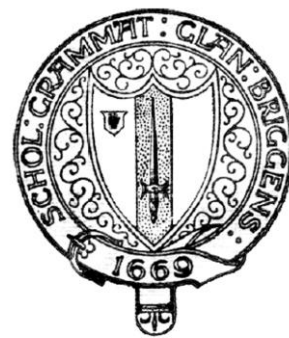




BRIGGENSIANS' NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2021



Fortitudine.



COVID-19 Lockdown Year Edition

Briggensians' Association 44th Annual Dinner 2021 - Cancelled

We will email information to members when we have a Dinner date for 2022 but for 2021 we plan to have virtual talks by the Headteacher, Rob Biglands, and a guest speaker, Holly Mumby-Croft MP

Dates for your Diary

These dates are provisional on the COVID-19 restrictions in place on the date scheduled

Summer Sports 2021

School Field

Rounders & Netball: Depending on support

Cricket: Friday in July 2021 tbc

Youth VS Experience

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

Winter Sports 2021

School Field

Football

December 2021 tbc

Youth VS Experience

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

Football + Pub Games,
27th December 2021–10.30AM start

Golf Section

Spring Meeting 12.00PM, Sunday, 18th April 2021

Autumn Meeting 12.00PM, Sunday, 17th October 2021

Past vs present 4.00 PM, Monday, 5th July 2021

Requests to play, please contact David Harness: dave.harness@ymail.com
Tel. 01652 688005

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020-21

Another year as Chairman of the Briggensians committee has passed, and it has certainly been an eventful one.



Like most people, I was glad to see the back of it and hope 2021 will bring a bit more joy to our lives. I hope that everyone will remain safe and sane throughout these unprecedented times.

Throughout the pandemic the Briggensian committee has continued to meet and conduct business. We have embraced modern technology and have been holding our meetings via Zoom. I may be showing my age, but I thought Zoom was an ice-lolly that you used to buy from the tuck shop, not a platform for communication.

Unfortunately, as with every year, a number of Briggensians are no longer with us. Sadly, the President of our committee Brian Taylor MBE passed away in December of last year. Brian can only be described as a true gentleman who spent a lifetime serving his community. He will be dearly missed by his family and all who knew him. Please join me in sending our collective condolences to all his family and friends affected by the loss.

The annual dinner went ahead as normal in March, just before the first lockdown. Due to a large number of last minute cancellations, it was a much smaller event.

Only the Head Boy attended from the school but he stayed the whole night and thoroughly enjoyed himself. The food and service was excellent, thank you Elsham GC, and the speaker, David Horsley, was very entertaining. Many thanks to everybody who made the night a success.

For obvious reasons I have no sporting events to report on, and I will leave it to Mr Biglands to inform you about what has been happening at the school. It cannot have been easy for the pupils or staff during this crisis.

On that note, I would just like to end by wishing everybody a better and safer 2021.

Clive Thompson

Head teacher's Report 2020-21:

Over the past 12 months the pupils and staff have had to adapt to ways of working which have presented more than their fair share of challenges to us but also numerous opportunities and successes.

In the summer term of 2020 the academic outcomes of the GCSE and A Level cohorts were determined by a system of internally standardised, professionally determined grades assigned by subject teachers which were then subjected by the Department for Education to a convoluted algorithm that the government alchemists deemed to represent a fairer final outcome for all. The result, a set of grades for young people that everyone lost faith in and a profession that felt more beleaguered than ever by the lack of respect and trust the government clearly placed in school teachers' abilities to make accurate judgments about the academic performance of the pupils they have taught for the last 5 to 7 years.

After some further final executive u-turning and rule-changing, finger-pointing and scale-goating by the 'team at the top', our young people were finally informed that the grades they were being awarded were those that their teachers had originally assigned. Well sort of, with some adjustments to suit 'national

profiling', whatever that looks like and which seemed to be based on whichever was the higher grade identified between the teachers and the government algorithm for each pupil..... Clear? No, us neither... but never mind.

With all of this in mind, the pupils at Sir John Nelthorpe understood that there is more to the purpose of education than a set of exam grades. Undoubtedly, the grades are important, as perhaps the currency of employment and perhaps even of future success (depending how one judges this of course) and as tokens of academic ability. However, they are not the only, or indeed the most important factor in determining the worth of a young person's school education. Our pupils recognise that through their time developing into young adults, they are also developing character. That aspect that is less easy to define by a grade or a set of standards but which defines a person in so many incredibly important ways and which can often be far more important in life and work and in future happiness and well-being than a set of exam grades will ever denote.



When our GCSE and A Level cohorts 'left' us in the most unexpected, blunt and curtailed fashion due to national lockdown measures in place last summer, I made a plea to all these young people. I urged them to place faith in what they know, understand and can do and to use the experiences and circumstances created by the pandemic to identify just how important character is in shaping us as individuals within a functioning society. I challenged



them to recognise how this pandemic may actually have created a generation of people who can break the mould of an institutionalised 'classification of the person by means of a mere exam grade'. My hope, as I delivered my final 'leavers' address to these two year groups was that these fantastic young people would feel empowered, not defeated by the circumstances they had been thrust into and that they should feel confident in their abilities to make their futures successful on their terms, not the terms set by others.

If ever there was an opportunity to hold the school motto (an amalgamation of the original boys' grammar school and the girls' high school) aloft and in our hearts and minds moving forwards, it is now.

'Fortis et Fidelis'....

I would like to dedicate this year's Headteacher's report to the memory of Brian Taylor MBE JP. A devoted friend and champion of the school and to me personally and someone who I and the school community will miss dearly.

Annual Dinner 2021:

The 2021 Dinner has become a casualty of the COVID-19 pandemic but will return in 2022.

The speed of the vaccine rollout is uncertain and doubts if members would wish to attend in the autumn has prompted a decision to cancel for 2021. We hope that life will return to something close to normal by Saturday, 12th March 2022 when we would plan for the next Dinner.

It has been suggested that this is a good opportunity for members, especially those who would normally attend the Dinner, to make a donation in lieu of Dinner tickets towards the funds to bring about phase 2 of the redevelopment of the school's arts centre. You can do this by sending a cheque to the Secretary made payable to Briggensians Association or directly into the account. Details will be sent when the following talks are advertised.

The Head teacher has agreed to deliver a video report this year and we will post details as soon as this becomes available.

These videos will not coincide with the Newsletter publication as the school is extremely busy trying to cope with all the demands of teaching the students of key workers, providing 'work from home' lessons and arranging for mass testing of all students when they return to in-school lessons.

Guest Speaker 2021:

I am delighted that Scunthorpe MP and former student **Holly Mumby-Croft** has also agreed to give a video talk for Briggensians. We will issue details when both videos are available and the platform decided.

Holly was educated at Sir John Nelthorpe followed by a degree at Lincoln University.

Prior to her election as an MP, Holly Mumby-Croft was elected as a councillor for the Broughton and Appleby ward on North Lincolnshire Council in 2015, and was re-elected in May 2019.

She stood in Scunthorpe at the 2017 general election, and came second.

She stood again in Scunthorpe at the 2019 general election and defeated the incumbent Labour MP Nic Dakin with a 17.1% majority, representing a 12.8% swing from Labour to Conservative.

In her maiden speech on 6 March 2020, she talked about Scunthorpe's steel industry and made a commitment to increased school funding and the upgrading of Scunthorpe General Hospital.



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 at www.briggensians.co.uk that has a link to the splendid Sir John Nelthorpe website.

Facebook: "The Briggensians Association"

The Facebook site continued to inform members and has become the easiest way to communicate. If you have news please send it for adding to the page and 'likes' will help to spread the word. You can email me and I will arrange the post for you including any pictures. If you see something that should not be on our site then please let me know so that I can take action as editor.

Obituaries

Walter Cash (1927-1933). Sadly, Walter died just before his 103rd birthday. Walter lived in Scarborough and remained active until very recently. There were great celebrations at his 100th as reported in the Newsletter. Walter was born on 14th January 1917 in Hibaldstow after his father has cycled in snow to Brigg to call a doctor. He passed his entrance to Brigg GS and passed his certificate exams at 15 but he was too young to leave and passed them again at 16.

On leaving BGS he became a cashier at Brigg Sugar Factory but after 3 years moved to London and joined the Metropolitan Police. He was on duty at Heston airport when Chamberlin returned with the 'Peace in our Time' paper and features on the Newsreel of the time.

Walter then joined the army and served in Burma, taking 7 weeks to get there.

On his return to UK at the end of the war, he travelled back to Hibaldstow where he met his daughter for the first time; she was 5 years old by then.

Returning to the Police Force in London, he was very successful and ended his time in the Fraud Squad. He retired in 1964 when his wife had a heart condition. They lived in Brigg opposite **Ray Barker** for several years.

Philip Page: Phil Page died at the age of 84 years. He died in Castlethorpe Nursing Home on 18th April and leaves behind son Neal and granddaughter Orla. Mathematician, character and pioneer of early computing, he will be remembered by many for his dedication.

Allan Leslie Ladlow (1950-1955): (opposite)

Sadly we report the death of Allan aged 79 years.

Allan moved to Porthcawl, Glamorganshire, many years ago and is survived by his wife, Pat.

Brian Taylor MBE (1944-1949) passed away peacefully in Castlethorpe Nursing Home on 13th December 2020 aged 87.

Brian has been a force for good through his many years of dedicated



community service in so many ways. He was one of the kindest and most respectful people you could wish to meet.

He was born in Scawby in 1933, the youngest of four children. When the family moved to Broughton in 1947, he joined the Church Choir and the Scouts. He was educated at Brigg Prep, Broughton Juniors and Brigg Grammar School. Later he became a School Governor and Foundation Governor (overseeing the Trust's Assets) at Sir John Nelthorpe School, a capacity in which he served for many years. His contribution was invaluable

in charting the school's development to become such a valuable community asset.

Brian was also a Governor at North Lindsey College, Scunthorpe's Riddings Comprehensive and Wrawby Church of England School.

Brian did 2 years National Service with the RAF and then worked for the Co-operative Society for 28 years becoming Personnel Manager before joining Glanford Borough Council as Personnel Officer where he served for a further 17 years until retirement in 1996.

He joined the Pharos Masonic Lodge, Scunthorpe in 1966 and it was during this period that he became Chaplain, Almoner, Worshipful Master and Senior Grand Master. He was a Freemason for 54 years.

He had a lifelong interest in sport and played cricket, tennis and snooker then bowls in retirement. Interest in Athletics, especially when his children were young, led to him becoming an AAA's qualified timekeeper in the days when timekeepers used stopwatches. Brian officiated at many athletics meetings across the Midlands and North of England, including Special Olympics events for the Disabled.

Brian and the late Pam had two children, Stephen and Julie followed by 6 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. He was very close to his family and dearly loved by them all.

He was an active Churchgoer and was Treasurer, Church Warden and Sidesman at St. Mary's Church, Wrawby. Brian was a JP for 22 years until 2003 serving on the Criminal Bench, Family Bench and Licensing Bench, sitting at Brigg Magistrates' Court on Wrawby Street and later in Scunthorpe before retiring aged 70.

Well known for his support for good causes he became a representative for the British Heart Foundation attending many events across the local area, frequently to accept cheques of support. He was a founder member and Vice Chair of the **Heart2Heart** group, formed in 1998 and helped to raise funds and inform and support sufferers recovering from heart attacks.



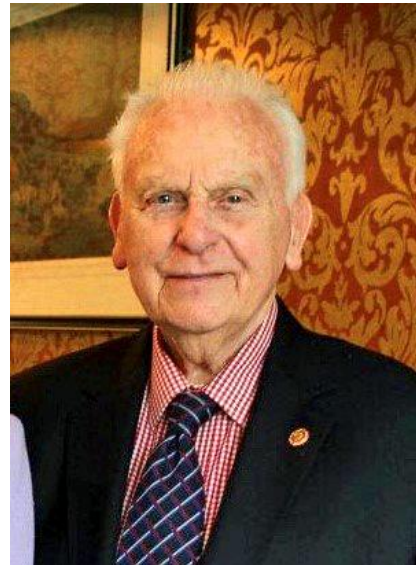
The year 2011 was a special time. Brian received his MBE from Prince Charles in 2011 for his community work in North Lincolnshire. He was President of Brigg Probus Club in the same year and the Briggensians Association in 2012 having been Briggensians Treasurer in 1976 and on their committee since he joined. He was also in the Lions for 14 years from 1981.

Brian thoroughly deserved his MBE having had such an active life in support of so many aspects of the local community. Sadly, he will be missed by so many.

The funeral was held at St. Hybald's Church, Hibaldstow on 31st December 2020 followed by committal at Woodland Crematorium. Any donations will go towards a defibrillator in his memory.

There are plans for a sports trophy to be created in Brian's memory as he was a passionate supporter of school sports especially athletics.

Geoffrey Turner (1934-1943) attended Brigg Grammar School and died on 31st May 2020 at the age of 94. His son Chris broke the sad news and said that, "He attended Brigg Grammar School from April 1934 to July 1943 and for most of the time was a boarder in School House. The Headmaster Mr Daughton described him as follows in a reference



".....he was most reliable and his influence was always healthy; he has an equable disposition, has already developed powers of leadership and is not afraid of taking the initiative"

Geoffrey was born in Scunthorpe the son of Hamer (who became manager of the Midland Bank in the town) and Ethel Turner. After school Geoffrey went to work initially for a steel fabricator in Scunthorpe where he worked in the drawing office and then to a company specialising in the construction of Cement Works.

He met Katharine Moore and they were married in June 1952. The day after the wedding they sailed for Trinidad where Geoffrey was, for the next 2 ½ years, to be resident engineer on a cement works construction project. Upon their return in 1954 Geoffrey became a Chartered Engineer working at several different cement works before joining Ketton Cement in Rutland in 1957 as Deputy

Works Manager.

He eventually became Managing Director of Ketton Cement and later of RTZ Cement when the latter bought Ketton and several other cement companies to trade under the name of Castle Cement. He served on several trade bodies including the Cement and Concrete Association.

He was a member of Stamford Rotary Club and served on Ketton Parish Council, The Parochial Church Council and the Rutland Historic Churches Preservation Trust.

In her final years he cared for Katharine who had Alzheimer's disease and she died just three weeks before him"

Margaret Williams married Brian in India and they had been married for 69 years on Brian's death in 2013. The



BBC took Brian and Margaret back to India to relive and recall memories of that time and they featured in subsequent programmes about the Raj.

Brian Williams served as a civil servant for the British Government in India during the Raj ("reign" in Hindi) and subsequent partition period. Things got very hostile in India during the separation of the country so they returned to England. Brian took up a post at Repton Public School where he was a housemaster and taught Mathematics.

They moved to Brigg when Brian secured the **Headship at Brigg Grammar School in September 1959** and had the task of directing the school towards a more modern age. He and

Margaret transformed and ran the very successful Boarding House bringing comfort and a family atmosphere to the mainly forces and farming scholars.

On Brian's retirement they initially moved to Goulceby in East Lindsey between Louth and Horncastle but their garden became too much and they moved into a house in the grounds of Stewton House in Louth. Following Brian's death Margaret live independently in her home having recovered very well after a stroke. Her health eventually deteriorated so she moved where greater care was available, into the main house, until she died aged 99.

Tim and Hugh wish to thank all those who sent condolences and cards.

The funeral of well-known Brigg man **Tony Binns (1949-1955)**, pictured, who died recently aged 82, was held in Scunthorpe on Tuesday, July 14.



When he was a youngster, Tony's family was one of the first to move onto the town's newly-created Newlands housing estate. He was educated at Brigg Grammar School and went on to serve in the Royal Navy, travelling widely abroad and in the UK while journeying to naval bases far and wide, including northern Scotland. Later, while on 'Civvy Street' Tony, pictured above, worked in the

Scunthorpe steel industry for many years up to retirement, aged 60.

He was a buyer - a management role - arranging essential supplies of raw materials like iron ore and coal, including shipments through Immingham.

Tony started with Lysaght's - Normanby Park Works and ended his service in the British Steel era.

He took a keen interest in railways of all kinds, including modelling, and liked keeping aquarium fish. He was also skilled at solving crossword puzzles - for which he won some prizes.

At weekends, plain-speaking Tony liked to chat with friends over an evening drink or two at the Yarborough Hunt pub, on Bridge Street.

Rather than the Navy's famous rum ration, he opted for gin and tonic; the famous Plymouth variety reminded him of his days in the Senior Service.

Tony would often be seen around Brigg on his bike or walking his devoted pet dog, Charlie.

My thanks go to Nigel (Scoop) Fisher for this information

Brigg Grammar School Briggensian, **Geoff Parrot (1947-1953)**, has died recently, aged 83.

Geoff Parratt, once of Melton Ross, rose through the ranks to become a senior detective with the Metropolitan



Police at Scotland Yard, investigating many murders. He solved more than 80 - said to have been a UK record.

Latterly a detective chief superintendent, Geoff died at his home in Essex, where he had lived for many years.

If you have memories of Geoff or photographs then I would be very pleased to add them to this post.

The Briggensian Newsletter in 1992 gave this news of Geoff:

Our first news comes from a former pupil who left Brigg Grammar School with the words: "You'll never go far without study!" That pupil was Geoff Parratt who retired last summer and had spent plenty of time "studying" many murder cases, so much so that he was nicknamed "Mr. Murder". Geoff retired from his post as Detective Chief Superintendent after 34 years in the police force and to his credit, he has solved more murders in Greater London than any other detective. Geoff admits that when he left school in 1953 his academic qualifications were hardly impressive but the school had given him a good foundation upon which to build and he has fond memories of 'Cabby' Caborne, 'Toddy' Henthorn, and 'Chips' Morris.

Geoff completed National Service in late 1956 and then grasped the nettle and decided to join the Metropolitan Police. When he attended the entry interview he was quickly put at ease by the Chairman of the Selection Board when he was informed that he too, was an Old Boy of Brigg Grammar School. Not surprisingly he was accepted!!

Apart from the first few early years Geoff has spent his time with the CID where he always found the work varied, interesting and immensely rewarding.

Despite the lack of qualifications in early years he was successful in all his promotion examinations and eventually attained the rank of Superintendent.

In 1969 he had the distinction of joining the famous Scotland Yard Murder Squad, now no longer operating. From this point his subject became 'Murder Investigation'. The media suggest that Geoff has solved somewhere in excess of 80 such cases which is a record throughout the country.

Geoff lives at 180 King's Avenue, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 OJQ and if anybody in the area wishes to get in touch Geoff would be delighted to see you or hear from you. If anybody knows the whereabouts of Geoff's old school friend Martin Harvey who lived at Kirmington during his school days, please drop him a line.

Another Old Boy who remembers Geoff Parratt is Searby-born Keith Lacy who was pleased to hear all about his work. Keith is now match secretary and safety officer at First Division Chelsea and living in West Molesey, Surrey. Keith is a life-long supporter of Grimsby Town and qualified as an accountant after serving in the R.A.F.

When Geoff Parratt was sent a recent copy of the Briggensians' Newsletter he recognised two names - one being Brian Thornalley and the other David Leaning. Geoff was in the same class as David Leaning who was well known as an excellent, cricket umpire.

Adrian Murray-boarding house (1958-1965): Thanks to Peter Thompson (1958-1965) for the following entry. Adrian died on 2nd February 2021.

Adrian was born and brought up in Skegness where his father was head of a local secondary school. At the age of



11 he came to Brigg Grammar School as a boarder and remained at the school throughout his secondary education.

I first got to know him in my last three years of school, partly because we both played hockey and he was vice captain when I was captain of the school team. Adrian developed a real interest in outdoor activities and was a keen member of the school mountaineering club and went to the Lake District with parties led by David Jones, Vernon Atkinson and Jack Moore. In the sixth form, he went on a month's Outward Bound course at Ashburton on Dartmoor. It was the making of him and he came back to school from that very fit and immediately won the 1-mile race on sports day by a considerable distance. We went together on a camping holiday to North Wales in which he also introduced me to hitchhiking. I remember we slept overnight in a farmer's barn somewhere in Derbyshire. He also spent one summer holiday from school cycling round Holland alone-at least it was flat!

On leaving school, Adrian went to London University from where he joined the RAF. He was posted to Germany in 1971 where he met his wife Tricia who was a teacher with the forces. Leaving there he spent a lot of time in Northern Ireland as a helicopter pilot.

Then it was to Scotland as part of the Air Sea Rescue team based at Leuchars.

On Christmas Eve 1978 Adrian was involved in a dramatic rescue off the coast of Scotland near Dundee. He was awarded the Air Force Cross for his skill and bravery flying a helicopter in the assistance of the crew of a coaster MV Fendyke which was drifting in atrocious weather. He airlifted two men from the boat.

The Air Force Cross was “a military decoration awarded to officers, for acts of exemplary gallantry while flying.”

The citation read:

“Flt Lt Murray displayed superlative skill, judgement and courage; furthermore by returning three times to the stricken vessel in weather that forced even the lifeboats to run for shelter, he demonstrated leadership and determination in the finest traditions of the Royal Air Force.”

Shortly afterwards Adrian came out of the RAF to work for Bristow and flew helicopters to the offshore oil and gas rigs in the North Sea until his retirement from flying at the age of 53.

He and Tricia bought a yacht and sailed to Greece and Spain in the winter months. Much of his retirement was to be spent in Spain where he bought a house in 2002 and spent most of each winter there, Adrian being very active as a 'leader d9' in the Costa Blanca mountain walking group.

He had become friends with Robert Maguire at school, having been entertained to afternoon tea at Robert's house on Sundays while he was in the boarding house. That contact was another school friendship that endured despite the many miles that frequently separated us. Robert and his wife Christine enjoyed two sailing holidays with Adrian and Tricia. Gwen and I resisted several invites to do the same on Robert's recommendation!

We were lucky to see them a bit more when our son David was at Aberdeen University and David used Adrian's garage as a storeroom for the extra luggage that students seemingly acquire and dad's car didn't have room for. Adrian was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma some 15 years ago.

After managing the condition for many years in 2020 it was diagnosed to be terminal and his health declined rapidly. I rang him two weeks before he died and he spoke bravely about his illness.

Our thoughts are with Tricia, Tracy his daughter, Simon his son and the grandchildren at this sad time; they will miss him most of all, but those of us who knew him long ago as friends at school and since will remember him fondly too.



NEWS OF OLD BRIGGENSIANS 2020-21

Briggensians Dinner 2020.

The annual Dinner marked the real start of the COVID-19 crisis with very difficult decisions taken by the committee and by individuals who had booked places. We decided to run the Dinner with about 90 places booked.

As we approached the day in March the virus was spreading although not yet in the Brigg area. Members withdrew even during the afternoon of the Dinner and we had several no-shows. The attendance was reduced by almost 50% but fortunately, our speaker, David Horsley, came and delivered a superb talk that was greatly appreciated by everyone. It was the last big event before we got into lockdown.

David and Bizz Horsley sent a message to Dave and Mickey after returning home:

“We really enjoyed the whole trip and it was just great to spend time with you both. Not drinking at the do just made the Talisker taste so much better when we got home.

We had an interesting time going through Lincoln after the Scawby and Hibaldstow visits. The satnav kept sending us out to the incomplete Lincoln eastern bypass. Amazing that the technology should be so far ahead of the real thing! We got Judy safely off on the Bus in Norwich on Monday and Bizz's orchestra was cancelled so we came home earlier than expected and got some necessary tidying up done prior to next door replacing some of their fence.

And then I turned the telly on just as Boris was announcing a voluntary lock down- contradiction in terms! Gavin phoned later to say that the Opera House was shutting from that night onwards into the foreseeable future, so he won't get any income until who knows when. As it is a 'voluntary' thing and not a legal requirement, he won't qualify for any insurance etc. I hope they are going to address this for bars, clubs, theatres etc."

Neville Miller (1961-1968): Reflections from Canada- In early March I flew to England to visit friends and family and attend the **Briggensians Annual Dinner**. The after-dinner speaker was a contemporary of mine. My arrival at Heathrow was surreal. The place was deserted. The usual half hour line up to get through Immigration was non-existent. I walked straight up to an agent and was cleared in seconds. I collected my luggage and then headed for the shuttle bus to ferry me to the car rental place.... not a bus in sight! When I got to the car rental office there was more staff than customers and my car was waiting for me. I was quickly on my way. I visited several old friends and family exercising caution and practising physical distancing but then the newswires lit up and lockdowns were announced everywhere.



That's when everything went downhill. I received an e-mail to say that my return flight had been cancelled but I had been booked on another flight, via Vancouver. I spent a couple of frustrating days trying to contact the company through whom I had booked my flight to try to achieve a more acceptable solution. I brought my return date forward a couple of days, said farewell to my hosts and headed for Heathrow, not totally confident that I was going to fly out that day. The flight was half empty, but I did get out. I returned home via Toronto, so I arrived in Ottawa on a domestic flight. No airline or government officials greeted the flight, no mention of 14 days quarantine. I had no idea whether the public transport system was still operating or not. Fortunately it was and I

didn't have to worry about physical distancing, I was the only one using the service! I arrived home safely to an empty fridge. I sneaked out early the following morning and went to my local grocery store to stock up with provisions and then began the lifestyle transformation that we've all had to adjust to. There was no traffic on the roads, the streets were deserted. Slowly over time people have started emerging from their houses and going for walks.

I have had the time to complete the rebuild of one of my old motorcycles, my 1938 Mk VII KTT Velocette. This machine came 14th in the 1938 Junior TT race on the Isle of Man. Its engine was very 'tired', so I purchased a set of modern castings and had to fit all the parts into the new crankcases. Unfortunately, I

didn't have a copy of the drawings used to machine the new castings and I discovered several dimensional differences between the original parts and the new ones. This slowed the rebuild considerably. However, I'm



happy to report that with perseverance I was able to complete the task. As yet it remains untried, but in the Spring I hope it is just a matter of filling it with fluids and starting it up.

Dominic Jeffrey (1979-1984): Message from France - what can I say.. I've always used the phrase " A goldfish never sees murky water" because it evolves in it from clean water.....

Dare I say, I am looking into the goldfish bowl now that is the UK and The water is definitely murky!!

From the beginning here there has been clear definition from the Government.. Paperwork has been necessary on every trip from your home even to walk the dog. Everyone is wearing a mask in shops and on the streets. The kissing has stopped. Social distancing is a little to be desired but on the whole it has been ok.

But let's be fair there is the same population with twice the space so it is a little easier, though I cannot see why Boris hasn't recognised this.....Setting Tiers has been a crazy decision when it should have been a blanket decision. In some ways people here feel sorry for Boris but common sense has not prevailed. Then there is Brexit.....!!

It's funny how now after watching CNN and France 24 news channels how much poor propaganda the BBC throws out....terrible!

So on that note Good Luck hhahaha.....The world never expected Covid and we have been warned about Climate change.....it's maybe round the corner! I think the older generation has probably had it the best and I fear for the kids of today. All I hope is the world learns from this and starts to take note and do something to safeguard the future.

Mark Seaward: (S-1960-1965): sad to say Dave, my planned operation has been postponed since all beds in the private hospital have been requisitioned for coronavirus patients. As you will appreciate, this has put yet another perspective on the crisis – on the other hand, I much enjoyed my time at Brigg, and the opportunity to meet up with you, Mickey and many friends who represent a wonderful part of my early life. Fully self-isolated here.

Robina Cosser: (1958 to 1966): I trained as an Art teacher and then worked in various teaching and consultant teaching positions in England, New South Wales and Queensland. Before I retired, I was working as an Indonesian teacher based in Cairns, Far North Queensland. In 2001, I retired and I have been based in Cairns, Far North Queensland for the past 20 years. I had always presumed that I would return to England or Europe when I finally retired and for the past 20 years I have been regularly visiting Bali, France, Spain, Italy and England, trying to decide where I should move to for my "real retirement". Coronavirus has put a stop to my travels and Cairns suddenly looks like a very good place to retire - VERY cheap real estate and a glorious isolation that protects us from the dreaded virus. I am in the process of selling up here in Edge Hill (a suburb of Cairns) and moving to Palm Cove, a lovely little spot on the coast just half an hour north of Cairns.

I have very fond memories of growing up in Brigg. I miss those small-town values! (But why were all we High School girls packed off to Teachers College when our brothers were going to Uni'? I did very well when I eventually got to Uni' and now I wonder why nobody in the community commented on how odd it was that the High School girls were not going like their brothers.) I'd love to hear news of old friends.

Mike McCleave (1964-1968): Since the lockdown in March 2020 not a lot has changed in the way June and I live. We went out each day for an exercise walk and thoroughly enjoyed the peace and quiet of the Yorkshire Moors where we live. The real difference was in the total lack of other people around and Sleights became a ghost village, and Whitby a ghost town. This suited us as we could walk at will without encountering anyone. One of the best walks was going up Blue Bank to walk the ridge. Under normal circumstances that would be suicidal due to the high level traffic going to the coast. The only downside was not seeing our two young grandchildren who live with their mum and dad in Cheshire. However, one good piece of technology, Facetime, made this easier to see them albeit on screen. On our fortnightly visits to the supermarket, we saw the worst in some people. Those who piled high their trolley with toilet rolls. Their greed and lack of thought for other shoppers was a disgrace and reflected the worst in people. Staff in the supermarket repeatedly assured these greedy idiots that supplies were ok and regularly coming in, but to no avail. One day whilst in Bothams bakery in Whitby, all bar one of the customers wore a mask. When challenged by staff the woman without the mask retorted that she had come to Whitby for a few days, quote "to get a break away from this nuisance". It seems

that the Flat Earth Society still walk among us. Just wait until Brexit on 1st January 2021 when shortages begin to bite.

Derek Sumpter (1943-1950): This happy photograph of a group of Brigg Grammar School boarders was taken in 1948-49 outside School House. Remarkably, four of the group, all now 87 years old, or thereabouts, are still in regular contact with each other more than 70 years later - such was the special bond forged during those war years.



The four are (left to right): **John Morton** ('45-51), extreme left; **Brian Chapman** ('44-50), front row, 5th right; **Peter Wade** ('45-53, back row, 3rd right) and **Derek Sumpter** ('44-50), extreme right. We now refer to ourselves as the 40s Group and include two more members in **Charlie Windass** ('46-54), a boarder and **George Gunson** ('44-52). Derek is also in touch with **Ron Waller** ('42-49).

The ten boarders in the photograph, some of whom have sadly passed away, and others whom the group have lost touch with, are (left to right): **John Morton, Barrie Eccles, Brian Bowles, Brian Marris, Colin Wood, Tony Denton, Barry Ayscough, Brian Chapman, Peter Wade and Derek Sumpter.**

We all drifted apart after leaving school as we went our different ways into National Service, University and career postings. However, about 25 years ago, **Peter Wade** who was then living in Woking, Surrey, heard that **Derek Sumpter** and **George Gunson** had homes in Guildford, only a few miles away. Peter wrote to Derek suggesting a meeting and that's how the re-union of the 40s' group began. Gradually we added more to our number and enjoyed meeting up at the annual Briggensian Association dinner and seeing other friends.

Today the '40s group are scattered in different parts of the country from Scotland to Cornwall. We share telephone calls and emails and, more often than not, memories of those days at school. Recollections of the war are becoming misty now with the passage of time although some of our group remember seeing the glow of fires in the night sky from the dormitory windows because of the bombing of the docks at Grimsby and Hull. There were also the occasional dogfights in the skies to be watched with wonder; and the air raid sirens that brought a dash to the air raid shelters on the playing field in front of School House. However, generally, despite the war, school life bubbled on serenely with a real spirit of comradeship, study and happiness.

Some of us studied under the headship of J.T. Daughton who was a keen disciplinarian both in dress and in teaching. He maintained the tradition of blazers with the school badge being worn throughout the school; of caps having to be raised to teaching staff when meeting outside school - or punishment followed - and boarders, all in grey suits, having to wear mortarboards to church on Sunday. The townsfolk of Brigg would turn out to watch as we walked through the town in crocodile fashion.

The arrival of N.C. Mathews as headmaster saw a relaxation in the discipline of dress and the school code. Pupils could wear, more or less, what they wished. There were about 50 boarders in School House about this time ranging in age from ten to eighteen and 300 pupils in the School altogether. Our teachers played a marvelous role in shielding everyone from the real horrors of the war and we are always very grateful for the education and intellectual guidance we received from them.

Jon Sass (1953-1959): has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours List. The award is for services to the preservation, refurbishment and promotion of the Water Mills and Windmills of the UK.

Jon has had a long involvement with Wrawby Windmill which started when he was a young man and he became a friend of the Rex Wailes the miller.

In 1960 when a group was formed to try and save Wrawby mill from demolition, Jon got involved. He became the secretary of the Wrawby Postmill Preservation Society that succeeded in its goal and led to Wrawby Windmill being one of the first fully restored windmills opened to the public in the UK.

He was and still is a driving force in the preservation of Wrawby Windmill and of all wind and water mills in the UK. Over the years Jon has helped to preserve many other wind and water mills.

He has written a number of books and articles to ensure that the heritage of the mills, that have sadly been lost, does not disappear with them. Jon has also inspired a community of people from across the windmill and heritage community with his infectious passion for mills.

A wonderfully kind gentleman who is always happy to pass on his amazing knowledge and skills to anyone who asks and who has taught all of the team here at Wrawby mill how to ensure that the mill stays standing proud in Wrawby for many years to come.

My grateful thanks to the team at Wrawby Windmill for these details and photograph of Jon at work in Wrawby.



Dr Kirsty Edmondson-Jones (née Nicholson)

A former Brigg resident - now a doctor - has had a six-page feature article about herself published in a leading medical journal.

As a girl, Kirsty Nicholson lived at the Queen's Arms pub, on Wrawby Street, when it was run by her parents



Bob and Sue - among the best-known 'mine hosts' in the area for many years. She was also educated locally.

Now Dr Kirsty Edmondson-Jones, Kirsty is director of estates and facilities at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals, *Proud Bob recently stopped Nigel Fisher in the town centre and suggested his Brigg Blog could share details of Kirsty's latest achievement.* - Her article, **Forever Learning**, appeared in *National Health Executive*.

Kirsty told Brigg Blog: "The article itself is rather more autobiographical than their usual

articles, and this was as a result of them asking me for details that they would then edit into an article, whereas they then decided to print the entire article instead!"

Listing Kirsty's impressive qualifications in its introduction to the feature, the journal says: Dr Edmondson-Jones epitomises this continued journey of discovery and took the time to reflect for *National Health Executive*."

Looking back on her early life, Kirsty recalls: "I worked for my parents for a couple of years before dashing any early retirement hopes they might have had by moving to London after meeting my husband."

She then goes on to trace her interesting career.

Graham & Karen Rouse (1971-1978): Karen reported in February, preCovid-19, “We are all well here and now have 10 grandchildren who keep us busy with babysitting and holiday visits. Graham and I are both still very much involved in music, playing in 2 orchestras. Other than that, Graham is still running his woodworking business and I am still lecturing and thoroughly enjoying the challenge of developing online modules for our postgrads. I think retirement may still be a few years away but the way time flies it will probably be here before we know it.”

John Hastings (1961-1966): is to do a **charity walk/cycle over 64 miles** in memory of his late wife Sylvia who died on the 1st February 2019. This is the distance they had to travel to and from St. James's Hospital, Leeds, for the many treatments she underwent to try and combat her cancer. It will take place **between 28th April 2021 and 1st May 2021** if the situation regarding the COVID-19 virus has eased. John and Sylvia married in early May 2017. All donations, large or small, would be welcome. You can contact John to offer any sponsorship by text on 07518 64 60 94. Thank You. John and Sylvia are seen here on their wedding day.



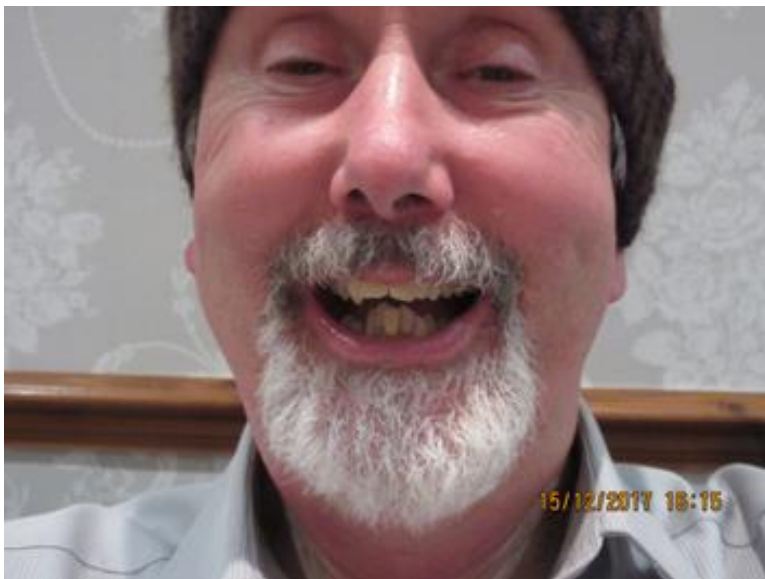
Briggensians President Appointment:

The sad death of Brian Taylor left a vacancy for President and the unanimous decision of the committee was to appoint a past pupil who has been a loyal follower and servant of the Briggensians' Association.

We are delighted to say that John Hastings has accepted this position.

John, commented: “Having read the first side of the minutes of the latest committee meeting, I turned over and read the two lines and one word and quickly needed another cup of coffee..... I would be very honoured and pleased to accept the position of President of The Briggensians' Association. I have been a member of the Association for 55 years and a committee member for 45..... Thank you all again for the invitation to become your President.”

Mike Cosser (1961-1968): Following a career of twenty years as a Social worker, followed by twenty years as a Probation Officer (and union health and safety rep) I retired in 2011



Jenny and I got married in 1977 and I have now been a Christian for forty one years, following being born again (receiving God's Holy Spirit) in 1996. In 2014 I began blessing shops, and evangelising, in what turned out to be 189 shopping areas of conurbations in the UK, Spain, France and the USA.

We moved to the London Borough of Bexley, in 2015, to be closer to our daughter, Emily, and her husband, Ateesh (both 40), and our two grandchildren Ashleigh and Oliver, now aged nine and five. Our son Alex (38) lives and works in the West Midlands.

I had a stroke in July 2018, which has left me with hemiopia, partial sightedness, which means I can no longer drive. Since Jenny doesn't drive, our mobility is restricted to public transport, which has been inadvisable to use in these pandemic times. Hence, we are confined to the very local area, good job we both enjoy reading.

Other than that, God continues to bless all our family with abundant health, for which we are very thankful.

In March 2020, when the lockdown was imposed, I thought my Christ sharing times were over, but it seems God had other plans. In May 2020, much to my surprise, I began to evangelise from my morning jog in a local park, and whilst on the jog down there I pray “come Holy Spirit”, to find that his immediate presence takes away my fear and makes me smiley and joyful.

Since then I have encountered about 250 people, on my morning jogs, about half of whom have heard my Christian testimony.

I am presently helping with an online Alpha course, which is a real joy, and I help to edit my Church’s in-house magazine, (St John’s Welling, the Grapevine). Also, I enjoy videos featuring Christians such as John Wimber, Blaine Cook, and Pete Greig on You tube, and we love praying on zoom group meetings.

I read lots of books, mostly crime and historical thrillers. I cook, garden, and spend time online.

Rev Evans was the only teacher to put me in detention. God has a great sense of humour.

I am trying to live a life that has an impact for Christ, as it is my choice to follow Him, and in this way I hope to fulfil His plan for my life, and now being seventy years old, I aspire to finish life well. It has been a blessed and wonderful life. Much love to all those who may remember me.

Bret Butler (1951-1958): You are probably aware of the response by New Zealand to the covid epidemic. There has been a total of 1940 cases since the business began earlier in the year and a total of 25 deaths.

We appear to be controlling the health aspect but are not out of the woods yet since many New Zealanders are returning home bringing with them the risk of the infection. Our border controls remain very tight and will probably stay that way for some time yet.

What has worked to our advantage has been a relatively small and generally compliant population along with our physical isolation on the world map. Our economy has taken a tremendous hit and we shall struggle in that area for some time but our greatest asset is the land, the capacity to feed ourselves and the ability to export produce.

As with most people, we have not been able to travel overseas this year but have taken the opportunity to explore areas of this beautiful country. We live in Taupo, which is a superb spot with its magnificent lake and mountains. The hotels and motels have been fully booked over recent weekends as Kiwis who would normally be in Australia or Europe at this time of the year are coming here instead or making for the beauty spots of the South Island.

We have just had a General Election where the government was returned to power with a vastly increased majority, suggesting that people feel that they have handled the crisis well under the rock star Prime Minister Jacinda Arden. It will be interesting to see how she manages the next three years.

My mum died in Grimsby in April at the age of 98. We were not able to get over for the funeral and locals were not allowed to attend either. She had done very well and we had seen her every year for the past 20 years.

There is a hint of early summer around and some places recorded 29 degrees yesterday but the weather never settles much at this time of the year. It is good to have the lighter evenings and we fired up the barbecue for the first time this weekend.

Sylvia Barber (S 1982-1998): Sorry there will not be a March 2021 dinner, but not unexpected.

Covid-19 experiences of the Barber family etc.

Caroline (SJN 1987-1992): is a Chartered Accountant with Notts B/S and as such is able to work from home (Derbyshire) and as such, saved herself a hectic morning drive into central Nottingham. She has just been going into the Office once a week. As such, we have only seen her for a walk - usually meeting up at a NT property which has been enjoyable, in spite of the crowds.

Rebecca (SJN 1989-1994): has been a Keyworker, and is teaching French and German at Arnold Comprehensive School, Notts. She is married to Gavin (a rep for EE but formerly a teacher of English at Carlton Notts). They have 2 children - Henry (9) and Chloe (6) and they live in Southwell. As such both grandchildren were able to go to school as Keyworkers children during the lockdown.

Sam (SJN 1994-1999): is now an Electronic Engineer with Dyson Group of Companies based in Wiltshire and in connection with his employment was in Singapore at the Factory in February 2020 when lockdown occurred. He managed to get back at the beginning of March and to take up his work once again as the company had a large contract to produce Ventilators, and as such he was often working 12 hour days to complete the order. We managed to catch up with him in September as we went down for a week's holiday to Cornwall in September, but it was heaving there with people both young and old!
Keep safe and roll on the day when we are back to normal.

Bill Phipps (1961-1968): returns to North Lincs after 35 years in exile in Leeds.

We moved to Barton on Humber in February and are happily settling into life back in North Lincs - it was called Humberside when we left, and there was no bridge across the Humber!! Discovering some of the places and friends we had back in the 80s. We'll be happy when the lockdown is over and we can discover some of the nice pubs and coffee bars in Barton. We look forward to getting in touch with some of our school friends and catch up on what has been happening over the last 30 odd years...also it gives me time to practice on my Uke."

David Culm (1954-1956): Like so many pupils in the 1950s, I was the son of an RAF officer stationed at RAF Hemswell. My friend **Geoff Grundy** was the son of a RAF sergeant at RAF Kirton Lindsey. My other RAF friend was **John Price** also at Brigg Grammar school. There were quite a few non-commissioned sons from Hemswell came on the Education department bus which was provided free of charge! Because of my father's RAF officer's career, I went to a total of 4 secondary schools (Chichester Grammar school, Thorne Grammar school, Brigg Grammar school and finally for 4 years at Loughborough College School as a boarder! Quite a mobile education experience full of change. I loved Brigg Grammar school because it was a balanced community, lots of agricultural pupils and Scunthorpe industrial boys, which we officer class boys fitted in with (ish).

Simon Church (1975-1982): seen during the last three weeks of boxing training before the 'Gym Show' (Saturday 28 March 2020)

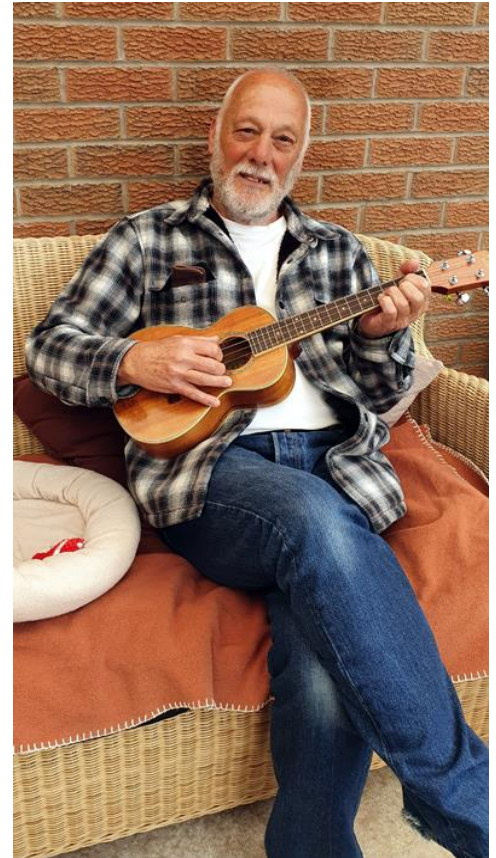
Simon is trying to raise money for 'McGrath Breast Cancer Care Nurses' back in OZ.

Simon says, "Sadly this horrible disease (Breast Cancer) has touched so many of us and it certainly does not discriminate by age, gender or fitness.

My aim now is to raise \$1,000.00 for The McGrath Foundation' by asking 100 family, friends and acquaintances to kindly donate \$10.00 each"

I would just like to say a big THANK YOU to all the supporters, sponsors, family and friends for your kind donations and best wishes.

Simon reported that, "Training went well, although I am a little sore, bruised and battered over these last few weeks at the dojo.



I must admit the journey has been far tougher than I thought it would be, but I cannot thank you all enough for your ongoing encouragement and support.

To the kind people who have invested their time, knowledge and effort into my preparation, I will be forever grateful.

Special Thanks go out to Justin (Boylan) and the Team at TMAC (Total Martial Arts Centre – Malaga), to John, Rob, Jarrod, Damo, Dylan, Ricky, Richard, Jaz, Beamer, Lawrence, Bluey and the rest of the crew, thanks for the ‘love’ punches!.

To Andy (Ross) and the gang at THAFC (The Health & Fitness Centre – Wangara) and to Tim (Jenkins) from Jenkins Physiotherapy, I appreciate you guys keeping me active and mobile, as well as patching up my aches and pains.

To my dear wife (Joanna) and family, thanks for putting up with my constant talk of boxing, my daily whinging and for supporting me through this ‘crazy’ goal.”

John Rhodes (1941-48): Expressed his disappointment, and that of many Briggensians, that he had not been able to donate towards the redevelopment funds at the school as they struggled to get Charity Status and will then be able to access Gift Aid. He did however give very generously to the funds in the hope that Charity Status would be granted soon and Gift Aid become available.

Covid-19 seems to have halted all building developments but Phase 2 has not been abandoned and we will contact members when we have better news.



Jon Cresswell (1985-1992): spent most of 2020 as a hostage of the French Army in Paris and has now returned to the UK. He still lives in the South West with a daughter now at university in Cardiff. Times passes quickly! The photo shows the course taken in the style of their predecessors of a century before in exactly the same place.

Jamie and Nicki Allcock (née Summers) (1981-1987) – from New Zealand: I was found on Facebook yesterday by a few old

friends from Brigg who had seen a post with photos of the box and items found in the loft of my mum’s old house in Albert Street. Yes, the items relate to Nicki and me. Keisha has arranged to pick it up from Vicki, the person who bought the house.

Oliver Baudert (1942-1947): I was at Brigg Grammar School as a Boarder in School House when Mr. Doughton and later Mr Matthews were Headmasters. Other teachers were Mr. Pratt and Mr. Cabourne.

I passed my School Certificate in 1947 but Mr. Matthews told my parents that I was unlikely to get my Higher SC therefore they took me out of Brigg. I enjoyed acting at school and played Theseus in MND in the open air between the two air raid shelters on the playing field near the school buildings.

I then studied for a year in Amsterdam at the First Public Business School in Raamplein from whom I got a Diploma. I speak fluent Dutch, good German and good French and Bahasa Indonesian.

I was then engaged as an apprentice at De Bijenkorf (The Beehive) departmental store in the centre of Amsterdam.

The British Consul in Amsterdam supported my application for a one-year deferment of my British National Service to enable me to complete my apprenticeship.

During my National Service in UK I was selected for Officer Training and was sent into the Intelligence Corps as a 2nd Lieutenant to Germany where I mainly worked as an air photographic interpreter but also worked in the Intelligence Services.

After 2 years I was demobilized and worked in Holland and Belgium as a Salesman before going to Singapore working for a Scottish Trading Company there, and Malaya and Borneo. I married a well known Eurasian Journaliste and after a long European holiday we went to Jakarta again as a salesman later manager and still later as a tobacco buyer. I was expelled from Indonesia on a charge of spying in the Sukarno period and we returned to England where I set up a scrap business in Putney before returning to the East as Manager of a Motor Company selling Volkswagen, Rovers and Landrovers. The business I worked for was taken over by the Earl of Inchcape who wanted me to return to Indonesia, which eventually I managed to do, but working for another Scottish Trading Company.

We lived in Java and Sumatra for 7 years before going to Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea where again I travelled extensively before going to Peking (Beijing) in early 1980 where I opened a new office for my company which was eventually taken over by a very big Australian company (Elders IXL). I was awarded the **OBE in 1976** for services to the British Empire while in Indonesia where we both met the Queen who took a liking to my wife with whom she had tea one morning privately in the Palace. I retired in 1985 and we lived in Sydney and later in Canberra. My wife died here (cancer) after 58 years of a very happy marriage.

Theseus in Brigg always stuck with me and I have enjoyed acting all through my life and have appeared in numerous plays here.

I am now 90 and a bit frail (need a stick!) and my youngest daughter lives with me. To be honest I didn't really like Brigg all that much.

Daughton was a marvellous headmaster but Matthews I remember as being arrogant and a poor teacher. There was also an amusing scandal at that time concerning the Matron about which I cannot really go into print.....! You probably know the story.

If there are any old Briggensians from the early 1940's still around in Australia I would like to make contact with them or one of them.

Dave Tear (1977-1980): It's been an interesting year so far. We had a 6 ½ week holiday booked in Texas starting on the 11th March. We decided to go and almost as soon as we arrived the Covid explosion happened. After a couple of days we had notice from Holland America that our Caribbean cruise had been cancelled. The situation continued to deteriorate with restaurants closing left right and centre. After three days it was obvious that the best thing to do was to try to get back to the UK. We managed to get seats on the last transatlantic flight to leave Austin International. So after 5 days we were back in the UK.

Since returning things have been difficult. Gail's T cell lymphoma has returned and metastasised in numerous places making her very poorly. Lincoln Hospital and her Consultants have been absolutely fabulous. Numerous tests and consultations later Gail started her Bendamustine and Rituximab chemo therapy on 24th September. The effects have been incredible! The very visible lumps in her neck have diminished to the point where they are not visible and barely detectable to the touch. She was able to stop taking the morphine and other pain killers within three weeks. The therapy made her feel so poorly but as she says it a small price to pay for the benefits. Gail has had four years since previous treatment which unfortunately was towards the low side of the

consultants' prediction. Since writing this initially on 23rd October Gail's further improvement is remarkable; she is so positive about the future... she makes me feel so humble.

Ruby Allen, (née Ford)-old girl of the High School: continues to amaze me with her good health and



sharpness. She has moved from Scothern where she lived with 'Old Boy' husband **John** from 1967 and now lives in a Lincoln, city apartment. Ruby fell a couple of years ago gardening and caused an open fracture of her lower arm. Whilst recovering from this she said do you think it's time for me to down size? The rest is history.

I have attached a couple of photos from Ruby's school days. The picture below of the three girls was taken for the paper during the

school production "**The Emperor's New Clothes**" written by Hans Christian Anderson and published in 1937.

The other photo, left, is also of school production but unfortunately Ruby is unable to remember which one. However, the following girls feature in it; **June Ellis, Brenda Latham, Barbara Havercroft, Mary Baratley (daughter of Alan and Mary), Mary Dunham, Betty Price, Pat Dickinson** and of course **Ruby Allen**. Staff in the picture include **Miss Liddell, Head, Miss Timmins, Maths and Miss Stewart, Geography**. Ruby says, unfortunately these are the only people she can remember! Remarkable if you ask me.



Gail and I feel lucky that the Covid-19 pandemic has to date caused us very little problem or worry.

Antipodean News from DownUnder

Paul Jenkinson & Simon Church

Australia has been known as the "Lucky Country" since the 60's, and the description has never been truer than in this most bizarre of years. Relative to the rest of the planet our sparse population and remoteness has resulted in minimal impact in terms of illness and fatalities.

Last year Simon Church & I reported on the inaugural "All Australian Loggats Championships" held in Margaret River, Western Australia in June 2019, where the experience of the West Australian hosts the Churches prevailed over the enthusiasm of the NSW Team in the cold & wet of June in Southern WA.

This year the NSW Challengers were due to host the reigning champions over here in NSW over Easter for the second instalment of the **Loggats Challenge**. Unfortunately, the early lock down restrictions of Covid-19 quickly put paid to any re-match in the flesh.

Calling on all our powers of innovation, forged in Jack Moore's Chemistry lessons, we managed to pivot the event to a virtual challenge with the combatants each competing from their home state and streamed live on the internet.

This called for a whole new set of preparations. To begin with, it required vague memories of woodworking with Mr Adams & Art with Mr Ramsey to conjure up an appropriate set of Loggats to even allow the challengers to compete.



Easter Saturday dawned bright and sunny on both sides of the “big brown land”. Preparations were complete. Befitting their champion status the Western Australia home pitch of the defending champions was be-decked with stands & banners and a pitch that wouldn’t have been out of place on the cricket square at school.

Rather embarrassingly the challengers venue was somewhat more ramshackle and modest – think Broughton CC on a wet Tuesday!!

The first pitch was timed for 4pm Sydney time, which allowed for a global audience, perfectly timed for breakfast in the UK. The winner of each end required careful measurement and trigonometry that would have made Harry Stinson proud!



After a tumultuous battle and the suspense of broken internet connections, the Champions were finally deposed in the 12th end when the NSW team secured 3 loggats to record an 11-5 scoreline.

This proved to be sweet revenge for NSW who had been waiting 45 years to avenge Junior House Cricket Nelthorpe v Yarborough 1976 Jenkinson Bowled S. Church 3

Global audience peaked at a commendable 19 given the limited marketing budget. We believe this was a global record for team sport on Easter Saturday – since everyone else was in lockdown.

The Loggateers Trophy duly found its way to NSW where it currently has pride of place on the mantelpiece. Planning has already begun for the 3rd annual Challenge Match at a future date to be determined depending upon the lockdown situation. Simon and I would be delighted to offer up a Loggats Ashes Challenge Match when we hope to be back in Brigg for a 40 year reunion in 2022. Loggats is a sport well suited to summer sports day, sedentary, inclusive and works better with alcohol!



NSW Lead Loggateer Paul J demonstrating sound pitching technique resplendent in School Colours!

Last, but by no means least, thanks to John Harding and the English Department for teaching us how to write proper like we have done here!

Tim Phipps (1972-1979): shared his thoughts about the lockdown as he 'works' from home. Check the link.

<https://www.civillitigationbrief.com/.../the-not-so.../>



Rob Towler (1960-67): Although I retired after 44 years in Strasbourg working as an architect and town planner, I accepted, in August 2017, a short assignment for a German engineering firm to revise planning documents for a town in Northern Uganda. Unfortunately, the team leader fell ill a few months after I started and I was asked to take over and manage a project. This includes, amongst many other aspects, creating an intake and pipeline from the Nile to Gulu (72 km), putting a waste collection system into place, building a number of sanitation facilities and advising on the transition from town to city status. Finance is from the German government and the World Bank. It looks like I will remain here for the next 4 to 5 years. My mother died in June last year closely followed by my brother who studied at school from 1956 to 1962 before attending Nottingham University. My visits back to Lincolnshire will no doubt become very sporadic although, through Facebook, I have contacts with some of those who were part of the athletics/ cross-country team of the 60's.

Life has been a little hectic dealing with covid-19 issues, staff safety and trying to ensure that contractors can keep working.



Futurefirst: As we come to the end of another year and complete the first term for the 2020/21 school calendar, we would like to say a big thank you to our alumni network.

We are always trying to reach out to more former students who have left over the years, so if you are still in touch with anyone who you went to school with, please do email them with the sign up link, which can be found here:

<https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/signup/sirjohnschool>

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year. Best wishes, Danny - Alumni Programme Manager

Andrew Graeme (1964-1967): sent a message to say: I am contacting you because the **Future First** website contacted me asking for help from former pupils of Nelthorpe. Unfortunately, their website login just does not work, so I am contacting you directly, asking what remote aid I can give pupils - perhaps a YouTube lecture or some 1-2-1 tutoring or something along those lines. Something to keep them motivated and with their collective noses to the grindstone!

If it helps, I am 69 and studied audio engineering in Germany and then economics at the LSE and I am fluent in German. At present, I am studying cinematography informally with guidance from Roger Deakins and others of similar calibre in preparation to setting up a film company (on hold during this confounded lockdown of course!)

The Byre Recording Studio <http://www.the-byre.com>

Committee Members: If any Briggensian living locally would be willing to join the committee then please contact Helen Cresswell at: hccresswell@westrum.co.uk or tel: 01652 653216. There are only three meetings annually that 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 to Julie Lawson who has assisted me this year in collating all the entries. Can I 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 2021, keep safe and get the vaccine as soon as you are offered.

BRIGGENSIANS SPORTS 2020:

Cricket, Football and Netball etc. all cancelled:

Golf: Reports and results of the 2020 matches – David Harness

2020 has been a very difficult year in all sorts of ways for everyone, so not being able to play the Spring match in April and the Past versus Present match in July were disappointing, but not a big deal in the grand scheme of things.

Fortunately the Autumn match was able to go ahead as it fell between what turned out to be two lockdowns (golf was cancelled during lockdowns).

The Autumn game - it was a very good golfing day, chilly & overcast, with no rain, although the ground was a bit soft. There were 11 players and all enjoyed, with most scoring 30+ points.

Results –

1st Matthew Holmes (38),

2nd Tim Fell (35),

3rd Mark Boast (35 back 9 count).

For the first time we ran a 2's competition which was won by Ross McFarlane.

It was great to see a sub 30 year old player playing and winning (Matthew also won the cup in 2007), and in his victory speech he promised to encourage more of his age group to come to future events.

We held a socially distanced AGM after the match, which focussed mainly on the election of officials

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| a. President – | Dave Brittain was re-elected unopposed. |
| b. Vice President – | Ted Cox was re-elected unopposed |
| c. Secretary/treasurer – | Dave Harness was re-elected unopposed |
| d. Captain – | Jon Taylor was re-elected unopposed (it was felt that Jon had not had a fair chance to be Captain) |
| e. Vice-Captain – | Keith Barnes was re-elected unopposed (it was felt that Keith had not had a fair chance to be VC) |

The 2's competition was a good success and will be a permanent part of future Spring & Autumn games.

It was agreed that subs of £1/head for each of the Spring and Autumn games should continue. (The funds in the bank account are around £130).

Everyone was very pleased that we had been able to hold at least one match during this very difficult coronavirus year – some of the older members may know of a year in the past when the society didn't play, but if not, we were all pleased that it was not 2020 that the unbroken run was broken.

We are all looking forward to the 2021 season and hopefully a welcome return to some normality.



Mugs, Ties and Badges for Sale:



The association still has available for sale a few ties and a new pin badge and 'Our Place in Time' mugs. Members who would like to purchase these items can:

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 Mugs £5 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: hccresswell@westrum.co.uk

For those using the postal service:

I/We have received the 2020/21 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 2021/22 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 2021/22 Newsletter or web site to: dave.brittain@talktalk.net