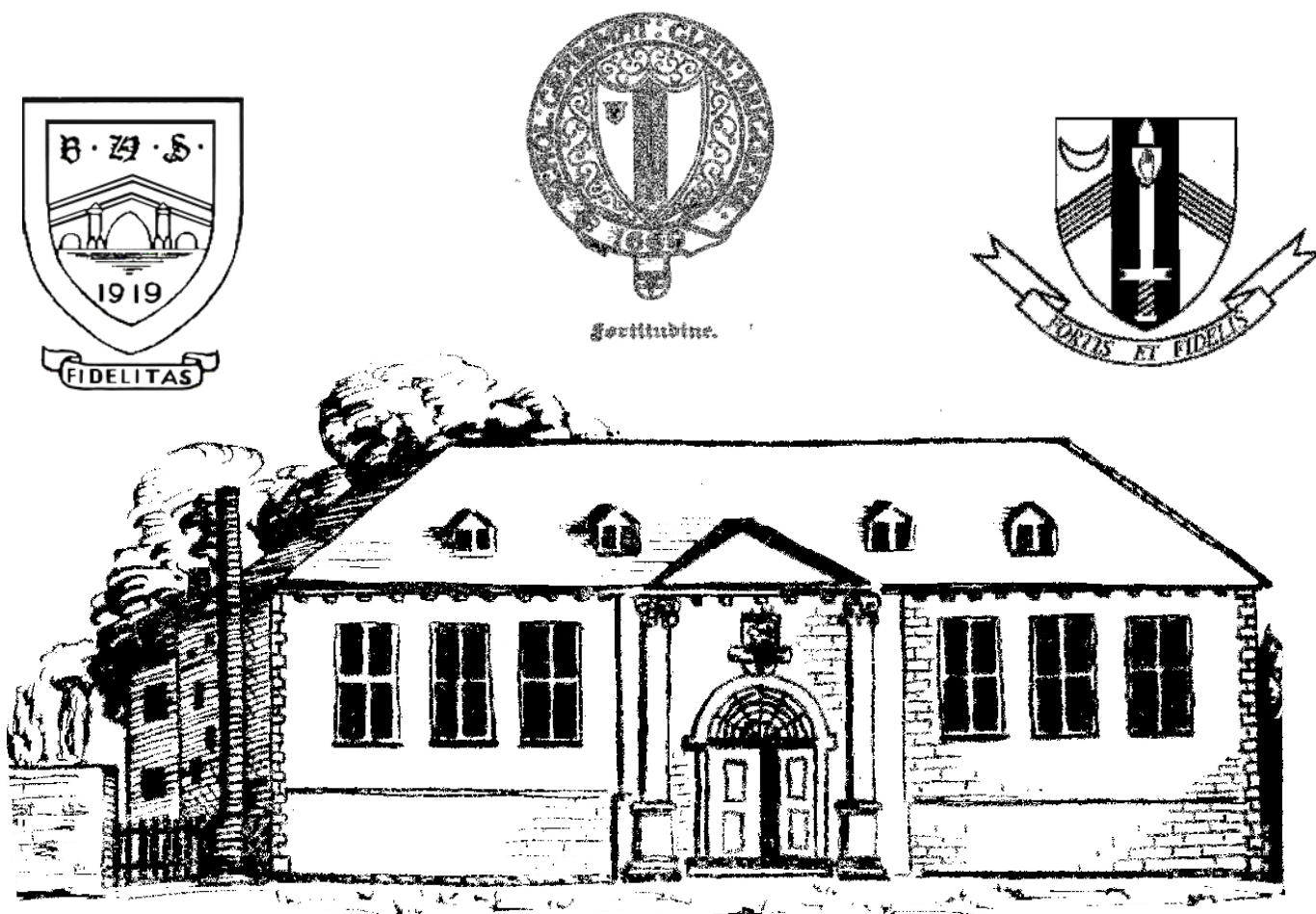


# BRIGGENSIANS' NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2013



## Briggensians' Association 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner

Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2013, 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

£22.00 Elsham Golf Club £22.00

Guest Speaker: David Keith Jones – Physics Staff 1958-1963

Booking slips are located on the last pages of this Newsletter

## Dates for your diary:

**2014: 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner**  
**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2014**  
**Elsham Golf Club**

### Summer Sports 2013

School Field

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

Cricket: Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Rounders: Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Youth vs. Experience

and afterwards at the

Yarborough Hunt

### **School Sports Day:**

**Tuesday,  
2<sup>nd</sup> July  
2013**

### Winter Sports 2013

School Field

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2013

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, 27<sup>th</sup>

December 2013 – 10.30 am start

### Briggensians' Golf Championships 2013

Individual Stableford Rules

Spring meeting at Elsham Golf Club

Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2013 – 1st Tee off 12.00 noon

Autumn meeting at Elsham Golf Club

Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2013: 1st Tee off 12.00 noon

Match Play

Past v Present Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2013 Elsham Golf Club 4.00 p.m. start

# Annual Dinner Guest Speaker

## **David Keith Jones FRPS**

**David Jones**, former member of staff, is a much published photographer and a popular speaker.



Apart from his own books *Faces of Kenya* and *Shepherds of the Desert*, published in London by Hamish Hamilton, many thousands of his images have been used worldwide in books, magazines, calendars and newspapers. *The Telegraph*, *Guardian*, *Times*, *Observer*, *Daily Mail* and others have used his images. **Reader's Digest Books**, **Rough Guides**, **Insight Guides**, **BBC Books** and **National Geographic** are amongst hundreds of publishers who have used his work.

He has published thousands of calendars using his own images and has sold 3 million postcards.

David started his professional life teaching Physics at BGS (under NC Matthews) and was in the Boarding House with Jack Moore. He was a keen mountaineer and took up photography to record the beauty of the mountains and met his Italian wife Carla on an alpine holiday. Since then they have done many alpine routes together and David has become fluent in Italian.

But his real expertise is Africa; given the chance to go out to Kenya for two years to teach Physics on a Government aid project both David and Carla fell in love with the country and stayed for 15 years. In that time photography became more and more important and eventually David decided to switch professions and become a full time photographer/writer.

Returning to England he set up his business *Images of Africa Photobank* selling images for publication world wide. The prestigious travel company **Abercrombie and Kent** gave David many assignments to photograph hotels, scenery and wildlife for their high quality travel brochures and lead their top of the range safaris in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. In total David has lived and worked in Africa for over 30 years.

Recognised as an expert on African travel David has lectured to many audiences in the United States including the Rockefeller University in New York, the Dallas Museum of Natural History, the Chicago Zoo and the California Academy of Sciences.

Following publication of his books he has had exhibitions at the Photographer's Gallery and the Africa Centre in London and at the New Stanley Gallery in Nairobi.

He became a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society – a distinction awarded for his African wildlife photography – and an Associate of the British Institute of Professional Photographers in 1991.

He now markets his work in association with Alamy where he has over 11,000 images available on line with more being added on a regular basis. On average he sells a picture a day for publication somewhere in the world with sales occurring regularly to clients in the UK, Europe, USA, Canada, Brazil, China and Japan.

More recently he has been adding images taken in Europe, Asia, Australia and Antarctica to his collection and has had two exhibitions in Ste Foy les Lyon, France; the first in 2011 on the theme of European traditions and culture, and again in 2012 during the biennial **Caravane des Cinemas d'Afrique** where he lectured on *Les nomades du Kenya* and exhibited portraits of traditional African people.

Now semi-retired David enjoys sharing his love of photography with Camera Clubs and Photographic Societies.

# *Briggensians' Association*

## *36<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner 2013*

### Menu for the 2013 Dinner

**(v) Leek and Potato Soup**

**Or**

**Pate**

**Or**

**Fan of Melon and Blackcurrant Sorbet**



**Roast Pork**

**Or**

**(v) Roast Tomato Filo Tart**

**Selection of Fresh Vegetables  
and Potatoes**



**Bread and Butter Pudding**

**Or**

**Chocolate Tart**

**Or**

**Cheese & Biscuits**



**Coffee or Tea and Mints**



**(v) Vegetarian option**

*Please note that, as in previous years, 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. 17<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012 and CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 20011/12

It has been an honour to be the Briggensians' Chairman over the past two years and this year has been a busy one 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 was very well attended and was enjoyed by all.

Commander Mark Leaning was an excellent choice of speaker and he entertained us all with his fond memories of his days at Brigg Grammar School and stories of his successes since leaving.

The **next dinner** (the 36th) is scheduled for **Saturday 16th March 2013** and as I write we are awaiting confirmation of the guest speaker but I look forward to another successful, well-attended dinner.

The Briggensian sports evenings have continued to be well attended 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. **I would appeal to Briggensians to come join us in forthcoming competitions.** I would like to acknowledge the work done by **Mr Derek Stones** for the association, in particular the work he did for the Briggensians golf competitions and it is with great sadness that we were informed that he recently passed away.

I would like to congratulate the school on this year's examination results, the best in the authority and the dedicated staff who continue to work so hard. 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 over the last 2 years, particularly Barbara Kernon, David Brittain and Jane Gibbons. I look forward to the continued success of the association in the future and I hope to see you all at the 36th dinner in March where you will no longer have to endure one of my speeches.

### Headteacher's Report 20011/12

As the Year 11 who left this summer was a highly motivated and hard working cohort of pupils good GCSE results were anticipated. They exceeded all expectations! **A record breaking 77% of pupils passed five or more subjects with A\*-C grades including English and Mathematics.** Not only were this set of GCSE results the best ever achieved by the school they are **the highest recorded in the local authority.** It is likely that the school will be placed well within the top 25% nationally yet again!

There were significant improvements in most subject areas, particularly in our specialist subjects. **Mathematics** achieved an amazing **92% pass rate at C and above** which has made us the envy of many other schools. The science subjects were also impressive with **100% pass rate at A\*-C in Physics, 98% in Biology and 91% in Chemistry.** The percentage of pupils gaining two or more science subjects at grades A\*-C rose to 97% overall.

Briggensians will be aware of the marking controversy and the change in grade boundaries that affected the **GCSE English** grades this year. It was well publicised in the media as it caused a dip in results nationally. Pupils at Sir John Nelthorpe School still managed to remain well above the national average of 66.7% with **77.5% of our pupils gaining A\*-C.** The **literature result of 84%** of pupils achieving A\*-C more realistically reflects the anticipated pass rate for English language had the grade boundaries not been raised.

GCSE results in other subjects were equally impressive at grades A\*-C; graphics 97%, statistics 96%, food technology 95%, art 90%, history 86%, drama 86%, German 85%, music 84%, geography 81%, business studies 78%, resistant materials 78%, French 75%, RE 77% (impressive on only one hour per week teaching), child development 74%, PE 73%, and electronics 70%.

The success in all GCSE subjects this year enabled the school once again to be well above the national average percentage for those achieving the **English Baccalaureate.** To achieve this pupils must obtain pass grades at A\*-C in English, mathematics, two separate science subjects, a modern foreign language and either history or geography. The school had an impressive **37% success rate** against the local authority figure of 9.1% and the national figure for state schools of 16.1%.

Following the GCSE success in the summer we had a strong recruitment into the Sixth Form in September.

The **Year 13** students leaving the sixth form did extremely well again this year with **100% pass rate.** As you can read in the sixth form examination report students have moved on to a variety of destinations to study a range of subjects and to take up apprenticeships.

The examination results achieved this summer were exceptional and reflect the professionalism and expertise of the staff at Sir John Nelthorpe School who have high expectations for the pupils in their care and achieve them. Congratulations go to them and the pupils who worked very hard to fulfil their full potential.

The school is currently having some major work done on the Grammar School Road site. The roof is being replaced on the boarding house and the chimney stacks rebuilt. It is anticipated that the interior will be refurbished to provide more suitable teaching areas and sixth form provision. There are also plans to redevelop the bungalow and increase on site parking. Funds for this have been provided by the Council.

This summer saw the Olympic Games come to Brigg. The school held its own Olympic Day and all pupils and staff participated in sporting activities to raise funds for childhood cancer charities. One of our Year 7 pupils, Archie Swain, carried the Olympic flame for part of its journey. As the Olympic bus was parked on the Wrawby Road site pupils and staff took the opportunity to have their photographs taken holding one of the Olympic torches. School closed early for the day but most pupils and staff lined up along the route through Brigg and outside the Wrawby Road gates to cheer the flame on its way. It was a truly memorable day.

The past year also involved the school in a series of events to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in Brigg. Pupils made jubilee cakes and entered them for the inter-schools' competition and won the majority of categories! They also researched the school at the time of the coronation, participated in street parties and fancy dress competitions.

Several experienced and long-serving members of **staff retired in the summer**; Ms Sue Huck (PE), Mrs Sue Taylor (French), Mr Paul Reiss (chemistry), Mrs Jan Welch (English) and Mrs Pauline Hirst (assistant head teacher). As the current economic climate has started to impact significantly on the school budget and the number of pupils has fallen these posts have not been replaced

The challenges of running a school and balancing the budget are becoming increasingly demanding. I am grateful for the support and advice given by the governors who volunteer their time and energy to working with the school. Particular thanks go to **Robin Sumpter** who has resigned his place on the governing body after serving for many years providing sage advice and guidance. I am pleased that he will maintain his connection with the school as Chair of the Foundation Trustees.

The government is encouraging all schools to become academies so that they are directly responsible for all aspects of budget management, curriculum and staffing. Most of the other secondary schools in North Lincolnshire have already converted which has reduced the range of centrally held services available to schools from the local authority. The governors at Sir John Nelthorpe School are currently considering a number of possibilities for the future direction of the school. They are keen to ensure the school's independence and unique heritage are protected but the choices are constrained by the school's financial situation. There are challenging times ahead!

**Linda Hewlett-Parker**

<b>Brigg Sixth Form College Advanced Level and BTEC Results 2012</b>															
	A*		A		B		C		D		E		U		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	Total
ART & DESIGN									2	50	2	100			4
BIOLOGY	1	14.3	1	28.6	2	57.1			1	71.4	2	100			7
BUSINESS STUDIES					2	100									2
CHEMISTRY			1	50			1	100							2
DRAMA					3	60	2	100							5
DUTCH					1	100									1
ENGLISH LIT							3	75	1	100					4
FRENCH									1	100					1
GENERAL STUDIES					2	28.6			1	42.9	4	100			7
GEOGRAPHY			1	20			2	60	1	80	1	100			5
GERMAN											1	100			1
HISTORY					1	20	4	100							5
MATHEMATICS			2	33.3	1	50	2	83.3	1	100					6
MEDIA STUDIES			1	25			1	50	1	75	1	100			4
MUSIC TECHNOLOGY			1	25	2	75	1	100							4
PHOTOGRAPHY					1	50			1	100					2
P.E.					2	50	2	100							4
PHYSICS									4	80	1	100			5
PSYCHOLOGY			1	8.3	1	16.7	5	58.3	2	75	3	100			12
<b>APPLIED COURSES:</b>															
ART & DESIGN					3	42.9	2	71.4	2	100					7
<b>NO. &amp; % BY GRADE</b>	1		8		23		25		19		19				95
<b>GRADE%</b>	1.1		8.4		24.2		26.3		20.0		20.0				
<b>CUMULATIVE %</b>	<b>3.8</b>		<b>9.5</b>		<b>33.7</b>		<b>60.0</b>		<b>80.0</b>		<b>100</b>				
<b>BTEC</b>	A*		A		B		C		D		E		U		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	Total
MUSIC	6	75	2	100											8
PE			2	50			2	100							4
ICT	2	66.7					1	100							3
														<b>Total</b>	110

**Congratulations to Students and Staff on the excellent A level and GCSE examination results, best in the county.**



## Brigg Sixth Form Prizes 2012

ART & DESIGN	Taylor Prize	Sarah Talkington & Sophie Drury
BIOLOGY	Nelthorpe Foundation Prize Derek Appleyard Memorial Prizes	Natasha Roach Lucy Weston
BUSINESS STUDIES	Henthorn Prize	Aidan Savage
CHEMISTRY	E F Brown Memorial Prize	Matthew Broadey
DRAMA	Production Prize	Frazer Fairbank
ENGLISH	Spilman Prize Briggensian Prize	Chloe Tong Lewis Wilcock
FRENCH	SJN Parents' Association Prize	Emily Worthington
GENERAL STUDIES	Baker Prize	Matthew Broadey
GEOGRAPHY	SJN Parents' Association Prizes	Joshua Green & Talullah Shepherd
HISTORY	Taylor Prize	Lewis Wilcock
ICT	VoA Parents' Association Prize	Samuel Dray & Chloe Tong
MATHEMATICS	Briggensian Prizes	Joanne Watson & Talullah Shepherd
MEDIA STUDIES	VoA Parents' Association Prize	Sarah Talkington
MUSIC TECHNOLOGY	Morris Prizes	Kieran Peacock
PHOTOGRAPHY	Baysgarth Tech. College Prize	Charlotte Frith
PSYCHOLOGY	VoA Academy Prize VoA Parents' Association Prize	Catherine Fleming Matthew Broadey
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Brigg Sixth Form Prize	Lewis Bartlett
PRODUCT DESIGN	Brigg Sixth Form Prize	Samuel Dray
SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM EVENTS	Lardelli Prizes	Ellie Hunt Zoe Sparling Daniel Wormald Lewis Bartlett Kieran Peacock Michael Wheldon Charlotte Frith Joanne Watson
PROGRESS:	Lardelli Prizes	Ashley Garratt Catherine Fleming Dave Hennessey Sophie Drury Zoe Sparling
ACHIEVEMENT:	Cusworth-Preston Prize	Matthew Broadey
Head Boy and Head Girl	Sir John Nelthorpe Vale of Ancholme	Frazer Fairbank & Zoe Sparling Matthew Broadey & Talullah Shepherd

## Lower Sixth Prizes 2012

Applied Art & Design Biology Business Studies Chemistry	Jemma Lidgard Matthew Rabin-Smith Emily Gladwin Charlotte Worthington
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Drama & Theatre Studies English French Geography ICT Mathematics Media Studies Music & Music Technology Photography Physics Physical Education Product Design Psychology Prize For Contribution to School / Sixth Form  Progress	Bethany Rhoades Helen Dennie & Kaitlyn Romagnuolo Rebecca Baker Mitchell Walker Victoria Watson Lauren Noon Chad Newton Kyle Bartle Hollie Fudge Lauren Noon Kyran Lowe Thomas Angus Hannah Lansley & Yasmine Russell Christopher Carr, Rebecca Baker, Kyle Greetham, George Sparling & Emily Ward  Amy Barnes, Jade Glossop, Kyran Lowe. Hollie Fudge & Adam Smaller
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## DESTINATIONS 2012

Lewis Bartlett Chloe Beever Ricardo Benson Matthew Broadey Rosemary Croft Daniel Crunkhurn Joseph Davidson Samuel Dray Sophie Drury Frazer Fairbank Megan Garner Catherine Fleming Charlotte Frith Ashley Garratt Matthew Glover Joshua Green Davey Hennessey Ellie Hunt Amy Lock Kieran Peacock Natasha Roach Aidan Savage Harry Scott Talullah Shepherd Joshua Sherlock Jonathan Shrosbree Liam Smith Sophie Smith Zoe Sparling Harry Storr Thomas Susewitz Sarah Talkington Chloe Tong Joanne Watson Lucy Weston Michael Wheldon Lewis Wilcock Daniel Wormald Emily Worthington	Manchester Metropolitan University Family commitments  Leeds University  University of Hull Unknown Apprenticeship Northumbria University De Montfort University Unknown Sheffield Hallam University University of Bolton University of Lincoln Unknown Leeds Metropolitan University Nottingham Trent University Application to Royal Navy Grimsby Institute & University Centre Leeds College of Music Leeds University University of Lincoln  University of Oxford - Magdalen College University of Lincoln  Grimsby Institute & University Centre Grimsby Institute & University Centre ConocoPhillips – Grimsby  St Mary's University College  North Lindsey College University of Sheffield Brigg Sixth Form North Lindsey College University of Lincoln University of Hull Grimsby Institute & University Centre	Physical Education & Sport Pedagogy  Seeking full-time employment Biology Seeking full-time employment History  Stage Coach Fashion Communication Business Studies(Economics/Finance/Strategy)  Nursing Studies (Adult care) Textile/Surface Design Criminology  Music Production International Relations with Chinese  Games Design Music (Popular Music) Biology Business Studies Seeking full-time employment Medicine Audio Production Seeking full-time employment Sports Coaching (Performance & Participation) Animal Management Apprenticeship Apprenticeship Twickenham - Strength & Conditioning Seeking full-time employment Applied Studies (Early Childhood) Mathematics  L2 Accounting & Payroll Admin Games Computing Sports Rehabilitation Business Management
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# NEWS OF OLD BRIGGENSIANS 2011/12

## Staff Related Section:

### **Barbara Kernon:**

Barbara was making steady progress following her heart attack when she suffered a stroke. She is now trying to cope with the after effects of both but again making steady but sure progress. We all wish her well and hope she has a far better year in 2013.

**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 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary later this year.

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

A new book has just been published which deals with the German prisoner of war camps in St Neots, Cambridgeshire and the biography of one of its prisoners. It is entitled 'The Biography of Heinz Kummer German PoW – a life deeply touched by war.' Heinz is still alive living only half a mile from the author John Slack who was a geography, biology, geology & sports' teacher at the old BGS and member of Brigg Hockey Club (all between 1964-68). He has many fond memories of the old school and its characters.

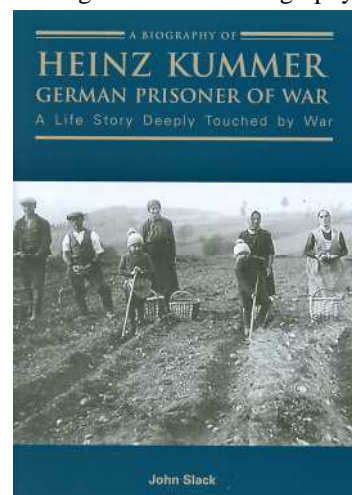
The content concentrates on characters involved and the social history of Europe in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century. There are many revelations, some unheard of before this story was told. Its content is often from an unusual angle because some of its content is from the German point of view especially World War Two. The photos are unique and have never been seen before, such as German PoW football teams. Action occurs as far afield as Chile, Poland, Denmark, Siberia, D-Day, the Great Escape in Northern Ireland, and with large sections on pre- and post-war farming in both Germany and England. It gives an unusual perspective of the war from the German side. There are many unknown revelations in the sections of which there are 60 for easy reading.

This beautifully designed hardback dust jacketed book contains 128 pages, 70 illustrations, 7 maps and a full index. It is excellently priced at £15.25 incl. p&p and will be available from John Slack at his home at:- 2 Field Cottage Road, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 8HA.

Tel: 01480 212714/email: [john.slack1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:john.slack1@tiscali.co.uk)

This is John's 4<sup>th</sup> book; previous ones have been on a local cricket club's history and two on railways.

His last book, 'The Secret Life of St Neots Station', was a bestseller for 5 months at Waterstones, St Neots. It is easy to delve into for a few minutes at a time without losing the thread and any profits will go towards his MS treatment which costs many thousands of pounds a year on a 'specials licence'.



### **Helen Cresswell: Reliving the Olympics through the eyes of a Gamesmaker**



I'm sure everyone who saw the Olympics and Para-Olympics watched in awe and wonder at all the events, be they the sporting achievements or the ceremonies, and felt proud to be British. Many of you will have been amongst the spectators or like me one of the thousands of Gamesmakers. We will all have our own unique experiences and I just want to share mine.

#### **So what was it like being a gamesmaker?**

I was one of 70,000 volunteers who lived and breathed the games for over a fortnight. It was ..... hard work and exhausting but an amazing experience probably never to be repeated but worth all the effort.

**It all started in 2009** when I retired from teaching. I heard that volunteers were needed for the London games and looked on line for information. It was there I found the application and filled in the detailed form and sent it off.

Some time later I received an e mail to say that I had been successful and was asked to have an interview. The nearest place was Warwick so I opted for a telephone interview. It was not a good decision! For half an hour I answered questions from a voice from which I received no feedback, no eye contact and no knowledge as to whether I was saying too much or too little. Also I had to speak quite slowly so the interviewer could write down my replies! I thought I had blown my chances.

However **six months later** I was emailed to say I had been successful and was offered the role of Team Leader in the Events Services team at the Riverbank Stadium for the Hockey

competition. Wow!

**Training started in earnest in February**, but unable to attend the session at Wembley, my first training was at the end of March at Hackney Community College. It was extremely good and spurred me on for the next event in my diary- the test event. This took place in the wet and cold of April/May. Despite the weather it was a real eye opener. I have been involved in lots of competitions and organised events myself, but this was something really special and BIG. Living and travelling in London from rural Lincolnshire was an event in itself.

After that, **in June**, I stayed for a few days with a cousin in Woolwich. I attended a cinema for Orientation, accreditation and uniform collection, which was, again, another event in itself, and then finished with Team Leaders training at McDonalds University in North London.

The training was extremely well delivered by enthusiastic people, many of whom were volunteers themselves. I learnt such a lot. We were told we had to hit the ground running when it all began. **So I was ready for THE GAMES**

We had to pay for all our own expenses, except travel to our shifts, and also find our own accommodation. Luckily I was able to live at my son's flat in South London although it often took me over two hours to travel in time for my shift. My shifts were quite long with me working either 6am to 4pm (5pm for the last three days) or 2 to 11.30pm. Add another couple of hours on for travel and you can see I had early starts or late nights. We were on our feet all the time; the only breaks we had were twenty minutes in the first hour or two and a meal break of forty-five minutes several hours later. One of my jobs was to rotate team members round so no-one was stuck in a boring or lonely job for hours on end. Also I had to organise the roster for breaks which was quite difficult as everyone was needed at the start and end of matches. However the gamesmakers were a fantastic bunch and were always most obliging.

**My role**, in the Events Services Team, involved checking tickets, dealing with any problems, giving information and helping spectators in and around the stadium. We showed people to their seats, checked on health and safety issues, cleared and did some cleaning of the seating area between sessions. We were also used in some areas for security where we worked with paid contractors. They tended to do the same jobs every time whereas we rotated round to have more variety.

**The first week**, the weather was very changeable – very hot and sunny one moment, followed by short, sharp, heavy showers. This caused a number of problems at my venue, as there was virtually no shelter at all. We even had to quickly find tarpaulins for the more than a hundred pushchairs and buggies that had been left at the mobility hub. The shop ran out of ponchos (and then sunscreen) and sadly spectators were not well prepared. By the end of week one, with all the media attention, most spectators realised they had to be prepared for all conditions. It wasn't only the weather. The gates opened for hockey at 7.30 am for the first game at 8.30, while the last match didn't end until nearly 11pm. It could be very cold, windy and unpleasant watching all the action at those times.

However, despite varying conditions, the stadium dazzled throughout, with the blue pitch with its pink surround. Whether on the TV or by the pitch, the play was very fast, skilful and eventful. With an appeal system in place and action replays on the big stadium screen, the game took on a more exciting event for the spectators. Although I personally detested the Mexican wave, I think I was in the minority when it took place, especially when a match was rather one sided or lacking in interest.

**My favourite role** was the accessibility/mobility group. There were only a small number of gamesmakers who had received extra training for this so they were a close knit group and they knew and worked together well. The job entailed checking that anyone in a wheelchair had an accessibility ticket to allow them to go on the 'ramp' at the side of the pitch. Also they had to be watchful to see if anyone with a mobility problem might like one. Their base was a small tent at the side of the entrance area which stored both wheelchairs and mobility scooters which could be booked at the mobility hub in the main park area. I learnt to my cost that the training for the latter was very basic and not only did one drive over my foot and clatter into some wheelchairs, but at the end of the session we needed to be mechanically minded because they had forgotten how to re-start them! The other item we stored was pushchairs and baby buggies. The most we had in one session was about 150, the smallest baby was two weeks old and the most pregnant lady had a week to go! Luckily for the medics the game was not too exciting and she managed to get home!

**My other lasting memories** as well as the fantastic people I met – all ages, from all walks of life and different countries – watching dawn break and travelling through London at 5am, seeing the Athletics Stadium with hardly a soul about early in the morning, using a radio for the communication between other group and team leaders, trying to sort out how to get to the park when the transport changed due to the marathon on the second and third Sundays, dancing with Chris Hollis when he came through the gates one day with Seb Coe, seeing the Duchess of Cambridge in the stands on semi-finals day. Of course watching the women's GB hockey team win bronze was also a great highlight.

**Altogether it was a marvellous experience.** What did many people say 'An experience of a lifetime', well it certainly was!

**John Knox- 1966-1968:** John is living on the Kings Road in Belfast and wrote when he found out from **Ralph Tapper** (lives in the USA) that Jack Moore and Gerry Longden had both died. John taught French and German, he also went on the 1967 trip to Paris with Vernon and Mary Atkin, Miss Chandler, Dave and Mickey Brittain and an eccentric clergyman called Dave Evans. He had wanted news of other members of staff, some long gone, and I will send news and a Briggensian very soon.

## Alumni News:

**Alumni Web-site:** [www.Briggensians.net](http://www.Briggensians.net)

**Briggensians will have noticed that it is more than a year since the site has been properly updated and only by begging Jim Flewker to insert a piece about the passing of dear old Jack (Archie) Moore has there been any real activity.**

**Various avenues have been explored to find someone to operate the site but without any success. We are still looking.**

**If you or any Briggensian around the world could take on this task with the present site or another provider then things could be back up and running again. It would be a tragedy to let it slip after all the hard work that has been done in the past and all the records, photographs and back issues of the Briggensians Newsletter that it stores.**

**Fortunately Jim has kept the data safe and it can all be exported in stages to a new site if that is the way forward.**

**Can YOU Help?** Email me for further information at:  
[dave.brittain@talktalk.net](mailto:dave.brittain@talktalk.net)

**Derek Sumpter-(1943-1951):** After last year's Dinner Derek's email shows the dedication of the 1940s group ~ fantastic. "I'm back home now after covering 1,115 miles in seven days. But I can tell you: every mile was worth it to be in Brigg for the School Dinner which was its usual jolly and nostalgic self. Amazingly, the 1940s group, instead of getting smaller, is actually getting bigger. It all goes to prove how well we were fed at school in the war years!"

**Peter Welton-(1944-1949):** Two memorable portraits from my point of view this year and last. Firstly I painted Prince William in his helicopter flying overall, and shortly after I had finished that Cherie Blair commissioned me to paint her portrait in her London Law practice offices near Marble Arch. I





received the commission from Cherie when we were at John Moores University in Liverpool at the end of 2011. Cherie's term of office as University Chancellor was coming to an end after 4 years of brilliant service and the University were to appoint Brian May of Queen as the new chancellor.

I have been visiting Professor at the university for a number of years and I was present at the ceremony. After the handing over of the crown Brian, Cherie and I had a meal together and after I had been asked by Brian what I was painting at the moment and I answered "Prince William's portrait", Cherie invited me to paint her. It's what I call serendipity, Dave, being in the right place at the right time. More recently I have been written to by Sir Robert Burgess, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester offering me on behalf of the Senate and Council of the University the **Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters** in recognition of my contribution to art.

I had no hesitation in accepting this amazing accolade and I will be formally installed at a degree ceremony in 2013.

I hope you are well and I look forward to seeing you on March 16th.

If you would like to see more of Peter's paintings then log onto his web site at [www.peterwelton.com](http://www.peterwelton.com)

**Anthony (Mouse) Miller-(1958-1965):** Sadly I report that mouse had a massive stroke last October which had 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.

**Ailsa Wish (Ramsey)-(1967-1973):** Hi Dave, I am still plugging away at Caistor Grammar School but have had a series of lively evenings re-living events at Brigg Girls High with Beryl Potts recently. She still puts the Programme together for the Brigg Music Festival. My happiest memories of school always involved musical events especially the music weekends held at various schools - we slept on sawdust mattresses on classroom floors. Hearing what the staff got out of the same event was fun!

**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. He called to see Mark and Pam Tatam and Dave and Mickey Brittain along with girlfriend Lee at the beginning of October 2012.

**Jon Cresswell-(1985-1991):** says: '2012 has once again proved a busy year although not in AFG this time. I am now in London on the General Staff – a battle in itself in the face of further Defence cuts. I am hoping to come back for the reunion dinner in March.'

Dear Friends,

A busy and fun year with running, singing and moving. Olivia continues to enjoy swimming with Plymouth Royal Navy Swimming Club and has completed her 5000m as well as swimming in the club gala. Ben loves playing hockey for Plymouth Marjons. Both ran the School's half marathon challenge. This is Olivia's last year at Primary School, we will find out where she goes after Egguckland Vale in March.

Jon left 79 Battery in May and is now serving on the General Staff in London. Heather and the children have remained in Plymouth and Jon gets the train home every weekend and lives in a small shoebox in Battersea during the week. This also means that we can all go up to London for the weekend and explore the parks and museums. Ben was selected to sign the military covenant for the children of Plymouth on National Armed Forces Day and met Prince Edward. Heather, Olivia and Ben all performed in Music of the Night at The Royal Citadel and the children sang with Poppy Mills on her single "Remember Me".

Heather has continued to sing with the Military Wives Choir and performed again this year at the Royal Albert Hall and has attended a couple of awards ceremonies following the success of "Wherever you are" and the album, "In my Dreams".

Best wishes for 2013 – Heather, Jon, Olivia and Ben

**Bret Butler (1951-1958):** Prompted by last year's Newsletter Bret certainly remembers the boarding house, feasting on bread and dripping for afternoon tea and I still like it much to my wife's horror as to what it may do to my arteries. I also recall something called savoury bread for breakfast (something that my mother was never able to make).

I had forgotten that N C Matthews was known as Slug. The other teachers I do recall and would add Nero Romans who left before Geoff started and Toddy Henthorn who was the History guru.

Looking back over some of the magazines in the library section it appals me that I did not participate more in some of the activities offered by the school, especially debating, music and other societies. My life there was very sport orientated having been in the 1st XI football side for 4 years and the 1st XI cricket team for 2 years.

It also surprised me to see how many boys left in those days after "O" levels but I suppose that had something to do with the scarcity of university places whereas today students I am sure will stay much longer and do their best to inflate the exam pass rates that governments deem to be a measure of the quality of an education system.



After his visit Bret emailed: I guess that one of my highlights for this year was my visit back to Brigg in September when I was so well looked after by you and Linda. Much had obviously changed but some of the older and original classrooms were still recognisable and in the same place. I was also able to pick out the landmarks in the old boarding house and marvel that I spent seven years there. We had a good trip home with four days' shopping frenzy in Kuala Lumpur. There is plenty happening in education in New Zealand at the moment and I am expecting a busy - if unpaid - year in 2013.

Bret Butler's finger marks the spot on the long school photo at SJN where, like so many others, he recognises a small boy!



**Ron Harsley (1952-1957):** Current email address. [cruisemaster@verizon.net](mailto:cruisemaster@verizon.net) sends a plea: I would like to get in touch with any old Briggensians of my era who are in **south west Florida**. **Are there any?**

I was executive vice president / general manager of a multi plant plastics manufacturer headquartered in northern Indiana for 20 years and for recreation, Master and huntsman to the Michiana foxhounds. Retiring to Florida in 1996, I spent many happy times on my boats "Foxhunter" and "Boadicea" in the Gulf of Mexico. Sadly ill health has relegated me to playing bad golf regularly.

I do enjoy reading about the Old Briggensians but sadly appear to be receiving less and less communications. Perhaps it is the email address!

I think I can count on one hand the accounts of old boys of my era. Maybe we are a closely guarded secret. Sheffs forever!!!

**Peter Wade-(1945-1953):** Thanks for the 2013 Dinner reminder - it doesn't seem any time since the last Dinner.

I have very little to report. We went up to Edinburgh in October and met up again with **Charlie & Marion Windass** and **John & Marguerite Sellars**.

I still hear at Christmas from **Ken Stothard** in Australia and I know **Brian Thornalley** does as well. Ken was at BGS from 1949 - 53 and went up to Manchester at the same time as John Sellars and me. We intend to come to the Dinner again this year.

**Bob Millward-(1963-1970):** had wanted to contact his old school pals and by coincidence **Tony Clixby** (///) contacted me to say "I think he lives only 10 miles away from me. Please can you give him my email address or forward me his" I hope it was successful.

**Faye Curtis-(1986-1993):** was in touch last year saying, "I think I am a Briggensians member... I think I joined on leaving sixth form ?? Can you kindly add me to your mailing list please as I do not seem to be getting the email updates?

My personal email address which is [fayemck74@gmail.com](mailto:fayemck74@gmail.com) If you recall Faye then send her an email.

**Jim Carey-(1957-1964):** emailed saying "I was wondering if **Aiden Squires, William Porter, Alan Wills** or any others from, I guess, the 1960 entry year are ever in contact or attend the dinner? I was in School House and left in 1964 when we emigrated to Australia.

**Can anyone help put Jim in contact?**

**Rick Baker-(1973-1978-):** Hello David. I inquired several years ago on the availability of yearly school photos taken from 1973 to 1978 but to no avail, could you help please. Thank you.

**ED:** I managed to scan the May 1976 school photo in sections and having stitched it together sent it by email.

Cheers David. I used to have each year but lost them I was just interested how I changed over the years. I am positioned left to right second row 14th. Once again thank you.

**Keith Lacy-(1944-1949):** I look forward the Annual Dinner every year and look forward to meeting old friends from the 1940's period that are still around! I am kept very busy in retirement; I am the Treasurer of the National Service RAF Association, Lincolnshire Branch. We spend many happy hours travelling to various RAF Stations all over the country as well as attending the monthly meetings of the group. I am also the Chairman of the Brigg and District Horticultural Society, my wife is also a committee member of both associations.

I would dearly like to meet again some of my old schoolmates, in particular Geoff Hogg and Peter Hall.

**Dr Lynn Cawkwell PhD-(1978-1985):** Senior Lecturer in Cancer Genetics.

I moved away for my University, PhD & post doctoral years and I returned to Hull as an Academic in 1999. I am back living in N Lincs. (If the surname seems familiar then yes I'm also cousin to your Vice Chair, Keith).

I did join Briggensians when I left SJN (it was £1 for life at that time), and I keep up with your web pages.

Why not look at Lynn's work about breast cancer on this link:

[http://www2.hull.ac.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news\\_archive/2012newsarchive/april/treatmentofbreastcancer.aspx](http://www2.hull.ac.uk/news_and_events/news_archive/2012newsarchive/april/treatmentofbreastcancer.aspx)



# Professor to become Lord after distinguished career

BY NIGEL FISHER  
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**A** former Scunthorpe and Brigg schoolboy is to be made a Lord – more than 60 years after the same honour was afforded to local MP David Quibell. Professor Alexander (Sandy) Trees is being appointed to the House of Lords as a non-party-political (crossbench) peer, following a recommendation by the independent House of Lords Appointments Commission. The internationally renowned parasitologist grew up in Scunthorpe.

After attending Brumby Junior School, he moved on to Brigg Grammar between 1957 and 1964.

He recently retired as Professor of Veterinary Parasitology at University of Liverpool, where he was Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences.

“He entertained Briggensians with recollections of his school life and of staff who helped shape his future

David Brittain

His experience in academic research and teaching in parasitic diseases spans 30 years and he has published more than 140 scientific papers.



HONOUR: Alexander Trees

He has also researched human tropical medicine, including river blindness in West Africa.

Tributes have been paid by David Brittain the retired head teacher of Sir John Nelthorpe School in Brigg, and a former physics teacher at Brigg Grammar.

Mr Brittain taught at Brigg Grammar when Professor Trees was a sixth former.

Professor Trees is a former president of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and editor-in-chief of the major professional journal, Veterinary Record.

He made a nostalgic return visit to North Lincolnshire six years ago when he was guest speaker at the annual dinner of the Briggensians' Association at Elsham Golf Club.

He said he owed Brigg Grammar School a great deal, particularly science teachers Gerry Longden and Jack Moore.

He took part in the first Brigg Grammar School Cairngorm Mountain Expedition, following which he, and other boys, built a practice climbing wall next to the boarding house, fashioned from old telegraph poles.

It was one of the first of its kind at a British school.

“He was a very able student and extremely popular with his peers, many of whom returned to hear him speak at the annual Briggensians Dinner in 2006,” Mr Brittain said.

“He entertained Briggensians with recollections of his school life and of staff who helped shape his future. His love of walking and mountaineering was also developed at the school and he played his part by helping construct a climbing wall.”

After graduation from Edinburgh University, he worked in Africa, in industry and in general veterinary practice, where – like every vet of the time – he built up a store of James Herriot-type stories.

**H**is personal favourite concerned trying to catch Billy the budgie, which was given the freedom of the house by its owner.

Before Professor Trees becomes Lord Trees, a title has to be agreed.

Letters Patent and Writ of Summons documents must also be prepared before he takes his seat in the House of Lords.

Many peers include place names from their past in the titles they select.

MCK

See what the papers said! [http://lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk/news/17-05-12\\_-\\_new\\_peers.aspx](http://lordsappointments.independent.gov.uk/news/17-05-12_-_new_peers.aspx)

**Paul Jenkinson-(1974-1981):** We have recently celebrated Christmas in Sydney with a visit from **Chris Jacklin-(1974-1981)** and his family from Singapore. The weather was, as ever, unpredictable - Christmas Day more reminiscent of an Autumn Saturday in Scunthorpe rather than Summer in Sydney. Nonetheless thoroughly enjoyable time for one and all, including rambling reminiscences of life at Brigg over a glass or two of grape & hop. We startled the owner of the local bottle shop with a sparkling rendition of “Fortitudine” in reply to her (admittedly far more tuneful) Christmas Carols - important to point out this was before we had a drink!! We were able to enjoy New Year's Eve with respective families at the North Sydney Pool under the Harbour Bridge - truly the “box seat” on a Sydney NYE!!





I also heard from **Tim Wright** via the wonders of Facebook - Tim is a surgeon in Newcastle NSW , couple of hours from Sydney - three Briggensians in same state half way round the world probably constitutes a quorum , although unfortunately we weren't organised enough to coordinate a get together.

I will be visiting the UK later in the year to celebrate my 50th - hope to get back to Brigg and enjoy a beer or two - I will endeavour to be in touch nearer the time.

**Mike Cosser-(1961-68):** sends his regards to all his Briggensian friends, and wishes them all good health and God's blessings for 2013.

2012 was a busy year in our household. With our daughter living in London, we were regularly down there helping out, and getting to know our granddaughter. In June, we were also able to share the Queens' Diamond Jubilee celebrations in Battersea Park with my sister **Robina, (BGHS:1958-1965)** who was over from Cairns, Australia, and my brother **Alex (1967-1973)**, and his wife Madeline, who now live in Edinburgh. It was a wonderful family day, and we cheered the various boats on the Thames.

Coventry was an Olympic City, and staged some Olympic men and women's football at the City of Coventry Stadium. I volunteered to become a City of Coventry Ambassador (Olympic games maker), and was on duty in July, for the Olympic Torch relay passing through, and for half a dozen football matches, which was great fun.

The year's highlight came on August 11<sup>th</sup> when we were lucky enough to spend the day in the wonderful Olympic Park, and went to the Olympic Stadium in the evening to watch the athletics. We joined in the cheering when Mo Farah won the 5000m race, and saw Usain Bolt and the Jamaican 4x100m relay team win the gold medal in a new world record time. Quite a night! The photo shows my wife Jenny and me just entering the Olympic Park by the aquatic centre."



**Sally Brownlow-(1980-1986):** In December of last year I finished my 3 ½ year at Uni' and at the age of 43, I am a Newly Qualified Teacher for primary school aged children. I'm sorry I didn't make the netball I had one of my cats at the vets and unfortunately he didn't make it, but all things permitting I will be there for the Rounders (if on a Friday!) and the netball in September.

**Keith Cawkwell-(1973-1980):** I have taken an early retirement package from NatWest after over 32 years service. Of course I'm far too young to retire properly so I am still looking for other opportunities!

**Richard Bray-(1969-1973):** A rare visitor to UK soil in 2012, was Richard Bray, BPharm (Hons), MRPharmS, FRSPH, who spent a couple of weeks here in September, combining his post-graduate studies at Manchester with taking care of some family matters. He called in to reminisce with Dave Brittain, and had spent time with Jack Moore on a previous visit.

Richard studied pharmacy at the University of Bath, specialising in clinical pharmacy and pharmacology, then went on to a successful career in hospital pharmacy around the UK, including two and a half years on one of the country's first 24-hour pharmacy residency services, and later in the Middle East where he commissioned one of the regional military hospitals, a unique challenge. During this time he conducted his first research programme, a novel compound for the management of surgical adhesions, as well as qualifying in Radio-pharmaceuticals (nuclear medicine) at Cambridge.

From his position of chief pharmacist at a regional teaching hospital, he moved to Tokyo, Japan, and joined the international pharmaceutical industry; conducting clinical trials, product management and medical multimedia programmes around the world, finishing as a director of Astra Japan. Following their merger with Zeneca, he left and set up his own company **im5** in Yokohama, providing medical education, database and marketing services to the pharmaceutical and diagnostic product industries; and advanced audiovisual production and technical direction to a diverse range of clients such as Pfizer, Eli Lilly, Sanofi-Aventis, Goldman Sachs, Barclays and KPMG.

Over the last couple of years he has published original clinical research in a Japanese medical journal; produced conferences with such diverse speakers as Bob Geldof, Al Gore and Alan Greenspan, as well as being technical director in Japan of the world's first non sport global 3-D satellite broadcast – for Burberry; Asia's largest financial conference SIBOS 2012, and the Euro fighter (BAE Typhoon) promotion launch, and pioneered the use of IML audience response systems in Japan.

In addition to his healthcare and technical work, Richard is a second-year student on Manchester University's global MBA programme, the oldest student on the course, but finds that his extensive work experience is useful for dealing with the ivory-tower academics, and enjoys the heated arguments that inevitably follow!

Richard is married to Yumi, an administrator at Japan's National Institute of Information and Communication Technology, and they live just a few miles from the company office, located outside of Yokohama. When not working, they are active Master Scuba Divers and underwater photographers, qualified cave divers and veteran squash players. He still plays guitar and is known to occasionally take one of his vintage 'Strats' and play in a Tokyo club until the small hours of the morning. Despite being labelled a 'failure' in languages during his time at Grammar School Road, he has ended up speaking, reading and writing professionally tongues as diverse as Arabic, Danish and Japanese.

"It's been a long, long road since working Saturdays at Boot's the Chemist on the High Street, labouring during summer holidays at the old sugar factory, and skipping school to attend Bardney pop festival, but I've been lucky to have worked and travelled to around 40 different countries with my UK pharmacist's registration and have still got a few more things to do! Jack Moore (Archie to the boys) always used to shout at us, 'It's your little life', meaning 'It's up to you what you do with it!' And I've certainly done that."





**Brendan Thorpe-(1970-1977):** What a shame your message with Dinner date wasn't a week earlier! It came after I had booked a weekend in Munich, so it was too late to amend the booking (without incurring admin costs and revised pricing issues) - so sadly another year will pass without me being at the annual dinner. And the biggest irony is that I was planning to come this year as I have linked up (via Facebook) with some former schoolmates and we planned to try and get a few more to join us and fill a table! Never mind, next year!

No real news career-wise; I'm still Head of Marketing & Communications for Springetts Brand Design Consultants in London. The only thing of possible note is as a result of the interest in French and German which started at the Grammar School and led me to a degree in French and German at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne (many years ago!). A small donation to the university became, last year, a small bursary to encourage a student from the language department to spend some extra time abroad expanding their studies. As a one-off, it was gratifying to help a student further their knowledge and get a better grounding in their chosen foreign language. Other than that... I trust this finds you all well, and perhaps we will catch up in 2014.

**John Cox-(1958-1965):** My news? I retired at the end of 2011 and finally wound up my consulting company in March 2012. I have a couple of non-executive directorships in publishing to keep me occupied. My wife and I have embarked on a plan of visits to all the cathedrals in England – there are 48 at the last count. We 'done' five so far, including Lincoln, this is still the most fascinating architecturally of them all. And I have been researching my ancestors. During my research I encountered **Peter Chapman**, a long-time journalist with the *Grimsby Telegraph* and author of a very fine history of Grimsby. He was a pupil of **Brian Williams** when at Repton

**Mike Pearson-(1961-1968):** In August, I directed a version of Shakespeare's *Coriolanus* for National Theatre Wales in collaboration with the Royal Shakespeare Company for the World Shakespeare Festival which was part of the Cultural Olympic/London 2012. We staged the performance in a disused aircraft hanger at RAF St Athan outside Cardiff; it was a multi-media production with the moving audience wearing radio-headsets and the action projected on large screens from live cameras – rather like directing a live performance, a radio play and two films at the same time! 'The Observer' voted it one of its top ten theatre performances of 2012 and we are hoping to re-stage it in Stratford and elsewhere in 2015.

Then in October, I started full-time Leverhulme Research Fellowship which allows me to do my own research for two years. My project is entitled 'Marking Time: Performance, Archaeology and the City'. There will be a book, public lectures and in 2014 an attempt to re-stage a very physical performance I made in 1974 – on the fortieth anniversary of its original staging. I'm hoping it will be quite poignant to see an old man trying to relive his youth!

I'm still teaching in Aberystwyth University where my wife Heike is also an academic but our home is in Cardiff; never escaped the city I came to as an undergraduate archaeology student in 1968. Hope to see you at the annual dinner. Best wishes for 2013.

**Eric Hair-(1954-1957):** He met Jason Brister, a master at SJN, last year and shared ideals that uniforms should be brought back and he reports that, "We both think that they help to set standards and give a sense of responsibility".

**ED:** As far as SJN is concerned uniform didn't ever go away exceptions are changes in fashion and Sixth Form freedom!

**Mark Leaning-(1970-1977):** I hope you are well; following the Briggensians' Dinner in March when I mentioned that I had left the RN but was unsure about what might come next I thought I'd pass you a quick update.

I mentioned that I was looking to do something completely different and so after exploring a number of options, on 21 Nov 2012, I will be sworn in as the Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers. As one of the Livery Companies of the City of London it was granted its Royal Charter in 1677 and I will be only the 28th Clerk to have held the position. Although still very much involved with the carriage building and carriage driving communities, over the past decades the Coachmakers Company has become more involved in the automotive and aerospace industries while at the same time providing much charitable support across the areas in which it has an interest. My task is to manage all of the activities of the company in concert with the Master, Wardens and the Court, however as I represent a staff of one that means that my duties range from acting as CEO to putting letters in envelopes. Well I did want a complete change and as the company supports many of the things in which I already have a personal interest I am really looking forward to the job.

In March 2013 I will be just over four months in the seat - I'll let you know how it feels when we next meet.

**Peter D Plant-(1938-1945):** **THE DISCONNECTED MEMORIES OF AN OCTOGENARIAN**- September 2012:

**Introduction:** I have been ambushed by **John Slack (Staff 64-68)** who is a fellow member of the St Neots Cambridgeshire Probus club into recording some of my memories of BGS during my years. This is not intended to be an erudite literary presentation but rather the bull points of the formative years for which I am grateful.

**Memories:** I suppose the memories start with a visit to the shop which provided all the school gear in the corner of the Market place. I am sure it was called Walter Shaw. The dreaded school cap and the blue quartered football shirt are the items which stick in the memory. The first year at school was in the single hatted classroom between the open air swimming pool and the double hatted classroom which housed the Prep department (Forms 1&2) it was Form 3A under the guiding hands of Rupert Pratt. He also taught music. We moved on to Form 4A in the then Art room with the large expanse of glass at the northern end of the upstairs corridor over the Physics lab. Tiger Richards was the Form Master, his main subject was Latin. Who can remember their Latin declensions? By this time War was with us and we had several practices moving out to the Air Raid shelters which were under the trees on the northern perimeter of the playing field. I do not recall us having to do the exercise for real. I know that School House had several trips for real during the hours of darkness especially when Hull was being bombed. War time was very busy, we still had school on Saturday mornings with the inevitable three preps from Friday, I was working as an ARP messenger through the Scouts and I was also a Cadet NCO in the Scunthorpe squadron of the ATC. Wednesday afternoons were dedicated to sports. Cricket was my first love nurtured and inspired in the basics by Knotchy Knight. Being short in stature I was ideally suited to be a batsman/wicket keeper and remained in that role for the rest of my cricketing career. I recall we played away games at Scunthorpe Grammar, De Aston Grammar (Market Rasen). QE Grammar at Gainsborough and somewhere in Grimsby or was it Cleethorpes. We had excellent wickets at Brigg prepared by our grounds man with a pavilion which was the envy of many a local cricket club. There was always the challenge to see who could loft a six behind square leg or over the covers, depending which end you were batting, in an attempt to break the glass in the Pavilion clock. I suppose my cricketing zenith was to be awarded the Nelthorpe Bat in season 44. Several of us teenagers who could play a useful game

of cricket were welcomed by the senior cricket sides in the area due to the lack of adult players. Derek Shem Hill followed his Father into the Appleby Frodingham first eleven and I played for Scunthorpe Town Cricket Club. The local cricket league played a high standard of cricket with RAF Hemswell fielding their sports store man who was the late great Freddie Trueman of Yorkshire and latterly Test fame. I had the thrill of playing with him and against him in representative matches albeit at reduced pace.

Progressing through the years 4A with **Tiger Richards** and 5A with **Chips Morris** leading to Lower 6<sup>th</sup>. I did not excel academically but did just enough to keep me out of trouble. Sport was my forte, Football and cricket were high on the agenda with school colours in both sports surprising thing is I cannot recall any names of the cricket first eleven but several names of the football team stick in my memory. **Pat Cabourne, Nick Davenport, Maurice Proctor, Ken Horton and Taffy Snell** spring to mind. Inter house rivalry was quite intense with **George Cabourne** urging Sheffield house to greater efforts. School sports day and the compulsory cross country around the countryside through Wrawby were the highlights. Brickyard lane sticks in the memory. Playing sport often caused me to have long days through missing the school bus and then having to take a service bus from the Market place at 6pm. Home by 7pm, eat, homework then usually on duty for an Air Raid warning until the early hours, snatch a few hours sleep before catching the School bus at 8.15am to start another day

In my early days I remember taking lunch in School House. In later years we ate in the Refectory next to the cricket pavilion with good wholesome food prepared by **Mrs Fairbanks** and her crew. That was supplemented with trips across the road to Mr Clark's tuck shop. Great memories of other members of staff who helped shape this character called me. **Knotchy Knight for his Maths and Cricket. Mr Gaze for English, Jimmy Jarvis for Sports. Ernie Urry for Geography. Mr Henthorn as he then was for History.** I can still remember his ditty for the Kings and Queens of England. Willy Willy Harry Ste etc. Finally the ever present J T Daughton leading this happy and effective organisation succeeded by N C Matthews in '44.

I made my farewells in early 1945 joining the Army and being sent to Manchester University to study Engineering and more cricket, gaining a Half Maroon in 1945. That led to 27 years in the Corps of Royal Engineers retiring on "decimal day" in 1971. I spent a further 16 years in the construction industry retiring for the second time in 1987 as Managing Director of the Plant Hire Company of a major contractor. Fond memories founded on my being eternally grateful for all BGS did in shaping this rebel at heart.

**Brian Thornalley-(1945-1952):** Brian and Brenda spent their careers teaching in Notts and abroad celebrated 50 years of marriage and marked their golden wedding anniversary with family and friends on December 23, 2011.

**The Nottingham Post recorded this as follows:**

The two tied the knot in Woodborough Church in 1961 – when the weather was so cold that the wedding photographer's camera wouldn't work.

The couple are now retired, but both worked as teachers in Cyprus and Notts.

Mr Thornalley, 77, originally of Great Limber, Lincs, went to Brigg Grammar School, Lincs. He carried out national service from the age of 18, mainly at RAF Catterick, North Yorkshire, from 1952 to 1954.

From 1954 to 1957 he trained as a teacher of handicraft – now known as design and technology – at Loughborough College, before going on to teach at Ellis Boys School, Old Basford.

It was in 1959 that the two met, at an amateur theatre group they think was called Nottingham Players. They were introduced to each other by Albert Appleton, a teacher and former amateur theatre columnist for the Post.

"Albert was a colleague from the school, and he was directing a play, so I got involved," said Mr Thornalley. "I saw Brenda, who was painting the scenery, and asked him who that girl in the red sweater was."

Mrs Thornalley, also 77, was born in Woodborough and grew up in Calverton.

After a year teaching English in Denmark in 1951, she worked in an office before training as an English teacher at Clifton College from 1960 to 1962. The two had different hobbies, but shared a passion for seeing the world.

After marrying, they moved to Cyprus in September 1962 and worked in a school at RAF Akrotiri, teaching children of soldiers stationed there. They would use this as a base for many journeys.

Mr Thornalley said: "We travelled to all sorts of places, including Greece, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Libya and Egypt.

"We also saw a lot of Cyprus itself and did lots of camping."

Mrs Thornalley taught at the same base for three years before stopping work to have the couple's first daughter, Maria, in 1965.

In 1968, their second daughter, Rachel, was born. That year they moved to a different base, RAF Episkopi, where Mr Thornalley worked as a teacher until they returned to the UK in 1970.

He then taught in Llandrindod Wells, in what is now Powys, Wales, before going to Hind Leys School in Shepshed, Leicestershire, having moved to Willoughby-on-the-Wolds for the couple to be with Brenda's parents.

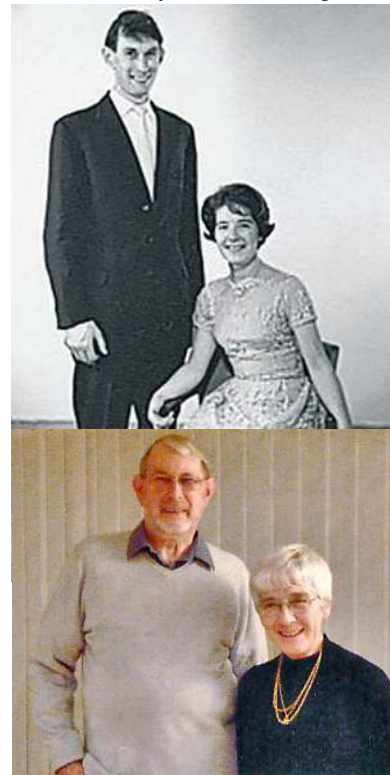
In September 1971 Mr Thornalley came back to the school where he first started his career – Ellis Guildford.

He was there until he retired in 1990. Mrs Thornalley began work at Arthur Mee School, Stapleford, in 1971.

In 1978 she moved to Bramcote Park Comprehensive School, Beeston, where she was deputy head, retiring in 1993. Brenda is a keen golfer and bobbin lace maker, while Brian likes genealogy, woodwork, and woodland preservation work.

Mrs Thornalley said: "We don't share a huge amount of interests, but things have worked between us because we get on so well."

**Peter DJ Campbell-(1924-1934):** wrote at the time of the last Dinner to say that he is 96 years old (97 now) and has entered a care home and would not be communicating with the association any more!! (ED. Is that what happens?) He sends good wishes to all and appreciated the Newsletter and articles especially he appreciated the printing of his own reflection on the Spartan life as a boarder in 1924-1934.





**Walter C Cash-(1927-1933):** wrote to say how he appreciated the item last year by Peter Wade as he was pleased to see his cousin Marguerite Sellars and husband John looking so fit and well ~ what a pleasant surprise when you are 95 years old!

**Jenny Wheeldon (Lewis)-(1969-1975):** We were delighted to see Jenny at last year's Dinner, I think it was her first but hopefully not her last. Jenny is married to Charles and they have two grown up children. She is a Headteacher near Lincoln and the school is doing very well under her guidance.

**George Gurnell-(1932-1938):** George keeps us informed about **Frank Gant (1932-1939)** as they were both pupils from Hemswell Cliff and both in the Remove Form in 1938 and together in the B stream from 1932.

Frank suffered a stroke in 2011 at 90 years and was steadily recovering when last we heard, living in sheltered accommodation in New Zealand.

**Pre-Dinner Meal at the Kar Restaurant, Brigg:**

Proprietor Harry Wu usually looks after the assembled 40s group prior to the Annual Dinner.



Derek Sumpter, George Gunson and Peter Welton with Mickey and Dave Brittain and Harry Wu.

**Who is the hairy granddad?** Be very frightened young Archie!!



**Nick Lonsdale-(1954-1961):** Just reading Briggensian March 2012 and decided to drop a line having emailed **John Bale** a former class



mate.  
Firstly, I don't know whether you are aware of the death of another of my contemporaries, **Dave [Ian] Rose** about 3 years ago in Duncan on Vancouver Island. I met him on my first day at the Bus Station in Scunthorpe getting on the bus for Brigg in 1954, I think. There is also a picture in your record of a reunion

held at my house in Nanaimo with **Dave Rose, Roger Stokes, Graham [Tab] Hunter and Dave Gilby**. I am in touch with Roger who is in Winnipeg and retired, on a regular basis by phone and email.

As for me and my wife Yvonne we are in the process of trying to return to the UK. Christopher my son, who is Canadian by birth, attended Sir John N and lives in Scunthorpe where he works for Tata Steel UK. My wife's family are in the Newark area and this is where we plan to settle. We have no family in Canada, I am now retired and the connections are now more important.



An interesting coincidence occurred not long after my wife[#2] and I were married; her Grandmother came over to see us in Bermuda when I was the Government Chief Surveyor. She wanted to know if I had been to BGS as she used to live in the area many years before. It turns out that a very close friend of hers in Hampshire where she lived now was **Maurice [Digger] Payne**. English Master extraordinaire.

When we do get over there I will no doubt be in the area to see my son and would love to meet up with any of my past BGS friend over a pint.

If anyone is interested, having always been interested in cars and motor racing, I have a very interesting car which I am bringing with me to the UK. The "Beast" as my wife calls it can be seen on the website I just built and published [not bad I think for someone approaching my 3 score and ten] [www.nicklonsdale.com](http://www.nicklonsdale.com)

Finally the pic below is the one I referred to earlier:

This one is of **Jason Andrew** a few years ago also ex BGS at my home on Vancouver Island

**ED emailed back and then:** Thanks for the reply over the years I have met with other contemporaries but having spent over 40 years abroad I have never been to any BGS functions. I exchange Xmas cards with **Ken Proctor** and talk occasionally on the phone to **Jason Andrew** who was 2 years my junior, I think.



I met **Bas Brader** and **Alan Powell** on a couple of occasions; talked to Doc Henthorn in the Supermarket a few years ago when I was over and also bumped into **Archie Moore** at the garden centre on Bigby High Road. My sister lives across the road from Archie. The internet has been a real boon to all who are elsewhere in the world and we have friends and relatives we keep in touch with that way. I was fortunate to get computer literate [not typing and spelliong however] 20 years ago which has saved me a fortune. As you can see by the hat I am committed to the "Beast", my wife just thinks I need committing, period. Old Joke slightly modified "My wife said to me the other day that I love my BMW more than her, I said that was not true, I love our Chrysler Voyager more than her!!!" Fortunately we have a second bedroom.

**W. H Harrison-(1934-1940):** Now of 132 Chichester Road, Cleethorpes, DN35 OJJ. Nick Grafton encountered an elderly chap walking past his house last July - he'd been looking around Wrawby as he'd been a boy there in the twenties and thirties - also an old boy of the Grammar School. He knew all the ancient names and was hail and hearty as was his wife (a bit younger I guess).

**Jane Reason-(Price)-(1975-1982):** Unfortunately the Briggensians dinner always seems to clash with the AGM week at our golf club which ends in a dinner dance and Captains changeover.

Anyway, some news for you is that from the end of March this year I am taking over as Lady Captain of Clube do Golfe da Quinta do Lago in the Algarve, Portugal. I am currently Vice Chairman & Finance Director of the Executive Board but will have to give that up to concentrate on more golfing duties and less financial duties!

I ran the Windsor Half Marathon in October 2012 in a time of 1hr, 43 mins, 20 secs so was pleased with that.

Am still grateful for what everyone at SJN did for me. Best Regards and hope to see you soon. Maybe I will get to the 2014 dinner.

**Mark Evans-():** Mark works for Tata Steel in Scunthorpe and is their Engineering Director, he is also Chair of the Lincolnshire Iron and Steel Institute. Briggensians send congratulations to Mark.

**Donna Fryer-(1987-1994) and Rob Davison:** Congratulations on the safe delivery, weighing in at 9 pounds, of Major Jacob on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

**Tony Beel-(1951-1956):** Is in touch with his cousin **Terry Pocklington-(1946-1951)** who lives in Mississippi and likes to receive his Briggensian by post via Tony.

**Stuart Cranidge-(1959-1963):** The finals of the 2012 Scunthorpe Telegraph Golf Challenge threw up a real surprise for two of the competitors – one from the Grimsby area and one from Scunthorpe. They found themselves enjoying an unexpected reunion 48 years after last being at school together.



They are retired teacher, **Bob Parr (1957-1964)**, who plays at Waltham Windmill, shown on the right here with his golf partner and retired solicitor, Stuart, who plays at Holme Hall. "The last time we saw each other was when we were 17 year old pupils at the old Brigg Grammar School," said Stuart. "We were probably on opposing sides on the football field. While we were having coffee before we teed off, I saw someone sitting at another table whose face I thought looked vaguely familiar. Being curious, I went over to talk to him and discovered it was Bob. Then, even more remarkably, we found out that we and our partners had been drawn to play together."

"It's amazing; I've been to the Old Briggensian Reunions and played at Waltham Windmill but never bumped into Bob," said Stuart.

Bob too was equally surprised. "I was a P.E. teacher before I retired; if I'd been a Maths teacher, I might have been able to calculate the odds of meeting up again after all these years." **ED Why**

[not get him invited to the reunion Dinner in March](#)

Lots of reminiscences took place but obviously they didn't rock Bob's concentration as he and his partner went on to take the runners-up slot. Stuart remarked that it is said that the short term memory goes with age but was pleased to see that his long term memory is still functioning.

## Obituaries

### **Francie Bains-(1919-1923)**

Joined the School on its first day, September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1919, with Miss Lardelli (Headmistress) and Gwen Dent (Head Girl). She was a Senior Prefect and played right wing in the Hockey Team. Also was responsible for the school garden in 1919 and 1920 growing vegetables.

She started teaching in Leeds in 1925 and was married on August 4<sup>th</sup> 1930 at Wrawby Church to George Pickup.

She died in February 2012 aged **106** and is survived by her daughter, Margot, who was born in 1932.

The final hymn at her funeral was 'Fight the Good Fight'

I think she will be the last of the original pupils.

### **Isobel Shepherdson: died 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2012**

#### **From the Chronicle in 1969**

In September 1963, those girls now in the Upper Sixth arrived at school for the first time — so did Miss Shepherdson. That was six years ago, and this Christmas Miss Shepherdson is leaving. Of her first impressions of the school she says, "Very small. At my first assembly, I wondered where everyone was, not realising everyone was there." Apart from this, she was both surprised and pleased to discover how easy it was to get to know people.

Her six years of 'rule' have resulted in radical changes in all aspects of school life. The building itself has grown, with the addition of several new classrooms and a physics laboratory, and, although the number of pupils in 1969 is much the same as it was in 1963 the



Sixth Form had doubled in size. The atmosphere of the school itself has changed — we do not come to school any more merely to learn French, English or Mathematics, but to be educated, and, as Miss Shepherdson constantly reminds us, there is a subtle difference between the two. Perhaps the most noticeable change has been the sharing of many classes in the Senior School with the Grammar School.

During her six years in Brigg, Miss Shepherdson has made a lasting impression. After the appearance of a photograph in a local paper showing Miss Shepherdson in her now famous sports car, she became known as the ‘Swinging Headmistress’, and not without reason, for her outlook could certainly not be called old-fashioned. When asked about her various modes of transport, Miss Shepherdson commented, ‘I do not become attached to any particular car. I like them purely for their efficiency.’

Miss Shepherdson will soon be deserting us for a comparatively huge comprehensive, Kidbrook, in the London area. The school is the first purpose-built comprehensive school in the country and is pleasantly situated in a setting as green as our own in rural Brigg, May we dare to hope that she has enjoyed her time spent in Brigg sufficiently to feel some small pangs on leaving? (We would wish her luck in her new job, but, as she herself has so often told us, there is no such thing as luck!) Nevertheless, we are sure that she will find her new job a rewarding experience, and we are, indeed, reluctant to see her go.

The sad passing of Isobel Shepherdson, on 6 February 2012, prompted some of her past pupils and colleagues to send in their memories of the former Head of the Brigg Girls High School. Miss Shepherdson was Head Teacher from September 1963 to 1969.

**Reflections by Barbara Kernon:** I was Head of Chemistry in 1963 when Isobel came to Brigg and left to ‘be a mum’ in summer 1964. Isobel tried to persuade me to come back part time in 1966 but I was again pregnant! I eventually was persuaded back in 1969 (Sept) and she left at Christmas to be Head at Kidbrook. Although I wasn’t a member of staff for those years I kept in contact with the school and had great respect for Isobel. Sadly due to the floods she was unable to attend the 2007 reunion.

Still around from those days are: Dorothy Bruce – Secretary; Peter Cox – Chemistry; Jill Craig – Acting Head before Ailsa Moore came in 1970; Jean Key – PE and her ‘babies’ who come to the annual dinner, Ceinwen Chaplin etc.

**Dorothy Bruce, who was School Secretary of BGHS from 1963 to 1981,** says the following:

“In 1963 I took up a temporary appointment as Secretary at Brigg Girls High School. The Head at that time was Miss Charlotte Bowden who was leaving to take up a position at Chester College.

We subsequently learned to be ready to accept Miss Isobel Shepherdson as Head, but not for several months to allow her to fulfil her obligation in the Teaching Experience in Leeds. This left us without a Head for two terms- I felt I had to stay at that time, and in fact ended up staying for eighteen years!

On arrival at Brigg Girl’s High School, Isobel told me later that she thought there must be a subterranean suite of rooms to augment the one that could be seen at ground level. At the first assembly she was certain only half the school was present.

All the girls responded to her energy and enthusiasm with a will. It was stimulating for the staff also and exciting for everyone, which continued until her appointment as Head of Kidbrook School, London in 1970.

On leaving Brigg Isobel said “How can a school fail, which is going to combine great talents, individuality, character and strengths of the boys and girls of that area, just south of the Humber, which will never have difficulty in calling me back?”

She was a great, enthusiastic, hardworking, fair person of whom we were all very fond.

Isobel stayed a close friend of mine and we met regularly either in Brigg or at her flat in Blackheath, and wrote when we could not meet. It is my personal sadness to know this can never happen again.”

**Ceinwen Chaplin, a pupil of BGHS** recalls: “I remember her arriving at the school in a white Triumph Spitfire sports car- imagine the flurry that caused. Here was this striking young woman taking over a well established but rather staid Girl’s High School. She had the most fantastic sense of humour and was self deprecating- we all loved her! What a breath of fresh air. I remember her talking about herself to us and referred to her rather large nose as “more of a limb than a nose.” A phrase that has stuck with me all these years. She cut a very dashing figure striding down the corridors with her black gown billowing behind her. I did think she was quite scary but once I was in the sixth form she seemed so much more approachable.”

**Pamela Dolan, also a pupil of BGHS** writes: “So sad to hear of the passing of Isobel Shepherdson, she was so inspirational. None of us can forget seeing her arrival every morning in her white Triumph Spitfire sports car ... such a racey looking car and seemingly so unsuited to the staid role of a grammar school headmistress. Maybe that was her best manifestation of how not to judge a book by its cover! Of course, to us callow teenagers, she seemed “old” but then again, anyone over 25 would have seemed ancient. But she broke the mould of how we thought a headmistress should appear ... and [was] a breath of spring after the more rigid rulings of Miss Charlotte Bowden!! I’d like to bet that she had a wicked sense of humour... the car had to be an example of that...but she could still scare the bejeebers out of us, as when **Cei, Anne Munson, Mary (Green), Ruth (Sunderland)** maybe some others and I were caught gossiping in the boiler room after deciding not to go out into the playground in the rain ...suddenly the door at the top of the stairs opened... we should have realised that as it was opposite her study she was bound to hear us shrieking ... and her be gowned silhouette struck fear in us all... I think Mary, as Head Girl, was hauled over the coals in a fairly mild manner...along the lines of how disappointing our behaviour had been...but I think we already felt that guilt!!

**Brian Williams former Head Master of Brigg Grammar School** wrote to Barbara Kernon saying that he and his wife Margaret remember “a very early occasion, perhaps the first, that we invited Isobel for supper. She came bearing Lego for our son Mark. We had not known of it. This typified the empathy that she had for people; a readiness really to relate with them which is not always to be found among high fliers, among whom in our world she certainly was. She was immediately at ease with the Brigg heads and we felt her loss when she went.

She was an enabler, which is how I remember her and am grateful to her. She made the academic partnership between the High School and the Grammar School possible and fostered a greater understanding and fellowship between us.”

**David Newstead (1956-1963):** Brother Steve emailed to inform us that his brother, David, died in Martham, Norfolk, on August 13, 2012, aged 67.

On leaving Brigg Grammar School David went to Wadham College, Oxford, to study Natural Philosophy (Physics) but switched during his first year there to PPP (Psychology, Philosophy and Physiology). He subsequently trained as a clinical psychologist and worked in this capacity for the NHS for his entire career. He is survived by his wife, Jan, and his two children, Becky and Tom.



**Jack Moore- Staff (1956-1993 )** was a legend in the area and held in the highest regard by all who were touched by his warmth, inspired by his enthusiasm or captivated by his humour.

He grew up in Greenodd near Ulverston and always referred to the Lake District as 'God's own country' ~ it held cherished memories:

Family life with his parents and brothers Marcus and Thomas was very much the outdoor life.

He often told stories of his involvement in *trailing with hounds* and early morning runs dragging the scent lure for the hounds to follow. Oh! And he always got home before they caught up with him.

He was a fine runner and *Briggensian Tony Clixby commented that it was Jack's enthusiasm for the sports side of the curriculum and the great times enjoyed on the sports field that inspired him later on in life to take up long distance running.*

During his period of National Service Jack trained as an Air-Force Navigator mostly in Canada. He enjoyed his time in service and developed a fascination for the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, reading books by the dozen and visiting the war graves and sites in France and Germany on special trips. He had been a fine academic student and decided to take up teaching on his return from service, training in Leeds.

He arrived in Brigg in 1956 to teach Chemistry at Brigg Grammar School, settled quickly and set about learning the teaching skills you only acquire after qualification.

Great friends like Gerry Longden who joined in 1959 but sadly he left us in 2008 and David Jones were able to bring youth to the 'old guard' staff room where the likes of Chips Morris, Doggie Barker and Todd Henthorn had their own seats, reigned supreme and commanded enormous respect.

However, as *Roger Dobson recalls: For those of us in the 6th form in the late 50s, the arrival of Jack Moore and Gerry Longden on the Grammar School staff was a breath of fresh air. The staff at this time was very experienced and successful but there was a need of new blood.*

*Geoff's son Nick recalls: I have fond memories of Jack, and much to thank him for.*

*I remember him for coming on summer camp with the Scouts many times – helping make things happen with that infectious humour of his. And as my chemistry teacher, particularly in his efforts to get me ready for my Cambridge entrance exam, pointing me at books that really helped. I ended up knowing more than he did, I think! I bet he never said that to Jack!*

He enjoyed **basketball** and helped teach pupils to play and *Alan Vickers remembers, "as if it was yesterday, the basketball matches he took us to, always funny, enthusiastic and selfless..... an exceptional man - teacher first but a great role model and of course ultimately a great friend."*

**Hockey** was another love and his long levers gave him enormous reach and a strong hit; arguably he formed the best full back combination outside county circles.

Often, during **Saturday Morning School**, the call would come that the Brigg hockey team was short and some boy would be dispatched home to collect his kit and then go off to play at say Huddersfield or Bradford.

Jack and his father were members of the **Thurston Lodge of Masons** in Coniston and in 1973 Jack joined the Ancholme Lodge in Brigg and rose through its ranks to be **Worshipful Master** in 1986 and he then progressed through the organisation to be a **Provincial Officer and Grand Lodge Master** travelling throughout Lincolnshire and Yorkshire delivering lectures and talks on Masonry. He was so accomplished that he seldom needed notes and could memorise complete talks and lectures. Sorry Jack, I can't do that!

Jack joined **Brigg Probus Club** in 1994 and took on the role of Secretary in '95 serving for 5 years then becoming **President in 2007**.

No matter how enjoyable Grammar School life was Jack also relished the end of term when he could return to his beloved Lakes. Often he would be passing Leeds on his motor bike before he realised how many pints he had consumed with fellow staff to celebrate the end of term. However, as we all said, he had hollow legs!

Jack served some years in the **School Boarding house** and *Keith Smith recalls having been caught smoking at the far end of the field, supposedly out of view, but the tell-tale puffs of smoke rising from beyond the scout hut gave the game away. Jack had observed it all through his binoculars from a vantage point high at the top of school house.*

*Sea-Captain Geoff Foulger says "I recall our nightly games of chess in the house dormitory before lights out; the summer scout camps in his beloved Lakes; the inspiring chemistry lessons; and the cleaning of his Triumph 21 motorbike at weekends which used to earn me a ride!"*

**School staff cricket** was not really his game but staff matches were a social occasion to be enjoyed and I recall Gerry Longden taking him off bowling one night when, **unusually**, he'd taken several quick wickets with his spin; Gerry used the legendary remark "you'll have to come off Jack, your ruining this game"

*Commander Mark Leanings: He was indeed a great character and although I wasn't one of his most dedicated Chemistry students I remember him as a teacher who could capture the attention of the most reluctant pupil, a man of great integrity, someone who could tell a good story and someone for whom everyone had the greatest of respect.*

For those who fell under Jack's spell there were facts imparted in the memory that would last a lifetime:

*Paul Jenkinson in Australia: a sad day but equally one that makes one reflect on his wicked sense of humour.... and I can still recite the periodic table which I think we learned in about 1975 !!!!*

*Last year in a trivia quiz in New York I even beat an American Chemist in a head -to-head challenge recognising elements by their symbols - afterwards he asked me what school I went to - obviously expecting a University - deadpan I simply replied Brigg Grammar School!! - So obviously some of that stuff in the navy blue exercise books rubbed off!*





*Lord Sandy Trees*, I remember Jack with great fondness. *He not only got me an excellent pair of A level grades in chemistry, Grade A and a Distinction in the Special paper – this was when A levels were hard- but he also helped, as did David Jones, to introduce me to the mountains.*

*I have just been made a Life Peer and entered the House of Lords last week. Jack would have been very chuffed and could rightly claim a bit of the credit!*

**Gus Sedgewick-(1960-1968):** Back in April Adrian Broome contacted me: “Sad news I’m afraid - Pauline rang this morning to say Gus had died at the weekend. Apparently he developed diabetes and then heart trouble followed. There were a couple of attacks but he was surviving and actually came out of hospital for dinner with his family on Saturday. They had plans to repeat on Sunday but he didn’t make it and died in hospital.

Gus was in the same year as Adrian, 1960 - 1967 but stayed on for Oxbridge entrance and went up to Wadham College in 1968

**Rob Smart wrote re Gus:** “We were all devastated to hear of the untimely death of Michael (“Gus”) Sedgwick this Easter.

Born in the North East (and a distant Sunderland supporter) Gus was so-called because his Dad worked at the gas works!

Always mature for his age, through Glebe Road School and BGS he became a competent sprinter and, more importantly a star mathematician under Harry Stinson’s mercurial tutelage.

When I joined him after his first year in Oxford he already knew everyone important (including appropriate barmen!) and it was to his great credit that he was elected JCR President at Brasenose College. After University he continued his systems analysis/programming work with British Aerospace (in Bristol) and subsequently worked in the oil industry with BP and Schlumberger in London, Scotland and Australia. He had retired and returned to Essex to be closer to his two sons (and grandchildren) but sadly not for long. He will be greatly missed.”

**Michael John (Gus) Sedgwick-(1960-1968):** died at Easter 2012 after a short illness. He had been undergoing treatment for a heart condition.

Michael was born in 1948. His family moved down to Brigg from the north-east shortly afterwards. He entered the Grammar School from Brigg County Primary in Glebe Road as one of a number of particularly bright pupils in the 1960’s who were destined for great things academically.

He was a high flyer all through school, leaving to take up a place at Brasenose College Oxford from where he emerged three years later with a degree in Pure Mathematics. Although topical now, the fact Michael came from a truly working class background raised few eyebrows then. His first job was with British Aerospace near Bristol, in the days when Concorde was a world-beater, followed by a long spell with BP that saw him move north of the border, to Aberdeen.

It was whilst living there that he met his future wife, Pauline. A further career change – to the giant multi-national technology, management and IT company Schlumberger – then prompted a move to Essex. But as the demands of work began to take Michael away from Pauline and their two sons on regular occasions, in 1996 the family made the decision to go and live in Australia, first in Melbourne, later Adelaide and then Perth, from where he returned in 2008.

Michael is survived by Pauline, his two sons, Paul and Iain, and granddaughters Hannah and Harriet. **Adrian Broome**

**Derek Stones-(1946-1951): Secretary for the Briggensians Golf.** I don’t know if you are aware but sadly Derek passed away this morning emailed **Dave Howson** in mid January. “He was in hospital over Christmas with a water infection and went downhill from there and was in a mild coma most of the time, latterly with a chest infection. 77years old and 25 years as golf section secretary. Derek leaves his second wife Mary and children Sally, Robert and John.”

**Dave Howson-(1953-1960) and Keith Graham sent this tribute:** *It is with real regret that we must report the loss of Derek Stones, secretary of the Briggensians Golf Society for over 25 years. The golfers amongst us will remember him as the “Dogsbody” – a term he often used to describe his position. Before taking on that role in 1988 he was the Golf Society’s captain. Derek combined his working life as Personnel Manager in the local Steel Industry and subsequent retirement with many other interests including bridge, gardening, cruising and golf for which he was captain of Holme Hall Golf Club in the Millennium year. It is fair to say that Derek always displayed a finely honed competitive instinct both at golf and at cards, and rarely failed to feature amongst the winning set, particularly (as his close friends would say,) when he was in charge of the scoring. He will be sadly missed by us all.*



**Roy James Spencer- Staff (1967-1974): Widow Jean writes:** Roy was a member of the English Department at BGHS; he died on 8 Feb. 2011 at the Royal Surrey Hospital in Guildford and is sadly missed by friends and family.

We enjoyed discussing our happy years at Brigg. What remarkable girls! So many of you were remembered by name and character – and sometimes by creative writing ability or spelling facility.

We laughed over memories of staff/school hockey matches, the riding club, crushes on members of staff (of course we knew!), school productions (anyone remember “The Little Sweep”?). We were always impressed by the excellent manners and behaviour of the students.

Prior to joining the High School Roy was Head of English at Market Rasen and felt he should go down in history as the teacher of Elton John’s song-writer, Bernie Taupin.

Always a great family man, he was enormously proud of the achievements of his four daughters in education, banking and musical performance.

As his widow, what I miss most is laughter. Roy had such a wit and a dry subtle humour. His verbal abilities excelled anyone I knew and certainly kept me on my toes!

Roy faced death with great courage and, at the end, slipped away very peacefully.

**George Bullimore Melton-(1923-1928):** The son of George wrote to the Sir John Nelthorpe School in the hope of tracing any news about his biological father and his letter is printed here. If any Briggensian has any information to help with his research then please let me know. His school mates would be long gone I suspect.

George Bullimore Melton was my biological father. I was born, in London, to a lady named Doreen Henry of Brumby Hall, Scunthorpe in 1936. I was adopted very quickly to Robert and Lillian Sharp of East London and brought up in Edmonton, North London. I have the papers to substantiate this. It was only comparatively recently I discovered the identity of my natural parents.

Regarding my father's loss in the war I have uncovered the following information:

Sergeant George Bullimore Melton, RAFVR was the flight engineer aboard a 214 squadron RAF Stirling bomber. It was shot down over Belgium a few minutes after midnight on the morning of September 17, 1942 on its way to Essen in the Ruhr valley, with the loss of five of the seven-man crew. The enemy pilot was a Luftwaffe night fighter ace - Hauptman Walter Ehle, who died himself a year or so later trying to land a damaged aircraft. He was credited with 38 "kills."

My father is buried in Heverlee War Cemetary in Leuven, just outside Brussels, which is dedicated to British war dead by the citizens of Belgium. I was in the UK a few months ago and took a short trip Brussels to visit his grave. It is a beautifully kept fairly small cemetery.

I have never seen a photograph of my father, or my mother for that matter. I am in contact with the RAF to get his service record and hopefully will manage to secure that soon. I will send a copy to you when I do. Ironically I have a picture of the man who killed him. I am trying to get a copy of Ehle's combat report of that particular action but it appears that some records were destroyed as a result of the bombing of Berlin.

I will send anything else I think that may be of interest to you. I have looked at the school website which made me wonder-are there any old photographs that may contain any shots of my father as a schoolboy? If so I would dearly love any copies.

**Robert Hudson-(1934-1939):** Prof. Robert F Hudson FRS (opposite) died peacefully aged 89 on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2012 at St Thomas Hospital, London, Husband of the late Monica; father of Martin, Sally and Mary, grandfather to Claire, Alison and Mark.

He lived in Broughton where his father was head teacher. After BGS he went up to Imperial College London where he obtaining a first class honours degree in 1943. After returning from research in Geneva, he took up the post of Professor of Chemistry at the newly created University of Kent in Canterbury, in the mid 1960's. In 1982 he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society. He lived in Canterbury until his death.

He was known affectionately as Helen Cresswell's uncle Bob.



## **BRIGGENSIANS SPORTS 2012:**

**Rounders and Netball:** On a luckily fine and relatively dry spell in the summer, it was a good turn out for the **Rounders** with the school team being very strong and organised. Former pupils gave a good account of themselves especially in the second half, but after a poor showing in the first half (losing 5-11) couldn't pull it back and the final result was SJN 19 Former pupils 13. A most enjoyable game though.

The **Netball** just got enough to play an entertaining match. Briggensians were convincing winners 16-8.

### **Golf:**

The sad passing of Secretary Derek Stones, recorded earlier, prompts me to remind golfers that the golf section was formed in March 1950. It was obviously formed mainly at the instigation of teaching staff for the Briggensian Society with famous names at the inaugural meeting: A I (Chips) Morris; E Urry; SG Jarvis; AJ Ketterick; A Lyon; E Dodd; R Taylor; H Lings; JC Deebank and RJ Davy. Subscription was 2/6 per year. The first match or Open Day for Briggensians was on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1950 but a trophy was not purchased until 1952, unfortunately, early winners are not recorded.



**Spring Meeting:** This was held at Elsham on 25 March 2012, Yellow Tees, Stableford, and Full Handicap.

Results:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Adrian Gibbons	38 pts	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dave Brittain	36 pts	17 back 9
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ted Cox	36 pts	16 back 9
4 <sup>th</sup>	Nick Good	35 pts	
5 <sup>th</sup>	Roger Holmes	30 pts	
6 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Rivron	28 pts	
7 <sup>th</sup>	Nick Golland	22 pts	
8 <sup>th</sup>	Jenny Rivron	22 pts	
9 <sup>th</sup>	Dave Howson	20 pts	





Stuart Cranidge presented the Trophy to winner at 4.30 pm following an MRI examination at Scunthorpe General Hospital. Derek Stones gave notice of resignation after 2012 replacement required for 2013.

**Autumn Meeting:** We had 12 players for the match, won by Ted Cox following a count-back of the scores. It was a most enjoyable competition and the winner's blazer and trophy were presented by President Dave Brittain.

Derek held the annual meeting downstairs as the conference room was locked.

It was a very sad occasion as it was Derek's last time in charge as he had given notice of his impending retirement at the previous gathering after 25 years service. Derek was thanked for his sterling service as the self-styled "dogsbody" and it was the section's intention to make a more formal presentation at the next Annual Dinner (sadly he will no longer be there).

Ted Cox was duly elected as the new Secretary.

Derek gave out a list of dates for next year: it was agreed to continue the Spring and Autumn meetings on a Sunday as this seems to enable more members to attend.

Officials elected for 2012-2013:

**President:** Dave Brittain      **Vice President:** Peterjon Dodd      **Secretary:** Ted Cox  
**Captain:** Tim Phipps      **Vice Captain:**

**Results:**

Ted Cox	36 points;	Jon Taylor	36 points;	Alan Taylor	36 points;	Dave Brittain	35 points;
Johntie Allcock	33 points;	Nick Golland	33 points;	PJ Dodd	33 points;	Roger Holmes	32 points
Alyson Golland	31 points;	Dave Howson	30 points;	Chris Moore	29 points;	Nick Good	28 points;
Tim Phipps	28 points	Mark Boast	27 points;	Geoff Sells	25 points;	Martin Lawley	11 points



Ted Cox receives the trophy from President, Dave Brittain



Ted in his blazer and cap worn by the trophy winner



Tim Phipps in the Captain's Blazer

**Past v Present Challenge, July 2010**

This was a disaster won by the torrential downpour as the greens flooded and water rose to meet the waiting players. There were plates of sandwiches going to waste and unfortunately a bill awaiting payment without players to contribute. To avoid any possible embarrassment in the future food requirements will be ordered from the bar menu on the day.

**2013 Dates:**      **Spring:** Sunday, 12.00noon 24<sup>th</sup> March 2013      **Autumn;** Sunday, 12.00noon 20<sup>th</sup> October 2013  
**Past vs Present:** Monday 4.00 PM, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2013      **Please put these dates into your diary if you are a golfer.**

**Football:** Christmas 2012- This year's, or should I say last year's, 'Old Boy' Christmas game was the closest ever. For the first time in living memory (well almost) the 'Young Old Boys' won the football. Perhaps the 'Old Old Boys' are now too old and the young ones are reaching their prime, but after all they were taught awfully well!

On to the Britannia where mine host, Phil Clapson, put on a wonderful spread .... Cheers Phil. Despite our best efforts the 'Young Old Boys' won the Pool and the Dominoes but the 'Old Old Boys' hit back by taking the Darts and 5's and 3's. Then, shock-horror, the 'Young Old Boys' won the Boat Race, bad team selection was to blame. The 'Old Old Boys' won the Egg Roulette and the Ping-Pong, setting up a grand finale with the Quiz.

Despite some highly irregular use of mobile phones and employing Mr. Clipson's vast knowledge, the 'Old Old Boys' prevailed by 23 points to 12 ¼ ~ remember 'Young Old Boys' that it is a marathon not a sprint ..... better luck next time.

**Cricket:** The annual Briggensians cricket match did not take place in the summer term due to bad weather.

**Brigg Grammar School  
Brigg Girls' High School  
Brigg Sixth Form College  
Sir John Nelthorpe School  
and staff of either school**

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

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

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At the same time, perhaps you could send some news or old photographs about yourself or school friends for the 2014 Newsletter or the web site ([www.briggensians.net](http://www.briggensians.net))

[illegible]

# Briggensians' Association

## 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner 2013- Booking Form

I **will** be attending the Briggensians' Dinner (**closing date 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013**) and enclose a cheque made payable to the Briggensians Association for the sum of:

£ ..... for ..... places at **£22.00 each**.

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

Name: .....

Years at School: from .....to.....

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 Annual Reunion Dinner on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2013

Contact Name:		Starter			Main		Dessert			Special Dietary Needs
		Leek and Potato Soup	Pâté	Fan of Melon & Blackcurrant Sorbet	Roast Pork	Roast Tomato Filo Tart (v)	Bread and Butter Pudding	Chocolate Tart	Cheese & Biscuits	
Briggensians & Guests	Briggensian's School Dates									If there are any special dietary requirements please note below.

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)