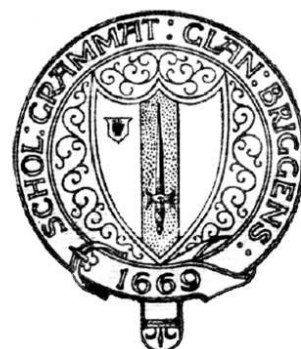


# BRIGGENSIANS' NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2018



Fortitudine.



## Briggensians' Association

### 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Dinner

Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018, 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

£22.50 Elsham Golf Club £22.50

**Guest Speaker: Dr Anne Rae (1986–1991)**

Head of genetics research at Cherry Valley

Booking slips are located on the last pages of this Newsletter

# Dates for your Diary

## 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dinner 2019

Please indicate your preferred month by email  
or complete the review on the booking form-see page 28

### Summer Sports 2018

**School Field, 6.00PM**

**Rounders: Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

**Cricket: Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

### Youth VS Experience

Players and spectators are invited  
to gather afterwards at the  
Yarborough Hunt

### Winter Sports 2018

**School Field, 6.00PM**

**Football and Netball**

**Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> September**

**Hockey- Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2018**

### Youth VS Experience

Players and spectators are invited  
to gather afterwards at the  
Yarborough Hunt

**Football + Pub Games,  
27<sup>th</sup> December 2018–10.30AM start**

### Golf Section

**Spring Meeting**

**12.30PM, Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**Autumn Meeting**

**12.30PM, Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**Past vs present**

**4.00 PM, Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018**

**Requests to play, please contact David Harness: [dave.harness@ymail.com](mailto:dave.harness@ymail.com)  
Tel. 01652 688005**

# Annual Dinner Menu

## Starter

Melon

or

Tomato Soup

or

Ham Hock Terrine

or

Prawn Cocktail



## Main

Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding

or

Herb Crusted Cod

or

## Vegetarian Option

Cannelloni with Spinach and Ricotta

All Served with Seasonal Veg & Potatoes



## Dessert

Raspberry and White Chocolate Roulade

or

Treacle Sponge & Custard

or

Cheese and Biscuits



Tea and Coffee

***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: please note of reply address to the school***



# Guest Speaker 2018

## Anne Rae (1986-1991)

I was born in Scunthorpe in 1974 to Roy Rae, a metallurgist at Scunthorpe Steelworks and Pauline Rae, a French and Latin teacher. At eight months old my parents and elder sister, Elizabeth, and I moved to Brigg where my mother still lives.

After primary education at St Mary's RC primary school, I started at Sir John Nelthorpe in 1986, where I developed a keen interest in Science. On completing my A' levels (at John Leggott 6<sup>th</sup> form college), I went on to Birmingham University to study Genetics, followed by a PhD in the Quantitative Genetics of *Brassica oleracea*, or in layman's term, identifying DNA regions for growth and flowering in broccoli plants.



Chamonix

medicines. As well as the fascinating research into a novel plant, this involved carrying out field trials in the countries such as Uganda, Kenya and Madagascar, where the plant is grown and required for malaria treatment.

During this time I married Tim, who had been my neighbour during my degree in Birmingham. Tim, being a Yorkshireman and a teacher of Sociology at Wilberforce 6<sup>th</sup> form college in Hull, was keen to stay in the geographical area, so when the research side of the Artemisia project at York finished, Tim mentioned to a colleague in Hull that his wife would be looking for a new job. Surprisingly, the colleague mentioned that she knew a quantitative geneticist who was wanting to retire, but that he worked with ducks, not plants. However, I contacted the quantitative geneticist and discovered that he was head of genetics at Cherry Valley Ducks, based at Rothwell and Caistor, and that he had lived in Brigg, just one road away from my parents, for the last 26 years.

I started work at Cherry Valley in 2012 and am now head of Genetics, Research and Development where I oversee the breeding programme for the UK and China. Cherry Valley started as a Lincolnshire family business in the late 1950s, producing the UK's first oven ready duck. Now it's genetic breeding stock contribute to 80% of the world's Pekin duck market; over three billion ducks a

On completing my PhD in 2000, I was offered a job at Southampton University researching the breeding and genetic improvement of poplar trees for use as a carbon neutral bioenergy crop. After seven years enjoying life on the south coast and mountain biking on the Isle of Wight, I took a position as Genetics and Plant Breeding Team leader on the Artemisia Research Project at the University of York. This was a Gates Foundation funded project researching and implementing the improvement of the Artemisia plant to increase the yield of the chemical artemisinin used in Malaria



Barcelona Marathon

year, with the largest market being in China. I found the change from working with plants to ducks, and academia to industry reasonably straightforward and am in the process of introducing genetic techniques that are used in plants, into the duck breeding industry.

Having commuted daily from York for 18 months, Tim and I moved to the village of Tealby in May 2013. Although we miss city life, we enjoy walking in the Lincolnshire Wolds, and also adventuring further afield, running full and half marathons in European cities, mountain hiking, and the occasional holiday in South East Asia off the back of my business trips.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 20017-18**

Another thoroughly enjoyable year as Chairman of the Briggensians committee has passed. Many thanks to those who have given their time, energy and enthusiasm to sitting on the committee to plan the Briggensians' activities. I would encourage others to join us as we are always looking for new members to bring fresh ideas to the strong group already in place.

Unfortunately, this year we have lost a number of Briggensians. Please join me in sending our collective condolences to all the families and friends affected by such loss. In particular three notable losses this year are: **Peter Cox- Chemistry Teacher, Philip Wright-(1964-1971) and tragically Georgia Bones who was just embarking on her university degree.**

The annual dinner 2017 was again a fabulous evening. Thank you to all those that put in additional hours to make that such a success. Special thanks goes to the speaker Chris Moore.

I regrettably cannot attend this year's event but feel certain that it will be a superb night and a great reunion of old friends.

The school and the sixth form have had another brilliant year for exam results. Congratulations to all involved and in particular to the Head, Mr. Biglands, his staff and all the students.

The sports, as always, were very well attended and as competitive as they were enjoyable.

I would remind you to look ahead to 2019 because it will be the **350<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of the founding of the school. There will be celebrations and I urge you to keep looking at the Facebook and SJN/Briggensians websites so that you know what is happening and please support your Chairman for 2019, Clive (Tom) Thompson. **Ben Pepperell**

## **Headteacher's Report 2017-18**

After a very fast-paced first term, I am pleased to be sharing this 2018 Headteacher's report with you.

### **Growing in number**

In June 2017 I received confirmation that Sir John Nelthorpe School had received 159 'first choice' applications for our new Year 7, which for the first time in over a decade means that the year group was oversubscribed. In total, there are 677 students on roll; 333 boys and 344 girls. This time last year, there were 626 students on roll. We are growing quickly. We have a duty to try to provide places for any family who wishes for their child to attend this wonderful school but we remain equally committed that we must not lose our 'small school' appeal and qualities, regardless of cohort size.

### **Examination Success!**

Staff and students at Sir John Nelthorpe School have celebrated another successful set of GCSE & A-Level examination results, continuing our consistently high performance, year on year.

Yet again, our 6<sup>th</sup> form students achieved excellent **A-Level grades**, representing the culmination of a tremendous amount of hard work from both the students and staff. **Our pass rate of 100%** has bucked the National trend showing the fantastic response of our students to the new, more demanding A-Levels. This pass-rate is league-topping for this region. The national average is (97.9%). The percentage of our students achieving the top A\*-C grades was 80.6%, again beating the national average of 77.4%. There were some outstanding individual performances including George Thomas, Maria Cavill, Stefani Salvatierra and Katie Willerton who all achieved A\*AA. All of our students worked extremely hard, with the support of their teachers, with the overwhelming majority obtaining their first choice of University.

There was a lot of uncertainty with this year's GCSE examinations. Not only, as has been widely publicised, were they harder than in previous years but students and staff have also had to contend with the uncertainties of

the new (9 – 1) grading system which replaces the outgoing A\*-G system. A fantastic total of **74% of our GCSE students achieved a ‘good’ (4+) pass** in the new-style English and maths examinations. A 4+ pass was recorded by 84% of pupils in English, whilst in maths, the 4+ figure was 77%. As if that wasn’t fantastic enough, 48% of students gained the ‘strong’ (5+) pass in English and maths combined. A tremendous performance indeed. Using the legacy ‘% A\*-C including English and maths’ headline measure, **the school is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> out of 134** non-selective secondary schools across 4 regions (North Lincs, North East Lincs, Lincolnshire and Hull and the East Riding); a truly breathtaking achievement, I’m sure you will agree.

I am incredibly proud of our students and am so pleased that their hard work and dedication has been rewarded with these excellent results.

### **School Improvements (Capital Investment)**

We have now completed the second year of North Lincolnshire Council’s capital school improvements. Refurbishment work took place over the summer break with the replacement of the roof on the library (the original and oldest part of the school) as well as a complete replacement of the electrical and heating systems in the ‘boarding house’ which accommodates the maths faculty as well as our Special Educational Needs department and Student Services. In addition, the entire lower school has received a much needed face-lift with its corridors being painted, resulting in a fresh and cleaner learning environment. Many students have already commented positively on the impact this has had at lower school.

### **School Council and School Funds**

Each new academic year brings with it a new School Council body. The School Council is a body of students elected by their peers to represent the views and opinions of the students and to discuss matters formally at termly meetings held with senior staff and governors.

Last term saw students undertaking their election campaigns as they stood for election as Form Representatives. Those successful candidates (one boy and one girl per tutor group) then stood for election as the representative boy and girl for their year group, as School Council members. This process culminated in the inauguration of the school council body for this academic year on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October with Mr Tom Nelthorpe (Vice Chair of Governors and Chair of the Nelthorpe Trust) providing an inspiring speech to start the year. We look forward to the School Council’s achievements over the coming months.

Each year we seek voluntary donations towards the School Fund. This money has helped the school in the past to fund extra-curricular activities and resources which will have benefitted the students. The School Council members identify how and where to allocate funds each year.

Last year, we received **£600** in total through contributions. This enabled us, through the Student Council, to purchase six more waste bins to help keep our outdoor environment tidy and litter-free as well as three outdoor benches which are now well-used at break and lunchtimes and provide a little comfort for students to sit and enjoy their free time. The total cost of these purchases was actually £972.

I am sure you will appreciate that all schools are facing ever-reducing levels of funding, which means there is insufficient money to meet even the most essential requirements for young people. As a result, providing even basic resources such as the benches referred to above are now only possible through contributions and donations.

The School Council vision is **‘to improve our outdoor environment so that it fosters a sense of calm and peacefulness for students to enjoy’**. Our school has been ‘un-loved’ due to a lack of funds for far too long, and it shows! The whole school (both inside and outside of the classroom) is a learning environment with the potential to inspire even better learning outcomes for all. The School Council’s target this year is to raise enough money to purchase at least another 3 benches which more students can benefit from. They have aspirations to achieve much more however, and they will do their best with the funds available to them.

If you feel you would like to ‘give a little’ back to the school, it would be gratefully received. Cheques should be made payable to ‘SJN School Fund’. Your contribution really will go towards giving all students at the school now and for the future, a better learning environment.

I would like to wish you all the very best for 2018 and I look forward to seeing many of you at the annual dinner.

**R. Biglands**



# Brigg Sixth Form Prizes 2017

Art & Design	BSF Subject Prize	Katie Rooker
Art & Design	Nelthorpe Foundation Prizes	Jamie Jickells
Biology	Derek Appleyard Memorial Prizes	Hannah Bowers
Biology	BSF Subject Prize	Maria Cavill
Business Studies	Henthorn Prize	Rhiann Chatha
Business Studies	BSF Subject Prize	Stefani Salvatierra
Chemistry	Nelthorpe Foundation Prize	George Thomas
Chemistry	E F Brown Memorial Prize	Katie Willerton
Computer Science	Vale Parents' Association Prize	Alex Robinson
Drama	Production Prize	Joseph Shepherd
English	Spilman Prize	Alicia Morley
English	Briggensians Prize	Charlotte Beaumont
English	BSF Subject Prize	Megan Wells
English	BSF Subject Prize	Maria Cavill
Geography	BSF Subject Prize	Stefani Salvatierra
History	Taylor Prize	Tom Donnelly
History	Sergeant Prize	Janos Daxner
ICT	Vale Parents' Association Prize	Emily Sutton
Mathematics	Briggensians Prize	Georgia Bones/Stefani Salvatierra
Mathematics	BSF Subject Prize	Connor Hobbins
Media Studies	Vale Parents' Association Prize	Lauren Sharpe
Music	Morris Prize	Oliver Charles-Lee
Physical Education	BSF Subject Prize	Katie Willerton
Physics	Stephenson Prize	Luke Jollands
Physics	Nelthorpe Foundation Prize	Jamie Jickells
Product Design	BSF Subject Prize	Nathan Marshall
Psychology	BSF Subject Prize	Charlotte Glossop
Psychology	Vale Parents' Association Prize	Rhiann Chatha
Lardelli Prizes -	For Progress & Effort in -	Amy Jacklin
	Contributions to Brigg Sixth Form	Lauren Sharpe
		Emily Sutton
		Sophie Harsley
		Charlotte Beaumont
Vale Parents' Association Prize	For Progress	Nathan Marshall
		Amy Johnson
		Morgan Walker
		Kyle MacDonald
Howitt Award	For Achievement	Katie Willerton/George Thomas
Cusworth-Preston Award	For Achievement	Luke Jollands/Stefani Salvatierra/ Maria Cavill
Head Boy	Vale Academy Sir John Nelthorpe	Morgan Bullock George Thomas
Head Girl	Vale Academy Sir John Nelthorpe	Sophie Harsley Maria Cavill

# Lower Sixth Prixes 2017

Art & Design	Jason Walker
Fine Art	Molly Baker
Biology	Harvey Stevenson/Wojtek Dobrowinski
Business Studies	Monica Salvatierra/Tom Wilkins
Chemistry	Harvey Stevenson/Wojtek Dobrowinski
Drama	Heather Peers/Alex Nightingale
English Literature	Molly Baker
English Language	Heather Peers/Holly Mumby
Geography	Monica Salvatierra/Alex Nightingale
History	Alex Nightingale/Molly Baker
Computer Science	Kai Tindall/Stan Brown
Mathematics	Harvey Stevenson/Tom Fowler/Monica Salvatierra/Kai Tindall
Media Studies	Greta Matyziute
Music	Kenza Hardy
Physical Education -	Luke Hargraves/Holly Mumby/Charlie Dolling
Physics	Wojtek Dobrowinski/Stan Brown
Product Design	Will Clark/Job Robinson
Psychology	Rachel Sladen/Daisy Smith
Sociology	Daisy Smith/Caitlin Almond
Progress and Effort in general studies:-	Esther Rands/Rheannon Green/Jason Walker/Tom Fowler/Caitlin Almond

## Web Site:

I am very grateful to Jonathan Woodliffe who has continued to update and improve the Briggensians' web-site.

You may wish to look at the site that is to be found at: [www.briggensians.co.uk](http://www.briggensians.co.uk) and it has a link to the splendid Sir John Nelthorpe website.

## Facebook: "The Briggensians Association"

The Facebook site continued to inform members but needs more posts. Posts will be available to everyone to use if you have news and 'likes' will help to spread the word. Alternatively, you can email me and I will arrange the post for you. If you see something that should not be on our site then please email me so that I can take action as editor.

## Celebrations 2019:

Please be aware that 2019 is a very special year for the school and there will be celebrations to mark the 350<sup>th</sup> year since the school's foundation in 1669.

The Briggensians Association needs to reflect this milestone in its activities. Please keep your contact details up to date so that you can be informed of planned events. If you plan any celebrations or anniversaries yourself then do let us know.



# Obituaries

**Chris Gibbons (1957-1964):** Chris was born on 16/7/1946 in Scunthorpe and attended BGS. He represented the school at soccer at all levels, he was a very strong and skilful centre half.

In 1967 he went off to Liverpool University where he studied history and politics.

After graduating at Liverpool, he studied town and country planning in Glasgow. He worked as a town and country planner in Lincoln, Warrington New Town and finally Barnsley.

He changed direction in 1986 and bought a run-down hardy-plant nursery in Wood Enderby, near Boston. He was one of the founder members of The Hardy Plant Society that is still thriving. He built up the nursery and renovated the attached house.

He retired in 1998. In 2007, Chris, and his wife, Joan, moved to Dancevoir, a small village near Dijon in France where he spent his days restoring a lovely but near derelict French country house.

They had a daughter, Katie, who has 2 children and lives in Surrey.

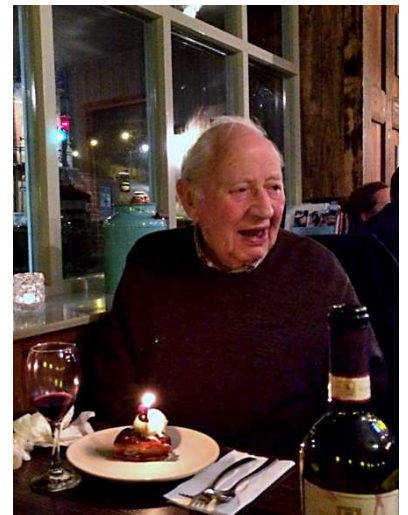


**Stuart Dickinson (1958-1960):** Lincoln Crematorium was full of friends and relatives of Stuart to celebrate his life. Stuart was the dearly beloved husband of Shirley. He was brother to Helen and the late Henry. His funeral service took place on Monday 27th November and mourners were encouraged to wear something colourful.

[Thanks to Eric Hair for the information.](#)

**Robert (Bob) Conboy-(1941-1951):** Old Briggensians will be saddened by the news from son Peter that his father, Robert, passed away on 5th October after a short battle against renal cancer. He would have been 85 on 15 October 2017. The picture shows him enjoying his 84th birthday.

Memorial Service was held at Stamford All Saints on Friday 20th October and afterwards at Stamford Town Hall.



**Peter Douglas James Campbell (1924-1934):** Yvonne Campbell emailed to inform us that her father-in-law, passed away on 11/1/2018 at the grand age of **101**, just one month short of his next birthday.



He was mentally alert and organised to the end and had asked us to get in touch with a number of people in the event of his death, one being the secretary of the Old Briggensian Society, Sir John Nelthorpe School, Brigg.

He would have attended Brigg Grammar in the mid-1920s ~ early 1930s. and would have been living with his aunt at Elsham as he was orphaned when very young.

Peter enjoyed his time at school and played an active part in sports and we have old photos of him with his chums from those days. His fantastic memory meant that he told us stories about his youth including memories

of school trips.

One of his friends was Eric Kemp, who became Bishop of Chichester. In recent years, Peter read the bishop's biography to see if he was mentioned as he went with Eric on a European holiday when they were teenagers. I think there was scant mention and possibly not by name. Peter laughed and said that in a very old diary he had written whilst at Brigg there was a funny entry stating: "Kemp found a pin in his sausage!" he chuckled and said that wasn't in the book either!

He went on to study history at Lincoln College Oxford after winning a county scholarship open to Lincolnshire students. He then went on to become a tea planter in India. Peter joined the army in India and became a Captain with a brief spell as Major. He returned to overseeing tea plantations in India and then Burma, getting married in 1955. He would have stayed overseas with his family but for the military coup in Burma in 1962.

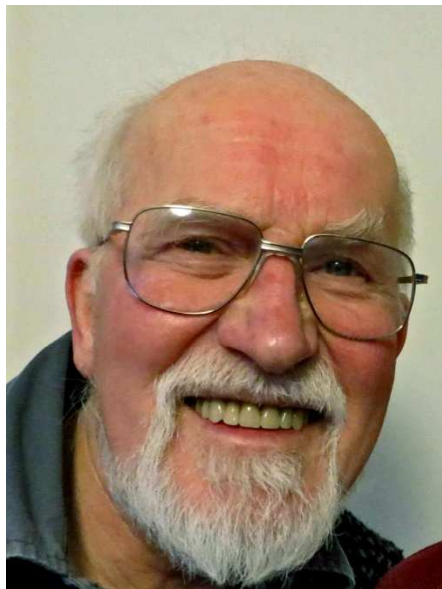
He was well travelled and taught himself conversation skills in a number of languages. He and his family then lived in England and he eventually became a School Bursar until retirement. He always had fond memories of his life overseas and his wife wrote a book about their experiences.



### **Peter Cox- Chemistry Teacher**

Peter Cox died suddenly. He was born 28th March 1937 and died 5th March 2017 just short of his 80th birthday and a funeral service was held on Thursday 23rd March at Pocklington Methodists Church.

Peter will be remembered as a very good schoolmaster, fine Chemist and Brigg Hockey Club player and umpire for both the men and women's teams. He left Brigg when his wife, Ann, took up a Methodist Ministry.



**Philip Wright-(1964-1971):** Philip was a boarding student at the Grammar School from 1964 until 1971. His family lived in Cherry Tree Rise in Scotter. Within a few days of starting BGS Philip became known as Chas after the Grimsby Town goalkeeper at the time, Chas Wright. That particular Chas Wright was born in

Scotland but played one game for the Hong Kong national side. Maybe Philip knew about this and wished to follow his namesake one day.

The Grammar school was very science and maths orientated, and although Philip had a wonderful grasp of all the sciences, he was much more suited to the arts.

His displeasure with chemistry was most skilfully shown in an experiment in which we were to drop a piece of sodium into ethanol to produce hydrogen. Something probably not allowed these days. The sodium was carried very gently into the lab, in a jar, immersed in oil as Sodium reacts dangerously with air and water.

All went well until the experiment was over. .. The sodium was supposed to be put carefully back in the jar on Mr Longdon's desk. Philip decided to throw his piece in the sink.

Immediate combustion. He panicked and first turned the tap on, which created more flames and so grabbed the nearest beaker, which contained ethanol, and threw that in the sink to try and douse the blaze. Before the school burnt down our very quick thinking teacher managed to cover the inferno with a fire blanket. Philip had turned this into the best chemistry lesson ever.

Philip was a very good sportsman. He represented the school in swimming and football. Later he played football for Scotter United and The White Swan Pub, both from the village where he was brought up.





During the school holidays, Philip spent weeks on the Norfolk Broads with his family. Fishing, motor-boating and sailing a Mirror class dinghy.

After leaving school Philip took off down to London, obtained his degree in planning from Southbank Polytechnic and married Helen. On their return up-north, they bought a house in Kirton Lindsey. Philip working as a town planner based in Brigg.

Philip kept a set of drumsticks under his chair, and whilst playing cards or eating a meal, he would at any unannounced moment, whilst listening to one of his favourite tracks, leap up from the table, dive under the chair, grab the sticks and start drumming along with the beat. Philip REALLY loved music. Then in 1981, just before the Humber Bridge opened, which Philip was very involved with, Helen and Philip, moved to Hong Kong for Philip to take up a job with the Hong Kong government in Land development and urban renewal.

Their two daughters Kate and Alice were born in Hong Kong. They are both now back in the UK, and married. Philip and Helen moved back to their home in Chinnor in 2003.

Philip played bass guitar with Prog Floyd, The Faith Healers and also with folk and ceilidh bands.

Back in the UK for the next ten years Philip was a research fellow at University College London.

He was always very proud of his northern roots. Philip, whether in Hong Kong or Chinnor, knew more about the school's old boy network, North Lincolnshire events and far more about Scunthorpe United than ever his old friends that lived locally.

He had the most infectious laugh and was very quick witted. He would have made a great script writer. Whatever he did he was passionate about it.

Listening to music, playing in the band, art, sport, holidays, town planning and of course most of all, family.

We have lost a very dear friend, the most generous, funny, and an incredibly talented man. **Tribute by Alisair Ramsay**

**Georgia Bones (2017):** Sadly Georgia passed away suddenly but peacefully, surrounded by her loving family, on Monday 23rd October 2017, aged 19 years. Precious, beloved and loving daughter of Sally (nee Thompson) and Neill Bones who both attended the SJN School.

She was just embarking on her university course to study Mathematics at Sheffield Hallam when struck down by meningitis and poignantly she features in the Sixth Form Prize List. We send our condolences to the family and remember that she was the niece of Clive (Tom) Thompson our Chairman for the annual dinner.



**Marie Corney (Thurman):** forwarded by **Joyce Lunn (Easton) 1949-1956.**

On 22nd of December 2016 Marie Corney (Thurman) died suddenly while in Fuerteventura, Canary Islands aged 78. Marie was the loving wife of **Alan Corney-(1950-1957)** who attended BGS.

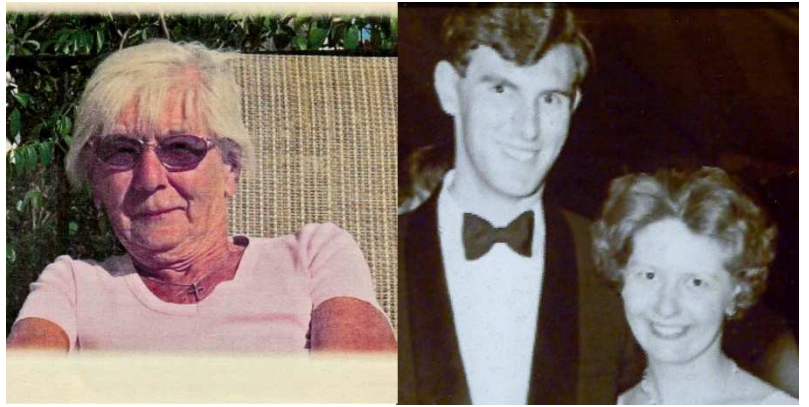
Marie, born in Ilkeston Derbyshire, moved to Brigg when her father was posted to the Nat West Bank in the Market Place. She became a pupil at BGHS.

As members of the Old Time Dance Club, which met in the Parish Church Hall, Alan and Marie began a long and very devoted partnership. Marie was a very talented Maths student. She left school and went to work at Lloyds Bank.

After Alan's graduation from Keble Oxford in 1961 they moved to live in Oxford. In 1964 they moved out to the States for 2 years during which time Marie began a University Maths Course. On returning to Oxford she went as a mature student to Somerville completing a maths degree in 1969.

Marie had led a full and very active life; her popularity acknowledged by the many local people who attended her funeral held in the church at Adderbury near Banbury where they lived in retirement.

I also attended, (along with my husband), in order to mark our friendship at BGHS, as did others which included Betty Morwood, Lowri Spurr and Barbara Watts. We had each kept in touch since we left school around 1956. The many reminiscences of their Brigg connection were appreciated by Alan and Marie's family and as we remembered Marie with affection.



**Valerie Parish (nee Taylor),** a pupil at Brigg Girls' High School during the Second World War in the 1940s has died, aged 86, in Lincoln, where she lived for many years after leaving Brigg - her home town.

Husband, George Clifford Parish, who died in 2007, was a former Brigg Grammar pupil from Willoughton.

The couple married at St John's Church, Brigg. Valerie worked as a clerical officer in banking and with the Post Office.

Her funeral service was held in Lincoln on January 2nd, 2018, with friends and family donating a significant sum to the RAF Benevolent Fund, Valerie's husband having served at RAF Hemswell.



## NEWS OF OLD BRIGGENSIANS 2017/18

**Committee Members:** If any Briggensian living locally would be willing to join the committee then please contact Helen Cresswell at: [hcresswell@westrum.co.uk](mailto:hcresswell@westrum.co.uk) or tel: 01652 653216. There are only 3 meetings annually and they last approximately 1 hour so the commitment is not great but the value of your opinion to the association is huge. **Please help if you can.**

*I would like to thank all those who have contributed towards this Newsletter and remind Briggensians that they should advise me of any email address changes so that they continue to receive notifications about events, news and activities of the association.*

*If anyone is in contact with other Briggensians who do not receive our emails please encourage them to contact me so that they can be added to the circulation list.*

*Best wishes to all for 2018 and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Dinner.*



**Walter Cash (1927-1933):** Congratulations to Walter on reaching his 101th birthday. Walter lives in Scarborough and John Hastings visits from time to time. Walter send greetings to all Briggensians.

**John Hastings (1961-1966):** John brings news of his wife Sylvia who is in-between treatments for her cancer and they see the specialist again in February. We all send our best wishes and hope that things are being contained so that she can continue singing in the local choir.

**Helen Cresswell (Staff 1975-2009):** A very busy year for me this year with the new facilities at the Recreation Ground. I have been heavily involved in getting the new look tennis club off the ground and running Back 2 and short tennis sessions. Then I had the honour of being made Brigg Hockey Club president. I organised two reunions one for my school friends at Louth, meeting up after 50 years and then another with my former college friends. In between these was my volunteering stint at the World Para Athletics Championships held at the Olympic Stadium in London. I worked in the medals and ceremonies team which was very interesting and I met a number of outstanding athletes. The year was rounded off by being awarded an Honorary BEd from the University of Greenwich.



### Calling all those who were in the 1961 intake at BGS or BGHS.

Especially to all those who left in 1968 the ideal way to celebrate the special 50 years anniversary would be to attend the Annual Dinner on Saturday, 17th March 2018.



Nev' Miller ([neville.miller032@sympatico.ca](mailto:neville.miller032@sympatico.ca)) is organising this fantastic reunion and get-together and if you would be interested in attending such an event or want to know more, then do contact him.

He's already unearthed a few names from the past via LinkedIn etc. but has lost touch with several such as David Hall (Abs) despite having spoken with him in 2009 when they staged a Baysgarth reunion.

Please do email Nev' even if you cannot attend this reunion in 2018 as there may be other occasions that are more convenient.

**Clive (Tom) Thompson (1975-1982):** As many of you will know Tom had a terrible accident whilst skiing last year when an inexperienced skier crashed into him, shattering his leg. He received excellent emergency surgery to pin the pieces of bone back in place using metal and screws. Regrettably the bone growth has still not properly bridged the pieces even after 11 months. It is very



slow progress and we send our best wishes to Tom for a more positive outcome when he has more scans and another consultation in February.

He will be chairing the Dinner assuming he is not back on the operating table!

**Alan Winstanley (1968-1975):** It's great to be here! Many of you won't have heard of EPE -- we're a British magazine called *Everyday Practical Electronics* which is dedicated to educational and hobby electronics. Enjoying a loyal readership around the world, our foundations are in the British magazine *Practical Electronics* which was established in 1964, when PE was spun out of the hobby journal *Practical Wireless*, in order to explore advances and applications in transistors and new logic circuits. The magazine would publish many exciting, memorable and highly advanced projects, often designed by best-of-breed engineers and academics, and many constructors remember these projects fondly to this day.

Eventually a smaller sibling magazine called *Everyday Electronics* (EE) was created in the 1970s by the same team, publishing modest transistor and IC projects that a beginner could construct

with confidence, while learning at the same time. We take our responsibilities very seriously and know that many aspiring young electronics engineers have passed through our hands, building projects, and following our magazine series on their way to carving out a great career for themselves.

Both the PE and EE magazine titles went their separate ways before merging to become **EPE** in the 1990s under the auspices of its current publishers, Wimborne Publishing Ltd. Our original *Teach-In* tutorial series is still with us today, playing an extremely valuable role as a supported, monthly educational series for hobbyists. Its syllabus changes each year, and test equipment, the Raspberry Pi, basic Arduino projects and analogue electronics are just some of the topics *Teach-In*'s writers have covered more recently. Most projects are now sourced through our close relationship with Australia's *Silicon Chip*.

I've written for the magazines since I was a 1970's schoolboy, when I discovered *Everyday Electronics* for the first time. I would cycle to the garbage dump and return laden with old circuit boards, radios, motors and a motley array of fascinating spares to investigate and take apart, much to the despair of my Dad. Maybe I was an engineer in the making! It was the discovery of *Everyday Electronics* that filled in myriad gaps in my knowledge and soon I was hooked on the subject. I was fascinated by components and soldering circuits together, and also I really enjoyed fabricating enclosures and the hardware presentation, feeding my fascination for control panels and instrumentation. I seldom built anything from the magazine's blueprints though, and instead I offered my own modest electronics projects for publication, earning some decent teenage pocket money at the time. My schoolteacher was delighted (if not relieved) that I might have found myself a fruitful vocation on leaving school after all!

Electronics, and especially authoring, would become my night job in tandem with a totally different daytime career pursued in business, industry, design and engineering that lasted a good 20-odd years before I went full-time freelance as a technical author. I could not have known that I would end up working for the very same magazine which is amongst the few remaining hobby electronics titles still on sale today. At the peak of my writing career I either wrote or co-wrote up to 50% of the magazine's contents and I enjoyed most of all the challenge of getting projects working and written up, circuits drawn and prototypes built and photographed, ready for publication (hopefully).

It was also in the 1990s when I tackled that new-fangled Internet thing for the first time, when the Internet was Officially Hard To Do (in Britain anyway), the web barely existed and nobody understood it anyway: I recall the blank looks of fellow patrons when I was in a village pub, circa 1995, explaining how I could plug my home computer into a phone line and send messages around the world for next to no cost. There were very few ISPs in





Britain back then, and I had to learn a lot of new stuff pretty fast. After much struggling I loaded my very first web page onto my much prized 100kB of free CompuServe web space, and things went from there. During this era I spent a lot of time on Usenet, grappling with a DOS-based newsreader and it's in the sci.electronics newgroups that I bumped into one Clive Maxfield (call him Max, he insists), a fellow Brit who'd originally lived just 70 miles away from me in Sheffield, England, before he moved to the US. Twenty years later Max still has a close involvement in EPE Magazine, and he co-managed EPE's USA-based online operations for some years.

I also owned a busy web design agency for a good spell, which embraced my experience in business and technology. It was therefore a perfect fit to adopt the role of EPE's Online Editor 20 years ago in addition to filling one or two columns every month. Now I hope our new forum presence generously hosted in a little corner of EEWeb will carry our enthusiastic readership forwards as we continue to evolve.

My 45 year self-taught career has been a real blast along the way and today I kid myself that I'm now semi-retired. Historically, I wouldn't call myself an engineer, but more of a facilitator, having worked in a very wide variety of industries at all levels during my lifetime. Most of all I enjoy my writing and reader interaction, and I'm highly conscious of the responsibility faced when dealing with students, hobbyists and amateur electronics enthusiasts, at least some of whom I hope will go on to embrace the exciting world of electronics engineering that's just over the horizon. That's the great thing about technology: there's always something new to do, and there's never been a more exciting or rewarding time to be involved with electronics.

**David Copley (1963-1969):** David got in touch to say that he had neglected to make me aware of his address and email change. David is now in Nafferton, Nr.Drifffield in East Yorkshire. If you would like to contact him then email me and I will put you in touch.

*If only more Briggensians would remember to send changes then we wouldn't lose so many contacts each year.*

**Mike Spencer (1950-1957):** Mike emailed to say, "As usual I lose track of a great many people. Quite recently, I came across a copy of Charlie Windass' mother (who worked for a while with my Aunt Mary).

I wonder if you would be so kind as to send it on to Charlie in case he hasn't got it with my best wishes and tell him that Aunt Mary is still plodding on at the tender age of **101**. This July should see her 102nd.

*Not sure which is his mother but a great picture.*

**Tim Fell (1966-1973):** Now retired as a North Kelsey farmer, he walked the length of Britain for a cause close to his heart- stammering. Tim has suffered from the speech condition since his days at Brigg Grammar School and is now Chair of the British Stammering Association, a post he took up last year.



Tim set off from John O'Groats on 26th July and

reached Lands End after over one thousand miles of 'downhill' walking on September 21st, meeting and talking to people about stammering along the way. He did not travel in a straight line either! One abiding memory will be the support he received along the way.

"From the moment I stepped off the train at Wick people were incredibly friendly and helpful. Nicolle Cameron, SLT for The Highland Council, met me at the station



People I met along the way all wanted to know what I was doing. They all say I must be either mad or committed to the cause. Can't you be both?

I normally set off at about 9am and aimed to arrive at the next stopover between 4 and 5pm."

Tim's nearest point to home was when he passed through Doncaster where school friend Robert Taylor and fellow Briggensian Peter Thompson from Caistor, who also suffered from a stammer when at BGS, joined him for his walk into the town. Then it was over the Pennines to Manchester and down to Birmingham where he met members of local associations. Briggensians David and Judy Wood met up with Tim at Taunton.

Tim's first pair of 'Moab Ventilators' wore out but his second pair lasted the rest of his epic adventure. Tim met up with Preet Gill MP and the UK's first female Sikh MP and together they discussed awareness of stammering and how young people in particular can be supported.

The downhill stretch to Lands End was completed in time, two months after he started. You can read Tim's blog recording his walk in full on the 'British Stammering Association' website.

*Thanks to Peter Thompson for this report*

**Chris Plumtree (1959-1965):** Chris emailed just before Christmas to provide a glimpse of his lovely lifestyle, he writes: "I am sitting at a small local cafe next to the ferry port at the end of Split's famous Riva watching the boats and the people in gorgeous sunshine. Though shade temperature is only 10 degC it is 20C in the sun, just a jumper needed and there are coffees and hot wine and winter snacks, Bakalar, Sarame and Kobasice.

I am so lucky to have discovered Croatia as a whole and Split specifically. Been living here more than 11 years now. Not found

anywhere better. Such a great climate, easy to get about, safe and cheap.

It's even wonderful at this time of year and so what a pity the Budget Airlines stop flying from Oct to April. The Advent Christmas Market in Zagreb has been voted no.1 in Europe for the 3rd year in a row. We go there next week for 3 days after spending Boxing Day here. The summer is spent along the sensational coastline with all the islands easily reached by regular ferries.

**Stuart Cranidge (1959-1963):** Stuart, now living in York, is playing an occasional round of golf and my spies tell me that recently he left his trolley by the side of the green whilst he went to put out. On return the trolley was missing ~ absolutely no sign of it around.

The bag and trolley were discovered, eventually, some distance away in a ditch up to their neck in water and requiring urgent rescue.

The contents were completely soaked including Stuart's mobile phone ~ never to function again.

The moral of the story is to leave your mobile in your car or locker if possible.

Contacts have been lost so don't expect to hear from Stuart anytime soon. He is still trying to recover his contact list. Give him a call to re-establish your number. *Is your phone list backed up to another computer?*





**Derek Sumpter (1943-1950):**

Sent an end of year report but declared that “more golf is needed! It’s good to get out on the fairways, rain or sunshine, and I always bless the day over 40 years ago when I decided to take up the game. Having reached a peak with an 11 handicap at West Surrey Golf Club I am now going back down again at a rapid rate with 22.4 on the handicap board at Tehidy Park Golf Club in Cornwall.

As far as the Briggensian Association is concerned we self-styled 40s group, those of us who were at school during the war years still keep in touch. I have regular email and text exchanges with **Brian Chapman, George Gunson, John Morton, Peter Wade Charlie Windass, Frank Flear and my cousin David Sumpter** (the late Robin Sumpter’s brother) who was a boarder from 1950. Most of us live in different parts of the country and attending the annual dinner is a rarity now I’m afraid. I did manage about three hours in Brigg in September with David after a short break in Nottinghamshire and we had plans to engineer a walk in the school grounds but found large iron gates at the entrance to the main drive, padlocked and with an intercom to confirm identity. We tried our best but it was after school hours in the late afternoon and there was no response to our pleadings. So we were left to gaze through the iron bars and I swear we saw the ghostly outlines of our schoolfriends of the past mingling together in the drive. The security of the school is an absolute necessity in this disturbing age and it was good to see the gates in place.

I hope one day that we will get out onto the golf course at Elsham again but until then a very happy and warm thanks for all you do for the Association. Regards, Derek.

Later Derek sent me an update from **Peter Wade** who very kindly got in touch with Lisa to ask about **Peter Welton**’s condition and he has given me permission to pass it on to you, below. It’s not unexpected but such a tragic story.

**Hi Peter,** Good to hear from you and thank you for your Christmas wishes. Unfortunately there is no improvement but the contrary is the position. I have been told his brain will continue to deteriorate and there is nothing they can do to prevent this. He is not painting but appears reasonably content although he gets tired easily. “We bundle along”, says Liza.

**Mark Proctor (1968-1975):** Mark sent a picture of the 68-75 golf reunion. Anyway, Koen, Ross & Mark played golf at Elsham & were treated to a golf exhibition by the member present! Nice one Ross. Course really was in lovely condition.



Later joined by **George Jewitt, David Lischka, Martin Birtwhistle, Steve Blakey & Paul Wood** for an impromptu Class of 68/75 reunion. There was a story or two to be told including the one from Koen Beckers. You will have to ask him about his exploits in front of 3,000 in Naples!

**Koen Beckers** has lived in Naples, Florida for many years but in August was over visiting his family in UK & Holland. Mentions of his brothers, Huub, Marten & Marc plus sister Lidwien were made - working all

over the globe.

**Koen Beckers (1968-1975):** Koen says that, “In early August this year, we attended a delightful wedding set on a hilltop with stunning views of the surrounding hills and sea of Dorset. The happy groom was Matthew, eldest

son of my brother **Martin - BGS 1966-1973**. As an aside, Martin, a GP, has been running a surgery together with his wife Sue (GP) in Charmouth for over 35 years. Their surgery recently received top honours in a customer satisfaction survey of Dorset practices - the county which itself took top honours in a similar nationwide survey! So congratulations to my brother (Doc Martin!) and his wife for an epic life long service achievement.

***Congratulations from the Briggensians as well.***

After the wedding, my wife Yolanda and I took the opportunity to travel on to Scotland, enjoying the Edinburgh Fringe festival, the Military Tattoo, and a journey through the highlands on the trail of Mary Queen of Scots, a direct descendant of William the Conqueror, and ancestor of Queen Elizabeth II - visiting various historically significant castles and palaces along the way. This included Doune Castle (just northwest of Stirling), at which Mary stayed numerous times, and which was used in the film sets of Monty Python and the Holy Grail, Game of Thrones (Winterfell, season 1 pilot), and more recently, the excellent series Outlander, which also filmed on location at our last stop - the well preserved, isolated and stirring Culloden Moor that saw the final battle of the Jacobite rebellion. It is peculiar that history, one of my least favourite subjects at school (apart from Biology and English!) has become a passionate interest as I've travelled the world and witnessed many places where major events occurred - and I have come to realize that we did actually learn quite a lot in the 5 years up to 'O' level!

While planning this trip, it occurred to me that we would be but a stone's throw from Lincolnshire, and polled some classmates for interest in a reunion - which would have special significance as we all turned 60 this year. And so, we had a delightful Sunday (Aug 13th) - which started in glorious weather with a round of golf with Ross McFarlane and Mark Proctor at Elsham golf club - where I learned the game (still a work in progress mind). A very nostalgic experience, and of course Mark and I had the decency to let our host win.

We were joined for drinks by David Lischka and his wife; Paul Wood, George Jewitt, Martin Birtwhistle, and Stephen Blakey and his partner Johanna, and enjoyed an excellent dinner at the Hope and Anchor in South Ferriby. I had not seen some of these gentlemen for 42 years and it was most interesting to catch up.

Conversations took off as if no time had elapsed at all. It was generally agreed this day was certainly worth a repeat, and not to wait too long as on average so far, the next reunion would take place when we are all 80.

*A final thought occurred to me - is there a reason for the BGS dinner reunion to be in March?*

*If this were a bit later in the season - e.g. May or June, it might attract attendance from more Briggensians living further away, as the better weather would make a longer stay worthwhile....Fortitudine!"*

***We will have to see what the committee say about the suggestion. Let us have your feedback.***

**Peter Wade (1945-53):** sent Just one small snippet:- Earlier this month, Eileen and I re-visited Edinburgh where we spent a pleasant day with **Charlie and Marion Windass**. **John Sellars** joined us for lunch at a local restaurant. Much talk about our days at Brigg and our current ailments!

**Russell Thompson (1965-72):** Russell emailed to say, "I do still receive your e-mails on this old e.mail address but have changed my personal e.mail to: thompsonrce@sky.com, which please kindly note for future communications.

I am determined to make it to the dinner next March. I was trying to do so this year but a major problem in our W.African subsidiary resulted in 4 trips to Togo in March alone, which put paid to travelling to N. Lincs!!

Hope to see you at the Dinner.

**David Tear (1977-1980):** emailed to say that he was talking to Ruby Allen recently who asked if the School would be interested in having **John Allen (1929-1939)**'s Silver Swimming Cup returned to the school? "I can't remember the exact year .. possibly '34 .. certainly pre second world war. Let me know if the school or the association are interested otherwise she will have it auctioned off in aid of Bomber Command.

I was also talking to the parents of **Andrew (Andy) Mollett (1973-1980)** recently. I had not realised and to be honest no one I have spoken too knew that Andy died two years ago in Australia. Did you know?"

***Unfortunately, I did not know about Andy which is very sad, however, we do look forward to receiving the swimming cup.***



**Steve Newstead (1958-1965):** Steve reminded us that in 2018 is his cohort's **60th anniversary -- 60 years since we all started at BGS**. If there was some kind of reunion then (maybe to coincide it with the annual dinner?) I'd do my best to come.

*Who is organising this event? Can I help?*

**Cliff Turner (1936-1941):** Cliff, now 92 sent me his life story which contains a wonderful recollection of his early days in Brigg in the 1920s and 1930s, the family butchery business and starting school at Brigg Grammar School.



The characters he encountered will be familiar to many of the 'slightly older' Briggensians:

**J T Daughton, Pratt, Lamb, Tiger Richards, Cabourne, Dodd, Bradley, Bumper Knight, Todd Henthorn, Dickie Thumwood, and Chips Morris.**

It goes on to talk about the approaching war, his life in the navy and beyond; a great read which can be downloaded in full from the website. <http://www.briggensians.co.uk/thelibrary/cliff-life-story.pdf>

**Paul Jenkinson (1974-1981):** I had lost his email address but the Briggensian's grapevine let him know and so he contacted me with a short update. *(Mike Jenkinson was able to oblige!)*

Paul is still living in Sydney with his partner Caroline. He was in UK in November seeing his mum & brother who are living in Braintree.

We were laughing about her years teaching at SJNS in the late 70's – if I remember rightly in the room next to **Mrs Peers'** Geography room!

**Simon Church** will be visiting Sydney in January to join me for a day at the Sydney Ashes test – will definitely send a picture or two.

I saw **Tim Wright** when we were both skiing at Whistler in Canada last January – it was great to share a beer & Briggensian memory or two. Tim is a surgeon at Newcastle just North of Sydney.

Paul's oldest has just finished equivalent of A levels  
**Just for fun, my lad in the red shirt playing for Northbridge, Sydney!!**

Hope to make it to a reunion one day ... getting a bit old for the cricket though!



**Martin Haworth (1974-1981):** *After some confusion on one of my data lists, I think I have the right person now, thanks for the update Martin.* As an update on me, I am still working at Singleton Birch as the Technical Director and Deputy Managing Director, in my 37<sup>th</sup> year with the company now and still enjoying it.

Despite having been fit and active all my life I suffered a heart attack in January 2017 which came as a shock to me and I think everyone who knows me. Fortunately, I received prompt treatment and I should be good for a full and normal life. I always assumed that it would be my climbing and mountaineering that would be responsible for my early demise, but I'm not one to let things like that put me off and I have continued with my passion for climbing in the UK, Alps and further afield. I also do a bit of occasional running to keep fit for the mountains, and I have run 3 half marathons since my heart attack (1hr 36minutes in my latest effort).  
Still happily married to Tracy after 29 years, with two great children, Alice (26) and Henry (24)

**Rick Baker (1973-1978):** Rick contacted us to see if there is a spare long school photo and asks, "Is there any chance of obtaining a copy of the yearly school photographs from 1974 to 1979, they used to hang them in the main hall, I hope someone had the sense to save them. Cheers hope to hear from you soon, all the best."

*The photo gallery is still there in the corridor but there are not spare copies kept at the school.*

**Jon Cresswell (1985-1992):** Jon continues his African adventures. The last year has seen him working in Mali with the European Union and he is serving in the Sahel. He had a red hot and sandy Christmas day! He is serving on Operation Barkhane in West Africa this is an ongoing anti-insurgent operation in Africa's **Sahel** region, which commenced 1



August 2014. It initially involved a 3,000-strong French force.

*Congratulations to Jon on his latest promotion to full Colonel.*

**Brett Butler (1951-1958):** Not much to report from this end of the world, in New Zealand, other than we are hopeful of a reasonable summer. One of these days I hope to be in the UK at the time of the annual dinner but March tends to be a busy month for us here.

**Peter Thompson (1958-1965):** Old Briggensian Peter Thompson conveys good wishes to the school from **Andrew Matthews**, son of **N.C. Matthews**, Headmaster of Brigg Grammar School until 1959, the end of Peter's second year at the school.

Peter writes: "We have been friends since our time together at Chester College training as teachers in the late 1960's. We played in the same hockey team and were near neighbours in college halls. We meet up at reunions in Chester and Andrew came to Caistor to hear jazzman Snake Davis perform in Caistor Town Hall a little while ago. Andrew's hockey career lasted longer than mine-he still plays at Buxton where he and Mary his wife live and in 2017 played for Wales Over 70's. But he's not Welsh-they were one short!! Although Andrew did not go to Brigg Grammar School he remembers his time at Brigg Prep and I took him for a quick tour round when he and Mary came over."

**Peter Plant (1938-1945):** It may not be of any interest, most of our generation having disappeared, however, myself and my wife reached our **90th birthdays** this year and also our **60th wedding anniversary**. We are both still vertical –well nearly !! and have most of our marbles intact.TBTG.

*Congratulations from the Briggensians.*



**Dominic Jeffrey (1979-1984):** Dominic has moved to France as Facebook readers will know. He explains, "Having left the "Advocate Arms" in Sept 2016, I embarked upon my aim to set up a small business in France renting three holiday cottages. A task I never thought would be so arduous and stressful. It has been a long journey that really I should write a book on.....maybe in time.....If you ever want to move to France see me first, for I've been through the lot!

I initially hoped with the aid of a French Bank that Jayne and I could crack on but no. Due to a lot of English moving over on the dream then sneaking back to the UK leaving houses and debt the French banks no longer look kindly on lending.

So I've done some consulting in Devon, Reading and Caistor down the road from the Advocate at Caistor Lakes where I left in June of last year.

It's been hard being away from home but finally we're up and running. Two cottages are complete and the third on the way. We've had a reasonable first year hoping to build on that. " **Work in continual progress**"

So here I am hoping to destress a little. I've attached our website address for you to have a little peruse and should you be wishing for a break, holiday or just passing and wanting a tippie or coffee please give me a call, email or pigeon.

Website: [www.leboisgautier.com](http://www.leboisgautier.com)



**George Gunsen (1944-1952):** George sent this nostalgic picture of Somerscales Ferry Boat and details about the



picture which was taken by his grand-daughter.

An eminent son of Hull is Thomas Jacques Somerscales, but so far I don't think that there has been any mention of him, in Hull's year of Culture. He was born and died there and his family lived there, but during the intervening years he spent the major part of his life in Chile. He had enrolled as a naval cadet and on a mapping voyage on the West Coast of the Americas he fell ill, and so the Navy left him to convalesce in Santiago, and never came back

for him. However, from his father, a sea captain on the North Atlantic timber run, he inherited a gift for painting, and so began his career, starting out as a magnificent landscape artist. His landscapes were in great demand, but he soon showed his gift for seascapes, and there were many of them. Those with technical knowledge tell you that the detail is very precise as, with his naval experience, sailing round Cape Horn, he knew how to paint the trim of the sails, the way they should hang, and the set of the ship as it ploughed into the waves.

Some of his 'marine' works are on Google, - the big one of the schooner 'Coming Home' is very famous and he let it be used for advertising but never registered the rights. There is one of his grand sea scapes in the Tate Gallery in London, a couple in the Museum in Greenwich but in the Ferens in Hull there is just a small one of a duck !! Thus the majority of his works are in Chile as he is regarded as a national hero there, especially as he had painted two scenes of the Naval Sea Battle between Chile and Peru, which Peru won though Chile scored a great goal when it sank the Peruvian Navy's prize Battleship and they never got over it. Very patriotically, the whole of Santiago bought the postcards printed from Somerscales' paintings.

I spent about six years going there on business in the 1980s as the State Bank of Chile was one of the shareholders of the Bank; they had a number hanging on their walls, in fact most banks did, as it was a sign of standing to have a "Somerscales". If one ever came up for sale in the UK it would be bought privately by the Embassy.

During the nineties after retirement I read up a lot on Somerscales, and we used to visit Chile now and again, as one of our daughters was the Private Secretary to the British Ambassador there, so we called in from time to time! I have always wondered whether we had a family relationship but it is too late to ask now as most of the family has passed away.

My memory tells me that I used to hear the name Somerscales mentioned, but now I can't trace it; on the other hand there was a second cousin twice removed (?!?!?) with the Jacques family in South Kelsey, they had a Haulage Business, and the son went to the Grammar School - about 1946-48, and we knew each other, but then he left to join the family business, before taking Lower School Cert' as we would say in those days, and so I and we, the family, lost touch, but I have often wondered. I don't pursue the matter, as perhaps the Somerscales' family might think that I am trying to trace hidden treasure.

It is a shame that Hull, which today does not have much of a presence, has not done more to reflect its past. Another South American connection is that Somerscales brother was the General Manager of G & T Earle, known mainly for Cement Manufacture, and being a Marine Engineer as well, the company built a ship in Hull, dismantled it into pieces, and then it was shipped out to Antofagasta on the Pacific Coast of Chile, and reassembled and taken by mule and railway built by a British Company for the Chilean Nitrate Company, up into the High Andes and re-assembled on Lake Titicaca which is primarily Bolivian, fresh water so the ship never rusted, and it plys to this day, connecting villages on the coast of the Lake and providing a passenger. As you see your trip to Hull stirred up my brain, and I thought that I would pass the story on to you.

*We have had several "Somerscales" but nobody recorded about the dates mentioned.*

## BRIGGENSIANS SPORTS 2017:

### Cricket:

A Brigg tradition stretching back to the 1920s was kept alive on Friday night, July 7.

The Old Boys' (Briggenians' Association) XI played a team from Sir John Nelthorpe School in the annual cricket friendly match at SJN, on the artificial pitch.

Originally, this historic game was played on the pristine grass square at Brigg Grammar School, the fixture lasting until comprehensive education arrived in 1976 and then being continued by SJN and the Briggenians, to their credit.

Friday's match proved to be one of the highest scoring of all time with the Briggenians only 13 runs short of chasing down the daunting 175 total set by the free-scoring SJN XI in their 16 overs.

**Tony Beel, Dave Willey** and yours truly were the only ex-grammar pupils to take part this year. We are all 60+. Thanks go to SJN teacher **Jon Taylor** who combined umpiring with scoring as well as organising the game with **Nick Beacock**, Captain of the Briggenians.



Following the fixture, the Old Boys enjoyed a chat about old times at Wetherspoon's White Horse pub and took a few drinks.

Thanks to **Emily**, whose dad **Stan Mosey** was one of Brigg Town's all-time top batsmen, for taking the pre-match team picture.

It was heartening to see that SJN continues to produce talented young cricketers.

We hope many of them will go on to enjoy lengthy careers in club cricket as we did.

**Paul Neal**, who took a fine boundary



catch, went on to star with the bat, together with Captain **Beaky**.

A year is a long time in sport when you get past 60 but all the vets will be hoping to make the 2018 match, and this time finish on the winning team!

By then it is hoped that SJN will have been successful in its bid for funding to install a new artificial pitch.

This will be money well spent. And only a few thousand pounds will do the trick.

The Vale Academy has just got a new one so we think it only right that Brigg's other secondary school follows suit.

It's good that they continue to encourage the traditional sound of willow on ball.

**Cricket Pitch Grant:** We congratulate all those who have been involved in securing a grant to provide better cricket facilities at the school. We are indebted to BNLL for a grant of 90% of the bid or **£9,499**. Many thanks to **Brigg Biomass** for a grant of from **Brigg Biomass Plant Community Fund** towards our project and we encourage other local organisations can get involved to bid for their projects.

We very much look forward to playing the 2018 Annual Briggensians v School cricket match on a new wicket and are delighted that cricket will continue to be played on the school field for many years to come.

**NB.**

**Brigg Biomass Plant Community Fund:** *In May 2016, BNLL launched a new grant programme for eligible projects within three miles of its renewable energy plant near Brigg in North Lincolnshire.*

**BNLL:** *The Brigg Renewable Energy Plant is owned by BWSC North Lincs a company owned by a joint venture of Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor A/S and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners K/S together with PensionDanmark A/S.*

*The electricity generated by the straw-fuelled power plant, which is enough for 75,000 UK households, is fed into the national grid and will be offsetting up to 250,000 tonnes of Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions annually.*

**GrantScape:** *GrantScape is a grant-making charity committed to enhancing the environment and strengthening local communities through its grant programmes. Our experience stretches back to 1997 and we have awarded grants totalling over £80 million to deserving projects over this time.*

*GrantScape manages "Brigg Biomass Plant Community Fund" and a range of community and environmental grant programmes on behalf of corporate and local authority clients. These are tailored to their individual requirements, which is our speciality. In addition, GrantScape offers a professional project management and grant process review service to groups requiring support with these activities. For further information about Grantscape, please see: [www.grantscape.org.uk](http://www.grantscape.org.uk)*



**OneFamily Cricket Grant.** In addition to the BNLL grant Sir John Nelthorpe School has received £5,000 cash from financial services company **OneFamily** as part of its community awards programme. It will be used to buy a mobile cricket cage, portable wickets and indoor mats, which will enable training to take place throughout the year in all weather. The new equipment also means other local teams will be able to train and play matches at the school, including Brigg Town Cricket Club's junior team. The school was put forward for the funding by **Helen Annis**, who is a former Sir John Nelthorpe pupil.

The grant scheme was created to give OneFamily customers the opportunity to support projects in their area which matter to them and their families.

Customers nominated projects to receive funding worth £5,000, £10,000 or £25,000 across four categories.

Sir John Nelthorpe School was one of 32 organisations to win an award in the latest round of funding.



Guy French, corporate and customer strategy director at OneFamily said: "By giving Sir John Nelthorpe School this award, we've made an investment in grassroots cricket and provided equipment that players of all ages can use to stay fit and healthy."

## Rounders & Netball

### Rounders-

A good turn out with some youthful Briggensians for a change, most under 30! The scores were all square at half time but the Briggensians moved away convincingly in the second half to win 11 -5 1/2 . A final mini match was played where the school were narrowly defeated 5-6.

A fun time for all.



**Hockey** started up again on the new Astro turf pitch in Brigg. Insufficient men were interested so a mainly female team took to the blue surface. Quite a number from the school attended plus many old and older students took part, some still played regularly while some hadn't picked up a stick for quite a while! It was a great sight for me who had taught and coached a large percentage of them.

**Netball-** Netball went ahead on the Friday night and nearly two full teams arrived to play. The Briggensians were too strong for the school team so at half time we mixed them up. It was a good night of netball and

everyone enjoyed themselves.

**Helen Cresswell**

### Football:

**Simon Church** sent the link to this great picture. Can you name the players and member of staff?

### Boxing Day +2:

**Jon Taylor** reports: Due to heavy overnight rain the pitch at Brigg Town was waterlogged and the game had to be abandoned.

We decided to proceed with the indoor games such as pool, darts, dominoes, 5's and 3's, heading the ping pong ball and a quiz.





### **Gibby Memorial Match:**

Brigg Town Football Club which is the venue for a charity match at the Hawthorns. It's in memory of the Zebras' former player and Sir John Nelthorpe School teacher, Adrian Gibbons, and kicked off at 4pm in April 2017

Another £1,000 of funds were raised through the match and raffle and donated to the British Heart Foundation. About 40 old boys turned up and the old old-boys were victorious. We would have won the football as well but will have to wait for that. **Jon**



### **Golf: Reports and results of the 2017 matches**

#### **BGS Spring Meeting, 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2017**

The weather for our Spring Meeting at Elsham Golf Club couldn't have been better – a cloudless sky, bright sunshine and not too much wind. Unfortunately the turn-out was one of the poorest we have ever had, with only six members competing.

Based on handicaps, Nick Golland should have been the favourite to take home the Captain's Tankard

but he and his two playing partners, Nick Good and Dave Harness, struggled to play to their potential. Jon Taylor, however, playing with Roger Holmes and Ted Cox, had the perfect start, parring the first two holes, almost birdieing the first. Roger Holmes couldn't find his putting touch, even though he was playing at his home course, until the last nine holes when the putts began to drop and he scored a creditable 18 points on the way back. Ted Cox putted steadily after the first hole and scored on some holes with longish putts. It was probably Ted's putting on the front nine holes that enabled him to beat Roger by one shot, 34 points to 33, with Jon Taylor third on 32 points.



#### **Past v Present, Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, Elsham Golf Club**

After the disappointment of having to cancel last year's match due to lack of players, it was good to see both teams fielding four two-ball groups. Something of a record was set by the Past team where Roger Holmes was accompanied by his two sons – David, who was visiting from America, and Matthew, home from his job in Leeds. We've never had a Briggensian player coming from abroad before. The match was played in superb weather, warm with a gentle breeze, and Elsham Golf course was looking at its very best with excellent fairways and immaculate greens

Dave Brittain and Matt Holmes, playing for the Past team, started the proceedings playing against Jon Taylor and Tim Smith. Unfortunately, both Dave and Jon had to leave early and it was left to Matt and Tim to complete the game, which was won by Dave and Matt by 3 and 2.



Next out were Peterjon Dodd and Nick Golland for the Past team, and they faced Connor Hobbins and George Robinson. Both Connor and George drive the ball prodigious distances – I seem to remember Connor playing very well the last time the match was played in 2015 – but the experience of Peterjon and Nick was made to count and they were four up with four to play. So no trouble then, or so PJ and Nick thought. Except that Connor and George had other ideas – they staged a remarkable fight-back and won the last four holes to halve the match. PJ was somewhat bemused on the 17<sup>th</sup> hole, when, having hit what he described as probably the best drive and second shot he hit all night, he found his ball a bare 40 paces past George's drive. What do these youngsters get fed on these days?



Owen Dunderdale and Byron Stewart, playing for the Present team, took on Roger and David Holmes. David professed to being a bit rusty as he doesn't get much chance to play golf in America due to the demands of work, a young family and his football coaching commitments, but he soon found his touch and he and Roger beat the boys 6 up.

### **BGS Autumn Meeting, 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

Thirteen players turned out to brave whatever the tail-end of Storm Brian could throw at them and, although the wind was quite strong at least the heavy rain that fell during the night didn't return. In fact, the course was remarkably dry considering the overnight downpour, although the ball did not run far on landing. It was good to see Geoff Sells back playing after his knee replacement. Dave Harness and Jonty Allcock made light of the rough conditions, both scoring nett eagles and 4 points on the first hole; in fact, with a par and a net birdie on the next two holes Dave looked as though he was going to be in with a chance of winning the trophy, sharing the halfway lead with Ross McFarlane on 19 points. Nick Golland fought the



conditions well, chipping in twice for a nett eagle on the 10<sup>th</sup> hole and a birdie on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Most players found it harder to score on the last nine holes and there were many nil-returns. Only one player, Ted Cox, managed to record a score on every hole and this enabled him to win with 33 points on count-back over the last six holes from Roger Holmes, with Nick Golland coming third on 31 points, beating Nick Good, also on count-back.

Allyson Golland was elected as Captain for the next season and is seen being congratulated by President, Dave Brittain, and is the first lady captain of the society.



**History of the Golf Society.** As seen through the minutes of the association diligently searched through by Ted Cox. The link here to the website gives the full report.

*Many thanks Ted for all your service as Secretary and for this fascinating insight.*

<http://www.briggensians.co.uk/thelibrary/story-of-obgs.docx>

## Ties and Badges for Sale:

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

Members who would like to purchase these items can:

1. Append a note to their Dinner booking form and add the appropriate payment or
2. Email Helen Cresswell requesting items are reserved for purchase at the Dinner or
3. Send an S.A.E and remittance to Helen



The very attractive pin badge is approx. 2cm x 2.5 cm with a butterfly securing to a pin on the reverse

**Badges £10 each      Ties £10 each**

### **New members:**

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

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

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

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

### **For those using the postal service:**

#### **I/We have received the 2017/18 Newsletter**

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Postage is charged by size so we ask you to **send to Secretary, Helen Cresswell, a self-addressed A4 envelope stamped with a 'large A4 letter stamp' to confirm receipt of this Newsletter and to ensure that you receive a copy of the 2017/18 Newsletter** **(or you can receive it for free by email)**

At the same time, perhaps you could send some news or old photographs about yourself or school friends for the 2017/18 Newsletter or web site to: [dave.brittain@talktalk.net](mailto:dave.brittain@talktalk.net)

# Briggensians' Association

## 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Dinner 2018- Booking Form

**I will** be attending the Briggensians' Dinner on **Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018** (application closing date: **Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March**) and enclose a cheque made payable to the Briggensians Association

to the value of £ ..... for ..... places at **£22.50 each**.

Tables are usually for  
6, 8, or 10 places

Name: ..... Years .....to.....

Address: ....., .....

Post Code: ..... Email: .....  
(please write clearly)

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

<b>Contact Person's Details:</b> <b>Name:</b> <b>Tel. No.</b> <b>Email:</b> (please write clearly)		Starter				Main			Dessert			Special Dietary Needs
Melon	Tomato Soup	Ham Hock Terrine	Prawn Cocktail	Roast Beef	Herb Crusted Cod	Cannelloni (v)	Raspberry Roulade	Treacle Sponge	Cheese & Biscuits			
Guests Names	School Dates											

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

**The Briggensians Dinner Secretary, c/o Rachael Harvey, Sir John Nelthorpe School,  
Wrawby Road, Brigg. DN20 8DS Tel. 01652 656551**

**Dinner Date Review: Please tick your preferred option for the 2019 Dinner date:**

March

April

May

Any date