advancement. The post-war Labour government had so much faith in the grammar schools it made them central to the new tri-partite education system it introduced after World War 2. All children took an eleven plus examination to decide whether they went to grammar school to receive a more academic and advanced education, or –if they failed- to the new secondary moderns where their schooling would be more technical, preparing them for apprenticeships and manual work.

In the early sixties the grammar schools were at the pinnacle of their success. They were the pride and joy of the nations and regions, where schools and education authorities vied with each other for the top spot, usually gauged by how many pupils won university places at Oxford or Cambridge each year, however the grammar schools were of course far from perfect. There were not enough of them. There were far fewer places for girls. The eleven plus was an imperfect means of selecting the best pupils. To overcome some of these problems the first comprehensive schools were introduced after the war- but nobody ever imagined that the grammar school system, the pride of Britain and her democracy, would be killed off so quickly and so brutally. The second programme focuses on the swift and brutal fall of Britain's best loved schools. By the late 1970s three quarters of the old grammar schools were gone, despite their proven record of success as an instrument of social mobility for working class children. They would be replaced by the untried, one-size-fits-all, non-selective, mixed ability comprehensive school which were pioneered in the post-war years.

I wanted to say a big thank you to everyone that helped with information, ex grammar school pupils contact details and for forwarding my initial email/postal appeals onto members of your old boys and old girls associations. I had a fantastic response from all the various appeals that were sent out which was incredibly helpful. I hope you all enjoy watching the programme and I would love to hear your feedback after the programmes are shown. With best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and New Year, Emily

David Arbuckle- 1961-1968: David responded to my forwarded information hoping the programme would not show what he saw as the usual bias adopted by the BBC.

"It is never about the 75% of kids put onto the scrap-heap of the education system by failing the 11+. (Remember the 11+ exam was, and still is, the most effective tool we have for separating children by social class.....white collar turn right.....blue collar turn left.)" He reflects that:

"Having been brought up on a Salford council estate in the 1960's & 1970's my first experience of 'education' was less than satisfactory; I failed my eleven-plus! Eleven-plus failure, a common occurrence for three-quarters of the population in those days, meant five years in a 'secondary modern school'. Secondary Modern schools were designed for those pupils judged 'not academic' by the 11+ system; a side of the old grammar school (Tripartite System) system often overlooked by those with rose-tinted glasses. Many years later it still saddens me to see that success for children in the twenty first century British education system is still more a function of parental income, or at least social capital, than ability."

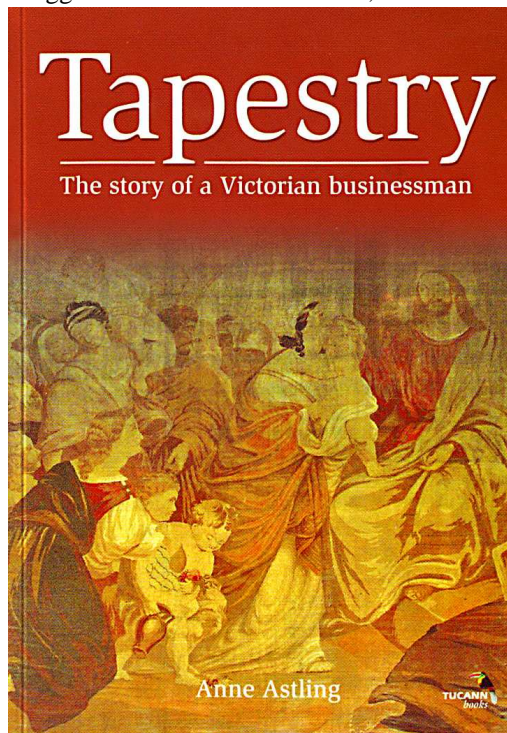
NB. Ed ~ *I too failed my 11+ but after 1 year was accepted at a Technical School and there flourished and progresses to university; we always need cross links to enable learners to access new pathways in education. Some modern comp's don't do this very well!!*

Michael Peacock-1943-1951: *Re the 2011 Dinner:* I meant to contact you earlier and thank you for the very pleasant evening which we all had. I thought you organised everything extremely well and maybe did not get enough mention in dispatches!

For next year I am going to contact two more of my era, **Warwick Cook** and **Mike Bowskill**. I also wondered if you had any way we could contact **Ian Ricketts** and anyone else in our sixth form which I think must have been **1948-1950**.

Ed: *If you can help please contact Michael*

Brigg Tourist Information Centre, The Buttercross, Market Place, is now selling **Tapestry: The story of a Victorian businessman**, by



Anne Astling, which tells how a Brigg Grammar School pupil of the early 19th century went on to make a mint in London as a carpet magnate. During his time at **BGS in the late 1820s**, the school was run by the Rev James Walter.

Anne said: "Thomas Tapling was of fairly humble origins, born in Wrawby in North Lincolnshire in 1818, the third of seven children. By the time of his death 63 years later he was the equivalent of a multi-millionaire. Thomas lived through the period of huge change in Great Britain known as the Industrial Revolution. The coming of the railways transformed personal transport as well as facilitating the movement of goods. Sea transport too was revolutionised, with sail giving way to steam and shortening intercontinental journeys. New industrial processes enabled mass production of goods. International and domestic markets expanded rapidly. This was a great time for entrepreneurs to build their own empires, and Thomas grasped the opportunity with both hands. The company he founded a century and a half ago is still in existence. His eldest son was to leave the foremost unbroken stamp collection in the world to the nation, and his youngest daughter was to marry into an aristocratic family. However Thomas was a family man too and it is from his letters, and those of his family, that an insight can be gained into his character and his personal life. His biography is illustrated with photographs of family members and places associated with them."

Tapestry is now available direct from the author for **£5** per copy, plus postage and packing. (P & P in the UK is currently £1.30; overseas surface is £2 and airmail £3.50. If requiring multiple copies, please enquire for additional costs.) Please make cheques out to Mrs A Astling. Address: 18 Worcester Close, Scunthorpe, DN16 3TL. You can also email for details - tupling@one-name.org

Andy Dyson:-1971-1976 who is now Managing Director of Thompson & Richardson (Financial Services) Lincoln Ltd emailed in March 2011 to say "I recently regained contact with **Maurice Murphy** who now lives over in Belfast with his wife and 5 children. He has been working in the jewellery trade for over 20 years and is currently representing a diamond wholesaler in the UK - not the sort of career you would have put Maurice down for!!"

Andrew Brown:-1970-1975 It was interesting reading about Mark Leaning in the February 2011 newsletter – Mark may remember he and I met up when we both did summer jobs at the old British Steel and ended up going to the Isle of Man Grand Prix for a week of watching motor bikes in the rain and excessive beer consumption. That's over 30 years ago.

It's really sad to see so many old schoolmasters have passed away in the past two or three years.

For those interested, I've been living in Sydney, Australia since 1987 and have three kids who are all now at university themselves. I've been involved in the stock market ever since I left university and am now, amongst other things, the Chairman of three publicly listed companies in Australia involved in mining, investment and grape growing.

And the one thing about BGS I can't shake off....I still write with bloody fountain pens!

Robin East:-1958-1965 I am really sorry but I am in America in March 2012 and will actually miss the Briggensians Dinner, and our year has been considering a separate dinner to co-inside with Chris Plumtree's visit to the UK in April.

Jane Ellwood: (nee Parkinson) 1971-1976 (Training for Health and Social Care)

The 6th form has many happy memories for me. As well as getting the qualifications I needed, I can still remember the 'illegal' meetings with the boys at lunchtime by the dividing fence between our school and the Boys Grammar School next door, and the cross country runs where we would go to a classmate's house nearby, have a coffee, then run back to school, slapping our faces to make them red and look like we were tired.

Maybe I've said too much but I have lovely memories and although he may not know it, **Mr Howitt** inspired my passion to dedicate my life to helping other people.

David Culm: 1954-1956 who briefly attended Brigg Grammar School in the 1950s: 1954-56, lived at RAF Hemswell.

I was 13 when I came and 15 when I left. Oh, and I sang my first solo during music lessons and I still sing to this day in a male voice choir in Derbyshire. I hated cross country running which Slug insisted would make us 'men'!

We were bussed into school by a green Kesteven Council "cattle truck" with wooden seats running down the length of the bus which picked us up at 7.45am (apart from when severe snow storms blocked the roads! We were cut off for three days once; great, no school!). Girls for Brigg High School on one side of the bus, boys for the Grammar School on the other. Bus called at Hemswell, Willoughton and Kirton and I think picked up some pupils as well in Hibaldstow. We arrived at school at about 8.45.

Loved my time in Lincolnshire even though it was brief; such was the life of an RAF serviceman's child. I attended four grammar schools between passing my 11+, which were Chichester High School, Thorne Grammar School (horrible place which has now disappeared), Brigg Grammar School and at last finally settled in Loughborough College School (1956-60) as a boarder to stabilise my education.

But Brigg Grammar school was a turning point for me, with amazing teaching of both French (Funf) Metcalfe? and German (Doggy) Barker being the most useful in many ways. "Slug" Mathews was the Head then, a florid faced bulky man. How long did his sojourn last I wonder?

I recall, summer swimming galas which I was good at, having lived by the sea for some years; successful races in the slimy green temporary pool, and pointless cross country races, which I hated and was not good at, not helped at school Sports Day with Slug calling me a knock-kneed oaf. Nice man! And lovely warm currant buns at a penny-halfpenny each, to eat with milk at break-time. Queues were formed at home time in the play ground for our respective buses, of which there seemed very many because of the rural catchment and Scunthorpe.

Travelling an hour each way for half days Saturday and Wednesday (because they wanted to keep the boarders occupied) was a drag. The only pupil names I can remember are **Trigg (Stephen), Grundy, Colin Spiers, John Price (played hockey, I think), Peterjon Dodd (writer/journalist?)**

Rob Smart:-1961-1968 wrote close to last year's Dinner (2011). "I am very sorry that I will not be attending the Annual Dinner tomorrow, particularly in view of the guest speaker. Although we both lived in Brigg we never met (20 years apart), but I have read excerpts from his book. Please pass on my best wishes to John and you might let him know that I knew his father when we both sang in St. John's choir and I will always remember **Frank Rhodes** as the person who told me that **JFK** had been shot! So that dates a particular choir practice!

One thought for the Committee: Is there any role for either separate reunions or a particular reunion grafted onto the existing Annual Dinner. For instance in September it will be **50 years since I started at BGS** (c. 60 people?). I personally wouldn't see any problem in widening it to include other antecedents of the Sir John Nelthorpe School but others might have different views. Take-up is notoriously unpredictable and needs to attract far-flung individuals."

I hope to get to Brigg in the not-too-distant-future. Thank you for keeping us well informed and give my best wishes to anyone I know at the dinner.

Ed: *There are separate reunions and this we encourage but not if it detracts from the Annual Dinner which is the main focus of the meetings year and helps bind the Association together.*



Peter Welton:-1944-1949 Peter has just completed these portraits of Cherie Blair and Lei Zhao, a Principal dancer with the Royal Ballet, guess which is which. He intends to attend the Annual Dinner this year. If you would like to see more of Peter's paintings then log onto his web site at www.peterwelton.com

Tony Dear:-1959-1965 Now lives at: 6 Horseshoe Drive, Staunton's Hill, Over, Gloucester, GL2 8BZ.

My wife (Angela) and I settled near Gloucester (Cheltenham and the Cotswolds are nearby) after many years moving around at the behest of HMG. I was in the **RAF** for nigh on **45 years**, became aircrew (a navigator), did fairly well, and had some great experiences around the world (lived in N Ireland, Malta, Scotland, Brussels, Belgium, and Norfolk Virginia, USA). I left the service of HMG in 2008

and effectively retired, though not yet 65 (it's near mind you.) I have a couple of children (one of each) and as of October 2010 have 4 grandchildren (3 girls and a boy). dearsrus@btinternet.com



Ian Fowler:-1982-1988? Our Scarborough spy, John Hastings, reports that the Evening News recorded the wedding between Ian and Cassandra Roe at the Ravenscar Hotel. The bride works at Scarborough Hospital and Ian is a charge nurse at York Hospital. Ian is the son of John and the late Valerie Fowler of Brigg. Stephen Walker was best man and Rick Havercroft groomsman.

John Scott:-1963-1970 This is typical of a flurry of information requests on the day of the Dinner last year ~ a date Jane Gibbons is unlikely to forget although **Gibb** now runs his life as if it never happened.

Hi Dave, I heard some disturbing news the other day. Is it true? Has **Gibb** had a heart attack? How is he and could I have some contact details for him?

How are you? I was over the school a few weeks ago. I had a competition at Sandtoft so took the opportunity of tight turning over the top and having a good look. It was good to see the old buildings are still there, especially the boarding house.

How is your retirement? I retired 18mths ago and although it is great I do find myself having to push myself from time to time. I started clearing some boxes from my move 4yrs ago today. Amazing what you find. I have loads to do, but it's not the same as "having to get up and see a list of patients".

My Kids are doing well. My son is a Dentist in the Army stationed near Southampton at the moment. In the time honoured service way he was recently asked where he would like to go for his next posting. Not up north and not Germany (just done 2 tours there), would prefer the south east. He was told about a new posting down the M4 corridor somewhere, would suit nicely. So he is going to Derby! My daughter is teaching Physics!!!! What about that then. It was her 1st year this year so she has found it tough. Hopefully she will find next year less stressful.

Although I'm retired I did do a few days over winter to keep my hand in. Over the past few years I've been disappearing into the jungle



to do some dentistry. Have to take a load of kit and all I can do is extractions, but as these people have nothing it's very rewarding. I've attached a photo from one of the trips. It was to Laos where we took a boat 450km from the Chinese border to Luang Prabang. Every now and again we'd stop at a village and do a medical and dental clinic. This lady came out of the bush at 6.30 in the morning with her son and mother, all 3 with problems. 3 extractions before breakfast! This year was not quite jungle; it was to the little Rhan of Kutch, desert in NW India. 40⁰ in the shade except there was no shade so 50+. All extractions were in the street with a huge audience; all very entertaining.

Other than that, my main hobby as you know is flying which has now degenerated into competition aerobatics. That's why I was at Sandtoft. The next comp is near York in a couple of weeks. Well it keeps me off the streets.

Anyway, that's my bit of news, so all the best, John.

Geoff Foulger:-1954-1959 Having recently stumbled across the "Briggensians" site what a flood of memories they revived.

As a boarder the "punishments" remain vivid such as the shoe cleaning detail in the wee room attached to the boarding house; memory prevents me from recalling the crimes that I committed!

Tea in the boarding house at 15.45 also stands out with us stuffing bread and dripping down our gullets at an alarming rate.

We had a four miles "out of bounds" rule which enforced an iron curtain around Brigg, a limit which we were not to exceed, but I recall many a time cycling to my aunts nursing home in Nettleton on a Wednesday or Saturday afternoons (twagging the compulsory attendance at the current football or cricket match!) just to have an afternoon of gluttony and music! Fellow boarders **Martin B.**

Thomas and Thomas Frank accompanied me if I recall and on a few occasions we made it back just in time for "prep"!

If my memory serves me correctly our Masters were **N.C Mathews** (Slugg-Headmaster); Bumper Knight; Doggy Barker; Viv Atkins; Jock McKendrick; Paddy Paisley; Jezza Bell; Tigga Richards; Digger Payne; Rufus Pratt; Gregory Peck; Gordon Hogg; Archie Moore; Jock Longden; Tinker Thumwood; Mr. Chips; Jonesey; Harry Pimlott; Jimmy Jarvis; Mr. Stinson; Pawn Butterworth; Woody and I am sure I have missed a couple!

We used to have a "general book" which was really a rough book which had to be signed when full, but underwent intense scrutiny to see in there was any usable space left in it before being issued with a new one.

Cross country runs used to consist of the "Brickyard Lane" run which was about 3 ½ miles and the "Kettlewell" run which must have been close to 6 miles. Times taken varied upon a combination of how many illegal cigarettes one had smoked and athleticism.

The "breaking the ice" swim on Sunday mornings in the old, water boatman infested, swimming pool used to be a daunting experience, but on the plus side the extra lie in (fifteen minutes) seemed like heaven in a warm bed, despite the dormitories being unheated.

All too quickly five years evaporated and I went to work as a Research Chemist Assistant in a local chemical research labs then in 1960 I signed indentures for a shipping company and to this day I am still a Master in the Merchant Navy!

My 51 years at sea have seen me weather a few storms but also see and partake in some incredible events. The Iran/Iraq war provided enough anecdotes to fill a book; my two airplane crashes on the same evening in Frankfurt while proceeding on leave should have put me off flying, but they were followed by two ditched helicopter landings in the paddy fields of Indonesia! Bomb attacks by both Iraqi and Iranian bombers on Christmas and Boxing Day should have warned me not to sail in war zones but I was in short supply of stories to tell my grandchildren!

Peacetime in Brasil was no better as local pirates drugged and robbed me of several thousand dollars while at anchor off Salvador, but I was informed of my good luck as the Norwegian Captain of the ship a few cables away had had his throat cut as well as being robbed!

The more fondly remembered times bring visions of Pacific sunsets, Dolphin families swimming alongside in tropical waters, Albatross following the ship for endless days around Cape Horn never once flapping their wings, just endless graceful gliding; countless men I have sailed with from far off lands, India, China, Malaysia, Australia, Thailand, Indonesia, Spain, Portugal, Africa, South America, USA, Iceland, Faroes and countless others, such a blend of cultures and religions.

Half a century later, I still am thankful of the education that Brigg gave me and recall those far off days as if they were yesterday.

gfoulger@aol.com

Peter Wade:-1945-53 Hello Dave, I tried to send a short item plus photo for the Newsletter via the website but it was bounced back. May I send it to you? I hope that's alright.

Ed All contributions most welcome anytime

In January this year my wife, Eileen, and I made one of our frequent visits to Edinburgh. Fortunately the weather at the time was kind to us. Whilst we were there met up with Charlie and Marion Windass and John and Marguerite Sellars. We had a pleasant lunch and spent the afternoon together.

Most readers will know of **Charlie Windass (1946-54)** who was in School House with me. **John Sellars (1945-53)** was in Nelthorpe House and we both went up to Manchester University in 1953. His wife, **Marguerite**, was at the High school in Brigg.

I have been trying to persuade John to attend the Annual Dinner but with no success so far!



Andrew Brown:-1970-1975 brought news of a very



unofficial but special Briggensians reunion. A few conditions –you had to have left at the end of year 5 in 1975, you had to have emigrated from the UK, and you had to be in Sydney, Australia on October 14th 2011. As a consequence, only two could make it but they had a fantastic lunch at the famous Woolloomooloo Wharf. I've lived here for 24 years and **Oliver Hughes** was on his way back from

a visit to the Rugby World Cup in NZ – “Hug” now lives in Dublin and has interests in a number of hostelries. Here's the evidence (or at least a small portion of it...!)

Oliver Baudert OBE:-1942-1947 Canberra, ACT, Australia.

Prompted by Roy O'Neill's illness and subsequent passing Oliver passed on his condolences but also reminded me that he was in the boarding house 1942-1947 and N.C.Matthews was then Headmaster. Oliver went on to say, “Not anywhere near as serious as Roy, but my wife (Theresa) and I have had an "Annus horribilis" so far with both of us diagnosed with cancer and her operation triggered type 2 diabetes. I have to go back into hospital end of next week (November 2011) in Canberra and hopefully the news will be good. Theresa's just been declared "in remission" so 2012 may promise sunny skies for us!”

Simon Church:-1975-1982 I caught up with **Chris Jacklin (1974-1981)** and family for lunch today in Perth (Western Australia).

I have attached a few photos from today.

- Myself
- Ria (Chris' wife), Simon Thomas (my son) and Chris
- Joanna (my wife), Chris and Ria

If possible, can you please update / include my new email detail (simon@churchsignage.com.au) on the Briggensian mail out lists.

It is always interesting to hear what is going on back home

Simon Church

M: 040 8080 672

Bob Millward:- 1963-1970:

At present I am working as a Technical Specialist in a very progressive Environmental Forensics testing company over here in Deeside. The company was only set up approx 4 years ago but business has really taken off. We have recently completed a project with samples coming from the BP oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico and there is prospect of many more samples finding their way here this year as a result of the massive environmental impact it is having over there.



Although retirement is looming, I am finding the present job very challenging and rewarding and as Poirot says 'it keeps my little grey cells ticking over'.

I have been on the web site and, yes, it is full of info about the school, which brings back very happy memories. Those were the days!

Since moving to Chester I have lost touch with many of my former school mates namely **Ian Bruce, Steve Baggott, Phil Middleton, Dave Johnson** to name but a few. **Ed. Can anyone help put Bob back in touch?**

"Mike Cosser:- (1961-68) sends his fond and sincere greetings to all his contemporaries and hopes to attend the annual get together



soon. Mike and his wife Jenny both retired on August 24th 2011, he from his role as a Probation Officer, and she from her role as a receptionist at Age UK in Coventry. Retirement? We are still busy. Mike is still training with Coventry Godiva, and has begun what looks like a long apprenticeship in golf. He remains in the Coventry Gideons, and is a Deacon at his local Baptist Church. He is also trying to tame a windy and weed infested local allotment, with mixed results. We are still enjoying reading books and our holidays, in the UK and abroad.

Very recently our daughter Emily and her husband Ateesh were blessed with a daughter, Ashleigh, who is our first grand child. Mike has joined the Movember campaign for men's health, prevention of prostate and testicular cancer; hence he was just beginning a somewhat feeble moustache in the attached photo. Much love to all."

a massive stroke last October which has left him unable to use his left side. However, he is getting back his speech, memory and mental abilities so things are progressing slowly and I know we all wish him well in his fight to regain mobility.

Anthony (Mouse) Miller: 1958-1965 Sadly I report that mouse had

Jon Cresswell:-1985-1991 It is now some 22 years since this article appeared in the Nelthorpe News and recorded my acceptance into the British Army while a student in the Sixth Form. I had been a cadet in Brigg and had always been keen to follow my father's footsteps and join the Army. It was a great honour to be asked by Nick Grafton to return to Brigg just before Christmas last year to present prizes to that same Sixth Form. While the years may have passed it felt like only yesterday that I was there at school and many happy and special memories instantly returned.



Back in 1992 I went on to read French with History at Exeter and on graduation went on to Sandhurst from where I commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1997. Since then I have served with the Commandos in Kosovo, the Armoured Artillery in Germany, the Royal Horse Artillery in Iraq and Cyprus and am now a Battery Commander with 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery based in Plymouth. In addition I have worked in the Ministry of Defence in London and spent two years in Paris with the French Army. The last two years have been everything that I could ever have wanted from my military career and what I hoped for back in the winter of 1990. I have had the honour and privilege of commanding some of this country's amazing young men who wear the green beret and together we spent seven months in Afghanistan in 2011 protecting the people of Afghanistan from the Taliban. The colours of the Afghan summer

had to be seen to be believed together with the smiles of the children and the visions of hope provided by brave and resourceful community leaders who sought a better life. On the edge of the protected community we fought a hard fight and paid a heavy price. Throughout this time the professionalism and courage of the British Infantry was staggering and never a day went by without my Gunners seeing action against the enemy. One of our key roles was observation and as part of a combined team of specialists we would constantly observe, learn and seize the initiative against an enemy who was cunning, ruthless and who had no regard for human life. If we could arrest them we would, if not and if we could guarantee that the local population would be safe then the Royal Artillery or the Royal Air Force would have the final say.

I deployed seven observation teams onto the ground alongside the infantry companies of 1st Battalion The Rifles. My callsign was Witchcraft 51 and my team included Royal Artillery Gunners, Royal Marines Commandos, United States Marines and British Riflemen. Each day they would patrol through the green zone alongside the River Helmand in ever increasing temperatures. When not on patrol there was time to keep fit and we even ran a half marathon on the same day as the Plymouth half marathon as a sign of solidarity for our home town (46 laps of our camp which was 200m by 200m). Letters were a lifeline to home and I wrote most days and it was always wonderful to receive letters. The support of the British public was hugely touching with food parcels, letters of support and pictures

from school children making our task seem worthwhile. While I was away my wife, Heather, joined the **Military Wives Choir** although I did not realise how significant this was until I returned home in October.

We returned home in October 2011 to a wet and cold Great Britain but this did not matter. The warmth of the welcome more than made up for the weather. None of my Battery could fail to be touched by the mile long applause that the City of Plymouth reserved for us as we marched through the city. It was wonderful to see Heather and the children again and enjoy plenty of leave. The final episode of the BBC2 series, "The Choir" sees the Military Wives Choir sing at the **Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance** at the Royal Albert Hall. I was asked to read the Legion's citation and Sergeant Tom Chaney from our Regiment carried the torch of remembrance. This was an amazing experience and ironically it was only at the morning rehearsal that we heard "Wherever you are" for the first time. The words and the people singing them represented so much more than music, not just to me but clearly to the British people and the song took the Christmas number one and went platinum at New Year. For Heather it has been an amazing journey and a very special bond developed among the wives of the Regiment from this unique opportunity forged under the threat of sudden tragedy in a far off land. To march out and speak in front of Her Majesty The Queen and the nation was a great moment but the stars of the show in every sense remain the wives and families who are left behind by those who serve.

It was a great honour to be invited back to **Brigg Sixth Form** to present prizes as it has been a huge privilege to command my Battery over the last two and a half years preparing for and then deploying on active service. I move on later this year to a new assignment but will always cherish the huge education that was Afghanistan in the company of some quite remarkable and special people; some of whom did not return and whose names I will never forget.



Pete Briggs:-1967-1973. Nigel Fisher writes: It was a pleasant surprise yesterday to meet the new manager of the Brigg Branch of the Lloyds TSB Bank, in Wrawby Street, when I popped in and requested to see someone about a minor matter. For Pete Briggs was a pupil of Brigg Grammar School in the late 1960s and early 1970s, when he was one of the many boys who travelled in by bus every day from Keelby, for whom he still plays cricket in the Lincolnshire League. It's good to see my old schoolmate taking charge, but also sad that the ever-helpful Nigel Walker has ended his spell as boss of the Brigg branch.

Helen Flewker: 1992-1999 We were pleased to hear that Helen was back in London after losing all her possessions when her flat was ransacked along with those of all other Tehran Embassy staff. She was not at home when the compound was invaded. Just as well. She had to take refuge in the Polish Embassy.

David Selley:-1949-1952 asks "Are there any other Briggensians living in Toronto or Ontario? Maybe there are enough for a reunion?"
dselley@sympatico.ca

Jim Kemp:-1947-55 writes from the Swindon area that he is pleased to receive his Briggensians Newsletter which in 2011 contained more news of his contemporaries. He and his wife have now celebrated their Golden Wedding and have 3 grandchildren.

PDJ Campbell:-1924-34 reports that he hasn't much news at the present time as he has not been getting about so much. Frank Henthorn's book *Brigg Grammar School 1919-1969*, published by the Foundation Governors in 1969, page one hundred, states that PDJ Campbell was "Captain of the School" in 1933.

Neville Miller:- 1961-1968 Neville continues his contract with O3b Networks and presently travels the world searching for suitable sites for ground stations ready for a new network ~ visits to Peru, Chile, Brazil, Spain, Portugal, Canary Isles, Greece, Hawaii and Australia. Not a bad itinerary if you can also engineer a few days off to see the sights. Still playing his 'button box', football and restoring the Velo's plus a Triumph or two.

John "Henry" Haresign:-1954 –1961. Last July - 50 years since leaving BGS – seem like yesterday.

1) Memories: **Derek Peck** – my inspiration, Art mentor and confidante until he died in Matlock Derbyshire several years ago.

Geoff "Jim" Jarvis – Geography, Scouts and Summer Camps linked with Mountaineering.

David Jones (Physics) – rock climbing. **Raymond Barker** – German/French and Hockey. **TGR Richards** – Music and singing

2) Then Painting and Ceramics at Bretton Hall college for Art, Music and Drama.– now The Yorkshire Sculpture Park

3) Teaching – Art & Design in Barnsley and Huddersfield for 9 years followed by a move to Wigan, Lancashire in 1973.

Here I was involved with the setting up of the first purpose built Community Comprehensive School in the Wigan Authority and was appointed as Head of Art, Design and Technology. As a part of my community commitment I was also fully involved in several branches of Outdoor Education connected with Wigan's Lakeland Outdoor Centres at Coniston and in the Duddon Valley. I continue to be involved in mountain activities and by the end of this summer will have completed the Scottish Monros.

- 4) Early retirement at the age of 51 did not keep me out of education and I am just coming to the end of a stint as an associate tutor at Edgehill University in Ormskirk working in the faculty of Art, Design and Technology. Over several years, this has brought me back to Yorkshire and over to NE Lincolnshire where I have visited student placements in the Grimsby area.
- 5) Retirement has also provided me with time to sing again and for the last 10 years have been a member of Haydock Male Voice Choir. With two practices a week, frequent concerts and an annual tour with a choir which can field 55 members, this is very rewarding and enjoyable pastime.
- 6) Last year my sister moved to Wrawby and, once more in my life, it is good to have a base close to Brigg. Clearly many changes have taken place in the district over the last fifty years and it is interesting to see these effects on the town. Occasional visits bring back happy memories and a New Year walk on the Viking Way between Barnetby Top and Caistor on a superb day helped reinforce these. Best wishes to all fellow students of the late fifties / early sixties era. John Haresign

Marc Beckers:- 1967-1974. I enclose two photographs, some forty years apart. The black-and-white photo was taken by Dave Brittain himself, in the winter of 1969/70. The brick wall you see is the gym. Dave was focussing a camera during the morning break for use in a physics lesson and I never knew he had actually taken a picture until he gave it to me later. To this day, it remains my mum's favourite picture of me. The other one was taken in Italy in the summer of 2010.



picture of me. The other one was taken in Italy in the summer of 2010.

When my sister **Liduina** joined the Girl's High School in 1969, there was a Beckers in every year of the combined schools up to and including the 5th year of the Boys' school (we were four boys in consecutive years). I would be surprised if that does not remain a school record to this day, though as I recall not much was made of it at the time. Today, we're all spread out more. The eldest, **Huub**, works for Exxon out of Brussels. The second, **Martin**, shares a GP surgery with his wife on the south coast in Charmouth. Myself, the third, work in the software industry and live near Frankfurt, Germany. Koen, the fourth, is also in IT and now lives in Naples, Florida, where he has settled after stints in The Netherlands, South Africa and Australia. Finally, the youngest, Liduina, works in accounting and lives near Amsterdam.

We are lucky to have our parents, who have 13 grandchildren and soon the first great-grandchild, still fit and well, living back in The Netherlands whence we emigrated to England in 1966. On the occasions that we do come together, we do share fond memories of our school years and the friends we made in Brigg and are enjoying the access to Briggensian information the Internet offers. I'd love to hear from anyone out there and catch up with news.

Jill Roddan:- We had an email from Jill seeking help, she says, "I recently bought a collection of paintings at an auction, included in this lot was a lovely oil pastel 'SPEED' painted by a **Rosemary Hawes**, aged 15 in June 1971 at Briggs Girls high School. I would really like to trace the artist and return the painting. Ed: Can anyone help trace Rosemary? Please contact:

roddan5@btinternet.com

Emails go AWOL: there are a number of contacts that get lost every year as people change their addresses and forget to let the Association know of the change. If you know the new addresses of this year's missing list then please email me:

dave.brittain@talktalk.net

Dick Moore, Robert Austin, Peter Wells, Peter Schultz, John Skipworth, Mary Wright, Jack Hendy, John Bale, Peter Cheetham, Crispin Hiley, Andrew Hepworth, Anthony Miller, Alan Ward.

Obituaries:

Thomas Roy Doyle O'Neill (1936-1945): A love of the community of Brigg led Roy into making a very positive and lasting contribution to the lives of so many in this area.

Roy's family held a private funeral for him but a thanksgiving service was conducted last Friday by a distinguished "old boy" of Brigg Grammar School – the **Very Rev David Leaning**, former Dean of Southwell Minster – a personal friend of Roy and his family.

The Sir John Nelthorpe School Choir led the congregation in singing the school song which is a traditional feature of Briggensians' annual dinners that Roy enjoyed so much.

Roy had a special affection for Brigg Grammar School and the Sir John Nelthorpe School that had remained steadfast for **75 years** and he dedicated almost unbroken service in its management over that time.

Roy started his senior school life as a fee-paying Prep-School boy in 1936 under Headmaster J T Daughton before passing the entrance exams and becoming a Brigg Grammar School boy in 1938.



Roy's elder brother and his uncle were both taught at the Grammar School as were his two sons Julian and Nicholas. After completing school and his exams Roy was commissioned into the Navy from 1946 to 1948, but returned to Brigg to train and work as a Chartered Accountant. He became a Magistrate and also enjoyed close connections with a number of groups in Brigg, including the Round Table, Ancholme Rowing Club, the Ancholme Lodge of Freemasons and Brigg Probus. Roy became Clerk to the Brigg Grammar School Governors in 1959 and his knowledge of Trust matters was quite unrivalled. In 1977 Roy was appointed a full Trust governor and I remember **him** saying, at the start of a trust meeting in 2000 when I had just announced the death of Col. Nelthorpe, that being Chairman was '**a job for life**'. He was subsequently appointed Chairman and fulfilled his own prophesy. Roy was a lifelong member of the original Old Boys' Association and became **President** on the death of Col. Roger Nelthorpe. Roy cared about the association and believed strongly in its value. Roy also became a Sir John Nelthorpe School governor and when the health of Colonel Roger Nelthorpe deteriorated he was appointed **Chairman** in 1993.

I know he saw this as a great honour to lead a prestigious school steeped in history **and** he became the first non Sutton-Nelthorpe to hold that position in the past 340 years. The role of governor today and particularly Chair carries a vast workload and onerous responsibility and he had my utmost respect for the care and consideration he brought to that role and for the quality of decisions that he made. **Brigg will be a poorer place without him.**

Ernest Smith:-1944-1949 The paper cutting attached has been kept by me for 50 years but not because of the reference to Roy's membership of the Ancholme Rowing Club. I had kept it with other family papers that I was just thinning out when I received your e-mail. The reverse contains the record of my father's funeral. In turning it over and seeing the reference to Roy, I could hardly believe the coincidence.

Your tribute to him illustrates how his involvement then, and continuing to the present times, shows just how great a part he played in the history of Brigg. With a heavy heart and with kind regards

Janet Cropley (Drayton) Just a short note to tell you that Janet died on 24th Jan. 2011. She was diagnosed with breast cancer April 09 and this later became bone and liver cancer. I am absolutely devastated. I can remember her corresponding with you from time to time – you may recall she worked for several years at Barclays in Brigg. We were both contemporaries of **Adrian Gibbons** so perhaps you could let him know, Dave Brittain also knows us both. I will send you something more in depth for an obituary when I feel more like addressing the situation. **David Cropley**

Jack Edlington: 1941-1948. Jack was a well known character and accomplished engineer and had assisted the school in many ways especially giving advice on the aging swimming pool to keep it running when LEA officers considered it beyond repair.

Richard William Porter: 1928-1935, retired Dental Surgeon, died at home with his family on 2nd July 2011, and was interred at Kilmorack Cemetery near Beaulieu. He was 93. Born on 11 January 1918 in Tattershall, Lincs, he was the eldest son of Bernard Porter, Farmer and Justice of the Peace, and Constance Mary Meggitt. He was educated at Brigg Grammar School from **1928 to 1935** (representing the school in cricket and swimming), then at Leeds University School of Dentistry, graduating in 1940. During WWII he volunteered to join the RAF Dental Service from 1941 to 1946, at one time attached to Bomber Command where with other colleagues he helped initiate methods to reduce toothache experienced by pilots at high altitude. In this time he met his future wife Barbara Norris a practicing SRN and midwife in Hampshire. Later sent overseas to India in 1943, he organized the setting up of dental surgeries for the troops. After the war he returned to Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire where he purchased a dental practice. In 1948 he was Secretary to the Lincoln Dental Group and helped form the NHS Dental Service. Over 33 years, with the help of his wife, he established a large rural dental practice. They had four children. Following his retirement and being an accomplished sportsman he and his wife moved to Braevallich on Loch Awe on the West coast of Scotland to pursue his sporting interests, also becoming an active member of the community around Loch Awe over 20 happy years. He was a member of S.S.A.F.A; The British legion; Royal Air Forces Assoc; The Loch Awe Improvement Assoc; Rotary; amongst others. In 1998 for health reasons he and his wife left Loch Awe to live in Beaulieu in Inverness-shire. He leaves a wife and two daughters.

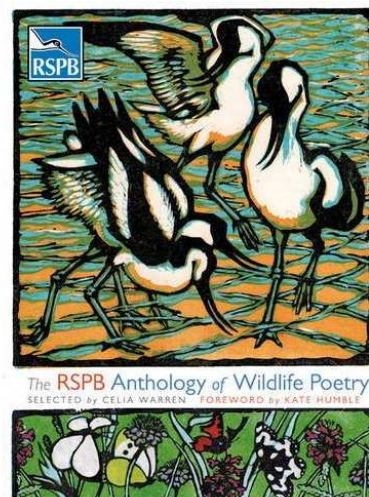
ANCHOLME ROWING CLUB

NEW MEMBERS WANTED FOR COMING SEASON

Membership of the Ancholme Rowing Club showed a decrease during 1951, and the hon. treasurer, Mr. T. R. D. O'Neill, told the annual meeting last week that the Club must have more new members during the coming year to remain in a financially stable position.

All the boats had been put into a river-worthy condition, it was reported, and it was hoped that more young people would take an interest in a sport which not every town could provide.

Officers for the 1952-53 season were elected as follows:
 President, Mr. Edgar Taylor; vice-presidents, Messrs. H. F. Sergeant, A. A. F. Stubbs, A. R. Haynes, and J. G. T. Eccles; chairman, Mr. F. Henthorn; captain, Mr. J. Timms; vice-captain, Mr. J. C. Sennitt; hon. treasurer, Mr. T. R. D. O'Neill; hon. sec., Mr. J. C. Sennitt; committee, Miss M. Jacklin, Messrs. R. Stringer and J. C. White; auditors, Messrs. A. I. Morris and J. Edlington.



Raymond Barker: A former Brigg Grammar School teacher is remembered in a new book published by his daughter. **Celia Warren's book** is dedicated to the memory of **Ray Barker**, her late father. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Anthology of Wildlife Poems was launched at 'The Bird Fair' at Rutland Water and Mrs Warren has since presented a reading from the book at Cheltenham Literature Festival.

The book is a beautiful hardback – illustrated by members of the Society of Wildlife Artists, on every page, half in full colour – a real 'book for keeps'.

Mrs Warren said: "My father took great delight in watching the birds, particularly after his series of mini-strokes left him largely immobile, and his last words were in praise of birds. It's taken the six years since he died for me to fulfil my ambition to dedicate a poetry anthology featuring bird poems to his memory. The book contains classics and modern poems, including some written especially for this book."

The book is on the RSPB online retail outlet and is available from any book shop including Amazon. You can see it at <http://celiawarren.wordpress.com/books>.

Ray Barker will be remembered by students at the school as teaching Foreign Languages between the 1950's and 1970's.

JARVIS – Gwenllian Kate née Nicholas, died peacefully at Uplands at Oxon in Shrewsbury on 12th December 2011 aged 101. Formerly of Brigg Lincolnshire, devoted wife of Geoff who died tragically 33 years ago, mother of three boys, grandmother of two girls and four boys, and great-grandmother of three boys.

Born in 1910 in Port Talbot, South Wales, the third of seven children. Her father died when she was 9, and the family struggled to send her to board at Howell's School in Llandaff. At school she struck up a correspondence with a penfriend in Prague, of which more later. A very bright young lady, she got a State Scholarship to the University of Wales at Aberystwyth and graduated with first class honours in Botany and the Gold Medal for her year. It was here, through her membership of the College netball team, she met Geoff on sporting awaydays to other UoW colleges. Geoff was in the tennis team. They also shared a passion for ballroom dancing. They lost touch after University as they both began their teaching careers, Gwen at Bromsgrove and Geoff at Llanfylllyn, near Oswestry. Eventually, after a romantic chance meeting on a train, they got married in a Welsh Chapel in Port Talbot in August 1939.



They decided to move to Brigg, in Lincolnshire where they could both teach at secondary level. During the war Gwen took over Geoff's lessons at Brigg Grammar School whilst he was away firefighting in Grimsby. Famously, mum said to a class of teenage Convent girls that you could train plants to grow up a wall or a fence, and equally you could train animal parts to grow in a different direction if you taped them up. The example she gave was son Peter's ears - they were sticky-out ears in the beginning and she trained them with adhesive tape to be more mannerly.

Geoff and Gwen were great travellers, they went to Rome, Athens, Cairo and Bangkok and then to Australia where they had relatives in all the major cities, as well as Pete working, north of Perth, and Steve doing an elective in the Western Australian outback. Then to Fiji, and back home through Los Angeles and New York. What a trip! And all recorded by Geoff on Kodachrome slides.

In 1968 Gwen's school penfriend in Czechoslovakia, Karel Straka – they had continued to correspond throughout 40 turbulent years - came to England for a visit in the Prague Spring. The return visit to Prague in August that year, even as the picture darkened – and of course got caught up in the Russian invasion, with tanks on the streets – they were eventually expelled by train over the German frontier. There were banner headlines in the Lincolnshire Times, and they were much in demand thereafter giving illustrated talks of their experiences.

Sadly Gwen had to endure the consequences of a tragic hospital accident, that left Geoff in a coma for over a year until his death – a trial she dealt with, with great devotion and dignity – holding his hand every day.

She joined her younger brother Haydn in Shrewsbury in 1995 to be near him and Peter's family. Haydn was also an inveterate traveller. They went back to Australia several times over the years, the last time when she must have been in her late eighties. This time she went in a submarine to view the glory that is the Barrier Reef, and rode an elephant on a side trip to Chiang Mai.

She joined a Greek Islands flotilla sailing holiday and stayed at the Sunsail watersports centre with Anne, her carer

Her final holiday was with Nick in 2006 to the Scilly Isles, where they stayed at the luxurious Island Hotel on Tresco. They flew by helicopter from Penzance which was quite an experience, and, in gloriously warm September weather toured the island on a golf buggy, visiting the exotic Abbey gardens, and watched seals by boat. They also visited Wells Cathedral on the return journey, and she was able to tell the verger that she had last visited in 1926 – 80 years before.

A life full of warmth, humanity and hard work that reflects the history of the 20th century – lived to the full with a great zest for life. She'd coped with the loss of her father at the age of nine, and from then on, helped her mother to raise her 4 younger siblings. And despite this setback, she still managed to gain entry to University to study Botany, with Geography, from which she graduated with first class honours. Now, back in the early 1930s women just didn't do that sort of thing. **Peter Jarvis** (edited version)



Football:

The football match in September was a great success with the SJN first choice eleven from year 11 taking on an old boys team including Adrian Gibbons, Jon Taylor, John Staff, Alex Smith, Matthew Mosey, Mark Morris, Paul Neal, Chas Fisher and Christopher Rodgers to name a few. The young SJN team played some excellent football and passed the ball beautifully. The young boys were lead by example by their Captain Dominic Bishop and there were some fine individual performances including fine saves from the goalkeeper Matthew Yorke, fine skill and composure from the midfielder Joe Knox and strong defending from Sam Griffiths and Ben Jowett in the heart of their defence. The Old boys experience showed in the end with them running out 2-0 winners with an own goal from Callum Smith and a close range effort from John Staff. Everyone enjoyed the evening and the game was played with a good spirit. The referee Gibbons also had a very good game.

The recent game on December the 27th saw a young Old Boys team Captained by Joe Hebblewhite take on an experienced Older eleven including Adrian Gibbons, Jon Taylor, Lee Taylor, Karl Taylor, Alan Taylor (a lot of Taylors), Richard Antcliffe, Tom Brock, Phillip Davies, Mark Morris and many others. The young boys were a talented team with a number of players who have recently played at a high standard including Christopher Rodgers, Ryan Musselwhite, Joe Hebblewhite, Anthony Keaton and many others regularly playing in local leagues. The young boys claimed a rare victory with a 2-0 win with an early goal from an illegal player who lobbed a helpless Antcliffe who had charged out of his area and an own goal from a mix up between Antcliffe and North. The Old Boys played a lot of the quality football but were lacking in front of goal, Ashley Norris missing many chances. Just as the old Boys experience was starting to tell the young Rodgers kicked the ball over the fence to end the game. The match was refereed by John Staff, the weather was fantastic and at least 36 turned out for the occasion. Many then went to the Britannia to play pool (won by the Old Boys), darts (young), dominoes (old), 5's and 3's (young), a quiz (old), and a boat race (old). Thanks to all who turned out and enjoyed the fantastic day.

New Ties: New ties were ordered last year and the limited number that remains will be available for the Dinner. If you cannot attend and want a replacement 'old boy's tie' then please contact Dave Brittain by email, if you haven't done so already.



Briggensians Tie Order Form

Please reserve me tie(s) at £10 each plus postage and packing if not collected at the Annual Dinner on 17th March 2012.

Postal Details:
(please print)

Name:

Address:

Where will you stay?

Those of you wishing to find good basic accommodation around Brigg could opt for:

Premier Inn, Lakeside Parkway, Scunthorpe DN16 3UA
Forest Pines Hotel, DN20 0AQ Tel: 01652 650770

www.premierinn.com/en
www.qhotels.co.uk/hotels/forest-pines-near-brigg.aspx

Brigg

Arties Mill, DN20 9LF Tel: 01652 652094
Albert House, Bigby Street. DN20 8ED Tel: 01652 658081
Beldon House, Wrawby Road. Tel: 01652 653517

www.artiesmilllodge.co.uk
www.albert-house.co.uk
www.beldonhouse.co.uk

Barnethy: Rookery Farm Guest House: Tel: 01652 688473
Whistle and Flute Tel: 01652 688238

www.rookeryfarmguesthouse.co.uk
www.styles@whistleandflute.net

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
And 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 contact:

The Briggensians' Association, c/o The Sir John Nelthorpe School, Grammar School Road, Brigg, North Lincolnshire. DN20 8AA. Telephone: (01652) 656551, Fax: (01652) 658229

I/We have received the 20011/12 Newsletter

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

Postage is now being charged by size so we are asking you to **send 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 2012/13 Newsletter** (or you can receive it for free by email)

At the same time, perhaps you could send some news or old photographs about yourself or school friends for the 2012 Newsletter or the web site (www.briggensians.net)

[illegible]

Briggensians' Association

35th Annual Dinner 2012- Booking Form

I will be attending the Briggensians' Dinner (**closing date 5th March 2012**) and enclose a cheque made payable to the Briggensians Association for the sum of:

£ for places at **£21.00 each**.

I regret **I will not** be able to attend but please receive £.....as my contribution to society funds.

Name:

Years at School: fromto.....

Address:
.....

Post Code:

Seating will be in groups of 6 or 8 (max 10) on round tables.

For Confirmation of Places:

Tel:

Email:

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

Person(s) year etc.

..... year

Menu Selection for the 2012 Dinner

Contact Name:		Starter			Main		Dessert			Special Dietary Needs
		Tomato & Basil Soup	Prawn Cocktail	Melon & Sorbet	Chicken	Nut Roast (v)	Pineapple & Treacle Sponge	Chocolate Scrapheap	Cheese & Biscuits	If there are any special dietary requirements please note below.
Briggensians & Guests	Briggensian's School Dates									

Please send this completed booking and menu choice form, **along with payment** to (cheques payable to The Briggensians Association):

Sir John Nelthorpe Upper School, Grammar School Road, Brigg, North Lincs. DN20 8AA
(Tel: 01652 656551)