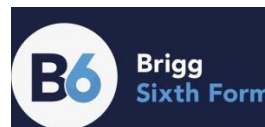
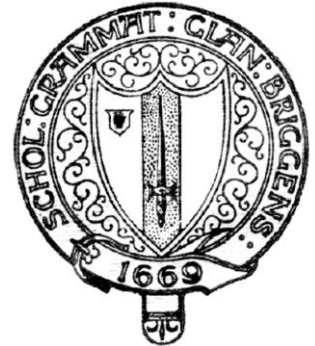
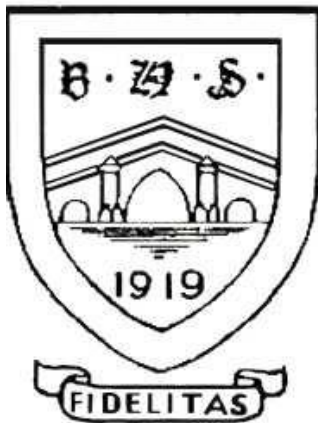


# BRIGGENSIANS' NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY

2022



## Briggensians' Association 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner

Saturday 19th March 2022 - 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

Elsham Golf Club. **Tickets £25.00**

**Guest Speaker: Helen Flewker (1992-1999)**

**Booking slips are located on the last pages of this Newsletter**

## Welcome to the Briggensians Magazine 2022

It is always wonderful to hear tales of travel, work and play from former pupils as well as the photos and stories that you send in. It would be great if the younger generations could get involved and let us know how they are getting on. If you have family or friends with interesting stories then please ask them to send them into Dave Brittain at [dave.brittain@talktalk.net](mailto:dave.brittain@talktalk.net) or [julielawson7@hotmail.com](mailto:julielawson7@hotmail.com)

We hope that people will be able to attend the Annual Dinner and other events that are run through Sir John Nelthorpe School.

If anyone would like to donate raffle prizes for the dinner, they would be gratefully received and can be left with Mrs Cresswell. Thank you.

### Guest Speaker - Helen Flewker (1992-1999):

After sixth form at SJN, I went to Durham University to study philosophy with politics. After graduation, I spent a year teaching English in an underfunded secondary school in East Berlin (Hellersdorf) through the British Council.

I joined the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (as it was called then) in 2003. During my first few years in London, I worked in our Training Team and in the Counter Terrorism department, looking at the Middle East and at threats to aviation.

I undertook my first overseas posting to Afghanistan (Kabul) where I worked in the Political-Military Team. After 16 months there, I returned to the UK to work in the Middle East department, focusing on Yemen.



My next posting was to Iran. After 8 months of full time Farsi language training I went to the political team in Tehran. Unfortunately, my timing was dreadful and as a consequence of an attack on the embassy, it was evacuated and closed only two weeks after my arrival! Instead, we opened a small "Embassy in Exile" in Dubai and I relocated there.

Next, was a short (7 month) stint in Saudi Arabia and then a chance to learn new skills as the Trade Attaché at our embassy in Ankara, Turkey.

My most recent job in London was as head of the Saudi Arabia team, during a time of immense change in the Kingdom and some

significant challenges to our relationship.

After another spell of full-time language training, I am currently in Bosnia Herzegovina as head of our political team. It's a busy role with current events posing a real threat to the post-1990s peace and stability of the region.

I will be talking about what I've learnt about resilience (including picking oneself up after failure) and the importance of interpersonal relations (in diplomacy and through life!)



**The 2022 Dinner may yet become a casualty of the COVID-19 pandemic but at the time of writing we are very optimistic and planning as if the situation will be much improved by March 2022 and the annual Dinner can go ahead.**

# Annual Dinner Menu

## Starter

Melon

or

Tomato and Basil Soup

or

Chicken Liver Pâté



## Main

Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding

or

Salmon Fillet with Hollandaise Sauce

or

## Vegetarian Option

Butternut Squash & Red Pepper Tartlet

All Served with Seasonal Veg & Potatoes



## Dessert

Raspberry and White Chocolate Roulade

or

Fruit Crumble & Custard

or

Cheese and Biscuits



Tea and Coffee

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

***Booking forms on the last pages: please note reply address is to the school***



## Chairman's Report 2021-22:

Another year as Chairman of the Briggensians committee has passed, and once again, it has been an eventful one. With the development of the vaccine and the opening up of the country, 2021 was certainly a vast improvement on 2020. I hope that this year we can all get back to some resemblance of normality.



Throughout last year, the committee has continued to meet and conduct business. We even managed to meet up in the flesh a couple of times! However, we are still having Zoom meetings when they are considered more convenient. Unfortunately, as with every year, a number of Briggensians are no longer with us. Their families will dearly miss them as will all who knew them. Please join me in sending our collective condolences to all those affected by these losses. For obvious reasons the annual dinner could not go ahead in March. However, the committee, with a lot of help from Tom Nelthorpe, managed to put together a virtual dinner. Many thanks go to Holly Mumby-Croft MP for agreeing to be our speaker. Although it was no substitute for the real thing, I did think it went down quite well. Assuming everything goes to plan, the 2022 dinner is scheduled for Saturday the 19th of March.

Yet again, I have no sporting events to report on this year. However, the Adrian Gibbons memorial event did manage to take place last year at Brigg Town Football Club. This was well supported, very successful, and raised a lot of money for charity.

I will leave it to Mr Biglands to inform you what has been happening at the school. Due to the continuing effects of COVID this has yet again another difficult year for both pupils and staff. Let's hope they are now seeing a bit of light at the end of the tunnel.

On that note, I would just like to end by wishing everyone a better and less restrictive 2022.

**Clive Thompson**

## Head teacher's Report 2021-22:

### Happy New Year to one and all

Despite the many challenges faced over the past year, I am delighted to be able to share with you a few insights to the successes the school has achieved. In a departure from the normal format, I have chosen to concentrate



*The School House 'open' for visitors to the Year 6 Open Evening in October 2021*

the main part of this report to the destinations of our sixth form leavers which I hope will be of interest to you. As you will see, COVID-19 and the many associated negative impacts on everyone's lives certainly hasn't stopped our leavers moving on to pursue a diverse and exciting range of interests:

In September, 32 year 11 pupils progressed into our 6th form to commence their A Level studies. GCSE outcomes, assessed at Centre level in June 2021 were typically strong, enabling all pupils to progress to their next stage of education or training.

### School House:

The School House was officially opened by the Leader of North Lincolnshire Council, Cllr Rob Waltham MBE, who kindly attended and cut the ribbon to the main entrance in front of a

selection of invited guests representing North Lincolnshire Council, SJN and Foundation governing bodies, the

Brigg Arts and Culture Centre and The Briggensians'. It has been an instant success with many visitors commenting positively about the improvements happening at the school.

## Sixth Form Leavers' Destinations 2021:

	Name		Destination
K	Belt	University	Manchester - Business
J	Binnington	University	Nottingham Trent - Cyber Security
K	Butterfield	University	Leeds - Physics
A	Cavill	University	Leeds Beckett - Architecture
M	Chadwick	University	Lincoln - Law
B	Chung	University	Nottingham - Computer Science
T	Clark	University	Cumbria - Forestry Management/Conservation
V	Cook	University	Sunderland - Biomedical Science
S	Donaldson	University	Hull York Medical School - Medicine
L	Elliott	HM Forces	Royal Navy
I	Gray	University	Lincoln - MA Chemistry
E	Howell	Apprenticeship	Degree Apprenticeship in Digital Marketing
L	Jaques	University	Lincoln - Forensic Science
Z	Lidguard	University	York - Integrated Master's in Social Work
A	Lus	University	Leeds - Fashion, Branding and Marketing
M	Mae Dowling	University	UCNL Scunthorpe - Primary School Teaching
J	Marshall	HM Forces	Royal Air Force
R	M-Brown	University	Liverpool - Physics
C	Mitchell	Apprenticeship	Apprenticeship - Equine/Jockey training
T	Mosey	HM Forces	Army - Royal Signals
C	O'Hagan	University	Hull - Politics
L	Palmer	University	Sussex - Art History
J	Reid	University	Lancaster - Physics
C	Richardson	University	Durham - English Literature
T	Shoulder	University	Hull - History
N	Turner	University	Cheltenham - Computer Games Programming and Games Design
M	Waite	University	Bristol - Aeronautical Engineering with Pilot Studies
Z	Woolass	University	Sheffield - Politics
M	Zegocki	University	Huddersfield - Law

### Carbon Reduction campaign

In this Spring Term the school will be planting over 200 native deciduous tree species in support of the carbon footprint reduction focus set by the newly elected School Council. Other planned activities include improving provision for the safe storage of bicycles at school and encouraging more pupils (and staff) to replace petrol power with pedal power. The School Council will be engaging with the Local Authority and MP for Brigg and Goole, Mr Andrew Percy, about recent and future improvements to cycle routes in and around Brigg.

With best wishes for a safe, healthy and prosperous year ahead from all at Sir John Nelthorpe School.

**Robert Biglands, Headteacher**

## 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](http://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

**Ailsa Moore:** I regret to report the death of Ailsa Moore, she passed away peacefully on 5th October and her funeral was on Friday 12th November at Woking Crematorium.

Ailsa was a previous Head of Brigg Girl's High School and SJN Sixth Form.



Ailsa was awarded Woking's Eminent Citizen of the Year for 2006 for all her work as a committed peace campaigner and Local Agenda 21 member. She received the Mayor's award and a badge of recognition for her tireless work in the community and her support for refugees abroad.

Ailsa moved to Woking in 1982 and became Head teacher of Greenfield School from 1988 to 1995; she was a director of The Ockenden Venture, now Ockenden International, which works to help refugees overseas.

She was instrumental in installing the 'Protecting the Child' sculpture in Woking Park last year in commemoration of the founding of the Ockenden Venture.

During the civic reception, the Mayor of Woking, Cllr Ian Johnson, told guests Ailsa had been an invaluable member of the community in roles such as helping

to produce the Woking Green Pages, a guide that encourages people to adopt environmentally friendly practices.

Ailsa helped Woking achieve its Fairtrade borough status as a member of the Fairtrade group and was a campaigner for the Woking branch of Amnesty International.

She was a friend of Woking Music Festival and sat on the Council of Christians Aware, an international charity working for justice and peace by means of international travel, conferences and publications. This work has taken her to Palestine and South Africa.

### Memories of Ailsa Moore by Jill Craig:

I became friends with Ailsa after her appointment as Headteacher at BGHS where I was serving as Deputy Head; on her move to Woking in 1982, we remained in contact until recent years, when old age and poor health stopped communications. It is with sadness therefore, but with a sense of privilege that I recall a few details about her personality and a very eventful life.

At first meeting, Ailsa may have come across as somewhat reserved and shy. This was not the case; she enjoyed a variety of social and creative activities, including music and art appreciation and participated in many sports, particularly badminton. The art of dance and choreography and redesigning and digging her garden gave her equal pleasure, but above all, she loved fell walking which embodied the world of outdoors and all forms of natural wonders. Far from the madding crowd in her remote cottage or bolthole in



Northumberland, she could truly unwind and chill out. The scenery, I recall, was beautiful. She also acquired a host of friends, drawn from staff and former pupils, who have remained in life-long contact and will all have their special remembrances. Many will recall her companion, Pancho, the grey African parrot, for whom she never failed to find a 'babysitter'. He was a good conversationalist, but only when in the mood.

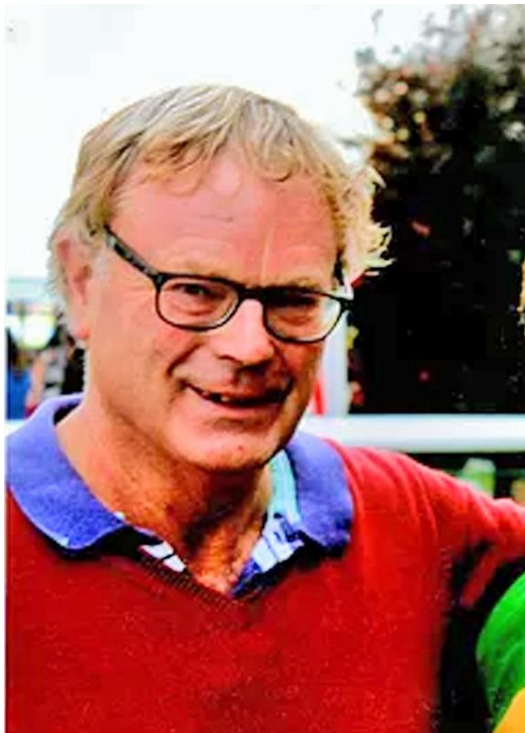
As an educator, Ailsa of course held academic standards to be of the highest importance, but her interest, I believe, also lay in the development of a rounded, confident individual with a disposition alert to the troubles of others in the community and the wider world. Thus, it transpired that, once in charge, Ailsa would facilitate former pupils to gain a 'hands on' working experience at the juncture between school and university.

Ailsa's close friendship with Joyce Pearce the founder of Ockenden International, surely developed from when Joyce gave the address at a BGHS Speech Day and must have recognised a kindred spirit. Ailsa's journey to Ockenden, however, was only just beginning. When the two selective grammar schools became comprehensive, this brought about the building of a joint sixth form annex of which Ailsa became Head – a challenge she accepted with optimism and zest for many years until she relocated to 'Greenfield', a private school having long standing connections with Joyce Pearce at Ockenden. From that point, her Christmas Round Robin letters abounded with interesting tales of projects and strategies in far-flung countries, new friendships in literary and political circles – and the ever-present problems of wars and refugees.

Ailsa lived a long and useful life; she lived it to the full; her photographs depict a happy and smiling person. Although involved most of her life in education perhaps seeds were sewn in her teaching years in Africa, her destiny lay ultimately in helping the underprivileged and dispossessed. The calling demands bold qualities, recognised by the Dalai Lama in the speech quoted to me by Ailsa in one of her letters (1993), possibly the year she met him.

"In order to lead a meaningful life or useful life, and a life which benefits not only oneself but others, the most important thing is motivation, motivation based on optimism."

**Peter Thompson (1958-1965):** Peter could always tell a good story. Very often it would be based on his



own experience. So, in more recent times around a table or at the bar in the pub we have been regaled with tales of missed trains, lost suitcases, wrong turnings, how he ended up with two left ear hearing aids, the story of the missing wallet, the £10 note from nowhere, falling into the stream during a round of golf.....even though the events were often calamitous he (and Gwen) always ended up in the right place or at least going in the right direction even if they might occasionally have been a bit late! He was an entertaining speaker at the dinner table and welcomed in clubhouses wherever he played or umpired. Even when chaos appeared to be reigning and disaster looming, his tales always ended happily. So when we ran out of petrol in Alford after a somewhat lively hockey club dinner, the crisis was ended when one of the guests (who had better remain anonymous) magically produced a key to the nearby cricket club where he knew there was a supply of petrol for the mower.....

Peter's friendly character, his sense of humour and willingness to make fun out of his own experiences meant he was well known and liked and these are some of the many reasons why his friends will miss him. **Adrian Broome**

I recall a couple of memorable incidents from playing hockey with Peter.

One time following a game in deepest Lincolnshire, he gathered up his kit and casually deposited it in the back of his car and set off back to Brigg. I followed in my own car and as we progressed along the bumpy rural roads, the tailgate bounced open and items of clothing spilled onto the road. We gathered them up and followed only

to have to pause again to repeat the collection of kit on several more occasions. We were able to reunite Peter with his belongings back in Brigg; he was completely unaware of our collection service. After another game, we parked in Brigg Market Place and took refreshment in what was then the Angel Hotel. When we left, Peter got into his car and backed slowly out but unfortunately made contact with the lamppost. He drove forward again, got out, looked at the boot, scratched his head and got back into the car. He reversed again straight into the lamppost. We obviously had had a great win and celebrated a little too hard. **Dave Brittain**



**Karen Barton (nee Ellis) (1971 – 1975):** We have heard that Karen, from Bishop Norton passed away 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021, following emergency surgery. She was married to William and had 3 sons and grandchildren.



**Adam Simms**, a popular student and talented sportsman was killed following a collision with a HGV on the A18, Mortal Ash Hill. Adam is recalled as always having a smile on his face, made friends easily and was affectionately known as “Tigger” the AA Milne character from Winnie the Pooh because of his bouncy personality. There is a JustGiving page set up in his memory. He will be greatly missed by family and friends. Adam was intending to go to university to study to become a qualified PE teacher.

**Owen Hartley (1955-1962):**

Carol Atherton emailed to let me know that her father-in-law, Owen Hartley, who attended Brigg Grammar School, died after a short illness on 1 June 2021.

Owen was the son of a steelworker, and was destined for the steelworks himself. However, his History teacher at Brigg Grammar School intervened and Owen subsequently went up to St Peter's College, Oxford, to read Politics, Philosophy and Economics. He then went to Nuffield College, Oxford to do a DPhil and subsequently became a lecturer at the University of Leeds, specialising in twentieth-century politics and international relations. He married Sheila McJannet in 1968 and had two children, Helen (born 1970) and Matthew (born 1972). He had one grandson, Levi, born 2004.



Owen was a gifted teacher: precise and rigorous but patient, warm and good-humoured. He excelled as a supervisor of PhD students but also played a very important role in encouraging students who, like himself, were the first in their family to go to university. For many years he carried out mock interviews for sixth formers at the grammar school where I taught in Lincolnshire, and played an important role in encouraging bright young men and women to aspire to Oxbridge. Owen always remembered Brigg Grammar School very fondly, and recognised the enormous role that the school played in enabling a boy from a very modest background to progress to a distinguished academic career.

**Oliver Baudert OBE (1942-1947):** Daughter Phillipa emailed to let us know that Oliver passed away Wednesday 26 May 2021. He died quickly with peace and dignity and with all of his much-loved family around him. Dad had been growing increasingly frail physically but was still very much ‘with it’ mentally and loved to



connect with and enjoy the company of his family and friends. Mum always used to tell us 'your father is the kindest man I've ever met' and we will remember him with unconditional love and affection. Dad kept us laughing 'til the end and we rest easier knowing he's finally reunited with his beloved Teri in everlasting peace. A farewell service was held 1:30pm Tuesday 8th June 2021 at Norwood Park Chapel in Canberra, Australia.

**Joan Vickers (nee Bradshaw):** Sad to report ex BGHS student Joan passed away on 31/12/2021 aged 96 her body has been donated to York University for medical research. Joan Vickers was my Auntie and Mother of **Alan, BGS (1962-1969)**. She attended BGHS in the 1930s before going to Sutton Bonnington Agriculture College and becoming a Farm Manager at Worlabey. **Tony Coulson**



I was very sorry to hear of the death of Brian Taylor who I have known for many a year was always the perfect gentleman. We first met on the school field and he was a very good timekeeper. We looked on Mr Taylor as another member of staff, someone we recognised as a true and interested supporter. He was a fair and honest judge. One match that we (Robert Towler and I) will never forget springs to mind. The final of the half a mile was run before Sport's Day and pupils were allowed to miss lessons to watch the event. The gun was fired and off we went. The race was neck and neck with no advantage to either of us as the bell went and the pace increased. We both made our move and the lead changed many times during those last 200 yards. I was in Lane 3 and Robert was in Lane 1 heading for the tape. We were neck and neck and getting lower and lower towards the finishing line and collapsed on the floor. Mr Taylor

was timing me and Mr Atkin was timing Robert. The 2 put their heads together and the result was a dead heat getting 5 and a half points each for our House. Robert was Yarborough and myself Ancholme. Mr Taylor had been allowed time off work to come and time keep. He was a wonderful person leaving so many memories for all the people that he came into contact with during their lives. I send my condolences to Julie and Stephen.

**In memory of Brian, a House athletics cup was purchased and it is fitting that his daughter, Julie, accompanied by her son Chris,**

**presented the cup for the first time this summer. It is appropriate that the House that won the cup was Taylor House.**

**John continues:**

I am honoured and pleased to accept the position of President of The Briggensians' Association. I have been a member for 56 years and a Committee Member for 46 years.

I remember helping to produce the Newsletter. The first one being in 1977 with the help and guidance of Dr Henthorn. As time went by all the typing was done by Dena Clatworthy. The final article was taken to Upper School to be printed. Each page had to be put in order and stapled. Each magazine had to be folded and put in a long brown envelope, addressed and then given to pupils who lived in the area where the envelopes were addressed. Others were posted. What a great job the pupils did.



### **Jeremy Henthorn (1953-1961):**

Jeremy was Head Boy in his final year at the school, an honour of which he was very proud. His father, Frank Henthorn, was the much respected senior history Master and Deputy Headmaster. After leaving school Jeremy went to police training college in Lincoln and from there he joined the Metropolitan Force in which he served for 35 years. He was married to his second wife, Aisha, for over 40 years and she was with him when he passed away.



### **Rachel Fisk (2000-2007):** An RAF



parachute instructor who was educated in northern Lincolnshire has tragically died during a training exercise.

Sergeant Rachel Fisk, 32, sadly died at RAF Weston-on-the-Green near Bicester in Oxfordshire on Friday September 3rd 2021. Her canopy reportedly failed to open on a training jump from 12,000ft.

Her devastated family said she had an 'infectious' personality. They said: "It is with great sadness that we mourn the death of our dear daughter, Rachel. She lived her life with joy and thoughtfulness

for others and loved the career she had chosen. Rachel will be missed by so many."

Rachel was born in Nuneaton in 1989 to a military family and attended Sir John Nelthorpe School in Brigg. She was a keen sportswoman and was a regular at Scunthorpe and District Athletics Club in track and field. Sgt Fisk joined the RAF as a Physical Training Instructor in 2011 and initially served at RAF Wittering and RAF College, Cranwell.

In 2016, she was selected for instructional duties at the No1 Parachute Training School at RAF Brize Norton where she learnt how to instruct and deliver parachute training for the Armed Forces.

Last year, she moved to deliver Joint Service Adventurous Training at RAF Weston on the Green in Oxfordshire. RAF colleagues of Sgt Fisk have also paid tribute to the 32-year-old.

She was able to transfer her bubbly personality to her students, she consistently gave them the assurance and confidence required to complete that nervous task of jumping out of an aircraft.

### **Bill Monteith (1937- 1941):**

Bill passed his 11+ and was one of only three boys from Crosby Juniors (Scunthorpe) to do so that year. He left BGS in 1942 to join Appleby-Frodingham steelworks as a chemist working in its laboratories.

As you know, there were very close links between the school and Appleby-Frodingham, particularly in science.

He booked many famous cricketers to appear at his popular cricket forums in Scunthorpe during





the 1970s and 1980s, including Colin Cowdrey, Derek Randall, Ray Illingworth, Ian Botham, Alan Knott, Dennis Amiss, John Hampshire and Basil D'Oliveira.

He was a top cricket coach and accompanied U15 teams on overseas tours to Pakistan, the West Indies and South Africa.

**Thanks to his family and Nigel Fisher for this entry.**

**Harry Thorpe (1968-75):** Harry sadly passed away on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, after a short illness. Many of you will remember Harry at school as a stalwart of Yarborough House who kept goal in house football as well as representing the school as second team goalkeeper. Modelling himself on his Sheffield Wednesday hero, Peter Springett, he made up for his lack of Springett's agility, with a fun-loving sense of enthusiasm for the game and life.



A farmer's son, born in Brigg and raised at Pingley farm, I first met Harry at Brigg Preparatory school where he suffered severely with Asthma as a child and missed months of lessons. We struck up a close, lifelong friendship and were both delighted to pass our eleven plus exams in 1968. We began life at Brigg Grammar school just as the Tercentenary celebrations were looming. These were exciting times at the school. Lots of events and festivities to mark 300 years since the "Good Sir John" gave "broad acres" and the opportunity for local boys to receive an excellent education.

We both knew we had drawn a winning ticket in life's lottery. We very much valued our time at the school

alongside Harry's younger brother Godfrey and sister Patty at the Girls' High School. Sixth form studies were taught at a high standard by talented schoolmasters like Jack Moore, Derek Appleyard, and John Allcock. They saw us over the finishing line and off he went to study Agriculture at Riseholme College, Lincoln.



On the romantic front, Harry literally met Sally in the late 70's and sharing a great interest in all matters equine, were soon married and I was proud to be their best man in 1983. At this point, Harry was able to indulge more in his lifelong passion for horses. Having hunted as a child, he moved into eventing and competed at a high level with several horses whilst also successfully competing in Point-to-Point races

locally. He was always proud to mention the Grand National success of a horse he had owned with his late father, Jim Thorpe. That horse was "Glanford Brigg" who ran eighth at Aintree in 1975. Harry was oft heard to say, "Glanford was leading well into the second circuit you know...!"

After many years of farming cereals and sheep at Pingley, Harry, Sally, with daughters, Emma and Alice moved off to Hatcliffe near Grimsby and established a smaller unit devoted to breeding horses. He also





spent happy times at numerous racetracks helping load horses into the starting stalls and transport them around the countryside. Horses were very definitely in his blood. Sadly, he was unable to enjoy much of his family's relocation to a smallholding near Richmond in Yorkshire. A downsized equestrian property was to be his last move into retirement with his horses.

Despite a short illness, first diagnosed in December 2020, Harry remained upbeat and was always keen to discuss "those Grammar school days" on the phone. Conversations that are now sadly missed. Several friends are due to join Sally, Emma and Alice with Harry's beloved grandchildren, James, and Hattie at Catterick Racecourse in February, to commemorate his life, and scatter his ashes on the very turf he so loved. We will remember him, always. **Mark Proctor**

## Local News:



Did anyone go to the **Convent School** which dates back to the 18th century, it is a grade two listed property? Approval is now being sought to make internal alterations and replace a rear bay window with bifold doors at 2 Manor House Convent, Bigby Street, which forms part of the former Brigg Manor House and Convent School. This closed in July 1971 on instructions from the religious Order which ran it.

The grand former Manor House, occupied by the Elwes family, was given to the Rosminian Nuns, rent free, when Gervase Elwes and his wife moved to live at Billing Hall, Northamptonshire. The nuns later obtained the freehold of the building for a nominal sum.

Following closure of the Convent half-a-century ago, the property was converted to provide residential accommodation while the St Clares Walk cul-de-sac development occupied some of the manor house's extensive grounds.

Various reunions of former Convent School pupils have been held in Brigg over the years.

With the 50th anniversary of its closure in last summer, perhaps there will be another this coming summer (Coronavirus emergency permitting)?

Our former Lincolnshire Times colleague, Edward Dodd, devoted a page to the Convent in 1973/4 when he wrote his acclaimed Brigg book, marking the end of the Brigg Urban District Council era that stretched back to the 1890s. **(Taken from Nigel Fisher's Brigg Blog in January 2021)**



### Boarding House 1979:

Were you there' this is one of the last few photographs before the Humberside Authority started to act against boarding.

New Entrance to the **Sir John Nelthorpe School** on Grammar School Road has been completed. This development provides access by an original school entrance dating back to the 1670s; it will enable members of the public to access the newly remodelled and refurbished Drama facilities, reception room and other facilities



**Brigg Blog's** attention was also drawn to an interesting old picture found recently - by chance - in someone's loft in the town.

Taken in the late 1950s, it shows **Harry Pimlott** - a very well-known master at Brigg Grammar School. Rob Conroy, who chanced upon the picture, kindly shared it online. Although Rob, having only recently moved to Brigg, knows nothing about Harry Pimlott, he hoped the image would bring back nice memories for people who did and that has proved to be the case.



Harry was head of physics at Brigg Grammar School (BGS) in the late 1950s and became scientific adviser to the county education service.

A fellow 'old boy' of the school who still lives in the town, reminded us over the weekend, that Harry's Brigg-born son, Dr John Pimlott, became a famous historian and author.

John was head of the war studies department at Sandhurst's Royal Military Academy, where officers are educated and trained. He often appeared as an expert in TV programmes.

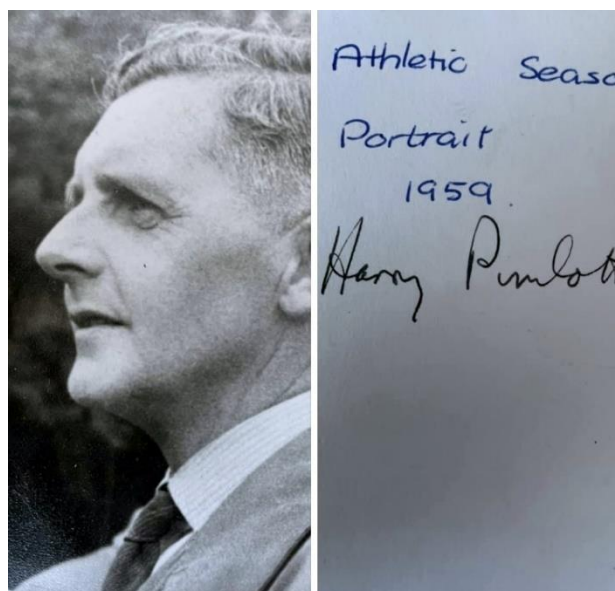
The picture of Harry was taken in 1959 - a significant year for Brigg Grammar School.

H.B. (Brian) Williams took over as headmaster, continuing until the historic school (founded 1669) was phased out in 1976.

He then became the first headteacher at Sir John Nelthorpe School (a comprehensive), retiring two years later.

H.B. succeeded Nigel Cale Matthews as head of the grammar school 62 years ago. Mr Matthews decided to switch careers, aged 52, and went into horticulture in Huntingdon.

**Picture credit: Rob Conroy**



## NEWS OF OLD BRIGGENSIANS 2021-22

**Paul Cowling (1971-1978):** I thought I'd touch base with an update on life here in Sweden – well, on my work at least. You might be interested to hear I now co-host a podcast talking about 5G – unpretentiously called "[The Voice of 5G](#)". It's been going a while (since 2018), with over 125,000 listens, and covers pretty much any topic we can think of related to 5G – from radio technologies to sustainability, self-driving vehicles, mining and healthcare .

Apart from idle interest for those like yourself with a science background, I thought it might be of some interest to students at the school that are interested to learn about how mobile networks work – or that may be interested learn about what working in a technology company can mean in practice. I remember when I was in school that careers advice seemed fairly abstract and I didn't really know what I was going to use maths and physics 'A' levels for. I don't know if you have contacts there to pass this on.

Otherwise... life rolls on under the pandemic. I've been working at home for over a year now, but got my first jab last week. If we're lucky, by the end of the summer things will start getting back to normal.

**Derek Sumpter (1943-1950):** I remember quite a lot about Brigg life in general during that period, the characters, some with cruel nicknames, and the variety of shops. My Aunt, Phyllis Sergeant, kept a wool shop at 13 Cross Street (opposite Wallheads) for 50 years. When she retired about 1980 (she was then about 83) a local newspaper reported the local Council as saying they would demolish her shop and the two cottages next to it and redevelop the site. They did - very quickly - but forgot to redevelop and it's still an empty hole about 40 years later with grass and weeds the last time I passed!

In the meantime, following your email to those of us who were at School in the 40s, I have spent a lot of time in writing up about 2,500 words for David Waite on what it was like to be a boarder in the war years and what all the rooms were used for and sent a diagram too along with a Prospectus for the School dated about 1939-40. Three of the teachers Pimlott, Bradley and Urry are listed as serving in the Armed Forces which pins down the date of the document. All the other teachers were still there when I arrived in 1944 including Knight and Henthorn of course. One of my 40s friends, Brian Chapman, found the prospectus in some old papers of his father I think. It's a real gem with photographs of the dormitories, dining room and even the science lab and swimming pool. Cost for a boarder 10 years and over was 15 guineas. It's a good idea to update the School history and I found that delving into those days long ago quite emotional.



By the way, can you remember when School House finally closed its doors to boarders and how it came about? And, roughly how many boarders were there in the final year, say? I heard once that there were only about half a dozen at the end but that is hard to believe in such huge and lovely building.

THE SEVEN members of the 40s Group, who were at school during the years of World War II, or just after, have had a reasonably good year despite Covid19, three injections, and difficulties in getting around sometimes. We're not far off 90 now but still manage to chat to each other either by email or phone. Five of us were boarders and I've said before I am convinced the regular meals we had in the Boarding House every day with a huge ladle-full of porridge to start every breakfast put our bodies in fine fettle for the years to come. The oldest member of our 40s Group is Ron Waller, still living in Lincolnshire, who will be 91 this year. I keep in touch with Ron and we have had several long chats. He is keeping well and sends his regards to everyone.

David is writing a history of the School. So we all have engaged in "Do You Remember" chit-chat which has kept the emotions at a high level as we have recalled our young lives nearly 80 years ago, growing up from the age of ten in a family of 60 boys in School House and 300 pupils all told. It must be difficult for today's pupils to envisage their school rooms once being used as dormitories, wash rooms, a dining room, billiards room, prefects' room and even a Day Room with a table tennis table, board games and an open fire. The main School classrooms have changed radically too and so have the teaching methods. But that's how it was in the 1940s between air raid sirens and rationing.

We all live in different parts of the country, from Cornwall to Scotland, so get-togethers are out of the question. But if there are any other former pupils from our 40's period still out there please get in touch with us through Dave and he will pass messages on. For those wondering who we are, our names are as follows: **Brian Chapman (44-50) boarder; George Gunson (44-52); John Morton (45-51), boarder; Derek Sumpter (44-50), boarder; Peter Wade (45-53), boarder; Ron Waller (42-49); Charlie Windass (46-54), boarder.**

### **Peter Wade (1945-1953) adds:**

I can well remember the School Speech Days held in the cinema in Brigg when the whole school would sing a well-known classical choral work, ably rehearsed and led by Mr Pratt, finishing with the School Song of course.

### **George Gunson (1944-1952) writes:**

As we look back at where we were eighty or so years ago, we find that there were more 'new boys' at Brigg Grammar School - which had a new larger intake due partly to the changes brought about by the 1944 and certain other Education Acts, perhaps the most important pieces of social legislation implemented during a time of war. Our 'Alma Mater' was primarily a fee-paying school, and suddenly the impact of 'scholarship' brought this much increased population of new boys, many of them from Scunthorpe due to the new population created by the growth of the Steelworks.

I started at BGS in September 1944. I don't know precisely when the 'Huts' were set up, but it was about that time and I believe they were ex-WD, to house the Third and Lower 1V Forms, now increased in size, the Lower Sixth being added later. At the same time 'Stan' Matthews arrived as a new broom, as Mr Daughton, after his many years as Headmaster, had decided to retire in view of the changes taking place.

I believe that out of the increased numbers came the present list of 'Houses' - School, Sheffield, Ancholme, Nelthorpe and Yarborough. Quite an interesting time, but while I was part of it all, arriving in September 1944, I don't know very much about what went before, and it is good to know that a new history is being written.

What is also part of 'history' is that in the Lower Sixth there was Vernon Chapple from Waddingham, who showed us the very first BIRO pen to be seen by most of us, but we couldn't match him when he said that it had been used by a Navigator on one of the last bombing missions to be flown at the end of the war!! Mr Romans was not enamoured of Biro's and he didn't like our essays to be written with them

**Paul Moss (1981-1988):** Lives many thousands of miles away in Canada and was saddened to hear of the death of Philip Page. He was such a great person and a magnificent teacher. As a class we often laughed at his quirky ways in the classroom, and never thought he realised we were laughing 'at' him. It was only one day when we had just finished a game of squash that I asked him about it and learned that he deliberately opened himself up to laughter, even ridicule, as he realised that this was the best way for his pupils to enjoy while they were learning and thus retain more of his lessons. He was a truly wonderful guy who became a good friend. Also was taken aback to read of the death of Walter Cash. I believe it would be the same Wally Cash (as I knew him) that was married to Beattie and had a daughter Ann and they lived on Burgess Rd if I recall correctly? Ann lived in a small town just outside of Scarborough (the name escapes me) and is actually my God Mother! As with most people from that time frame I have largely lost touch, but do still carry fond memories. 103 years of age? Wow! It's a long stretch but if you do have contact details for Ann I would dearly love to get in touch.

**The late Geoff Parratt from Don Parker (1950 – 1956):** It is with great sadness that I read in your circular of the death of Geoff Parratt. Geoff was a few years older than me but we were both together in the Metropolitan Police training school in 1957 and instantly recognised each other. When we left (fully trained!!) Geoff went to East London and I went to South East London as University formed Constables. We both subsequently joined the CID. I was well aware of Geoff's (rapid) promotions.....having only reached the rank of Detective Inspector myself and his successes in murder investigations are well-known.

My only (personal) claim to fame (???) was that I was Prime Minister Harold Wilson's personal Protection officer for four years..... the best four years of my life (so far).

**Charlie Windass (1946-1954):** The first picture is of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI football team in 1952-53. We won every game that season. Mr Jarvis said of us 'They have welded together as a very strong combination and their success has been due to this, rather than to the outstanding performance of any single player'.

The second photo is of the inter-grammar schools athletics team. It consisted of 3 divisions, Senior,



three divisions.

The third photo is of the Cricket 1st XI in 1951. The captain that year was D Pollicott. The player second from the right in the back row is B.A. Wilson. He was the wicketkeeper for several years and was the best keeper that I ever played with.

FOOTBALL 1st XI, 1952-53



Standing: R. Willey, J. S. Scarborough, B. A. Wilson, W. Rickatson, C. J. Windass, J. Woodhead.  
Seated: J. F. Ward, J. E. Thompson, S. H. Douce (captain), J. Markham, J. Sellars.

Intermediate and Junior. King Edward VI Grammar School won by 1/2 a point from BGS in each of the



The last photo is one of the Under 14 team in 1949. David Leaning was the scorer for the team. I believe that he later became an umpire in school matches.

**Tony Coulson (1953-1959):** Thanks for Newsletter good to read. I liked the piece about Jon Sass we were good friends at BGS in the same class all the way through school. I was reminded of him when I last spoke to Arthur Borrill who still retains the personal plate DDO100 that his father got on a car he bought from Stuart Sass, Jon's father. Jon worked on Wrawby Mill with my cousin Patrick Bradshaw 1953 – 1960. Peter Bradshaw 1961 - 1966 continues to show his excellent photos of the Red Arrows practicing at Scampton and others on Facebook. My Auntie Joan Vickers is not in the best of health (Joan Bradshaw at BGHS before WW2)



**Cliff Turner (1936 – 1941):** I was at BGS 1936-1941 after winning a scholarship from Glebe Rd School. I am now 96 so it is highly probable that few of my classmates in Form 3A are still alive. My wife of 70 years is still with me living in a retirement home in Hamilton, New Zealand. I brought my computer here so I can keep in touch with the outside world. Although not too good on my legs I like to kid myself that the mental faculties remain intact. Some of your readers may remember my grandfather's pork butchers shop in Queen St. It passed to my father Reg and his brother Fred and then to Fred's son Keith who was the last of the line of pork butchers.

I consider myself fortunate to have been taught by men like Henthorn, Pratt, Knight and Thumwood

**Faye Curtis-Kay (1986 – 1993):** My time at SJN was from 1986 to taking GCSE's in 1991 and A-levels at the 6th form in 1993.



You will see in the attached photo a group of SJN / 6th form alumni from the same dates above. We met up in York for the weekend just a few weeks ago and have been having regular yearly weekends away (apart from in 2020 for obvious reasons) for the last 20 years or more and hope to have many more in the future.

**Left to right**  
**Ruth Horwood (nee Moorhouse)**  
**Carolyn Hedley**  
**Claire Mosey (nee Howitt)**  
**Faye Curtis-Kay (nee Curtis)**  
**Kate Johnson (nee Martin)**



**Ian Wild (1963-1970):**



Ian came across these photos of relaxing in the Boarding House.



**Nick Lonsdale (1954-1961):** Found this photo of me and Ken Proctor c1964 with a friend Alan [not a Briggensian.] at Kens house leaning on my 1963 Morris Mini Cooper  
Ken's 75th would have been on the 7th December, my 79th on the 9th, where have all those years gone?

**Bill Phipps (1961-1968):** Thought you'd like to have a couple of photos from the Paris trip circa 1965.



The group of 4 are: **Dave Arbuckle, Brian Wesley, me, Bill Phipps, Robin Arrand.**

The larger group: **Ben DaCosta, Derek Smith, Steve Healey, Phil Gibson, Me, Dave Arbuckle, John Hastings, Mike Sparling, Peter Wells.**

Since moving to Barton, I have been in touch with Brian "Wes" Wesley and we spent a thrilling evening at Elland Road Leeds watching Leeds beat Crystal Palace. I have been in contact with Mike Sparling via WhatsApp enjoying his performances of Ry Cooder songs....and I still keep in touch with **Dave Arbuckle** and **Mike McCleave**. I recently had a visit from **David Evans** as he was visiting Barton to go to a concert at The Ropewalk venue...David now lives in Cardiff after retiring after many years as a GP in Wolverhampton. We had a splendid time reminiscing as I haven't seen David since we left school in 1968! ...and Wes reminded me that it is 60 years since we were all in short trousers starting our BGS lives together. Where does the time go?



**Michael Sisman (1986-1993)** Hello from Swadlincote, which is slightly bigger than Brigg. I am the local Police Inspector for South Derbyshire, which is a mix of small towns / villages and rural areas. I have been in the Police for 21 years now. I started after University in the West



Midlands but when I met my wife moved to Derbyshire. It has taken me to a few places, RAF Fairford - looking after B52 bombers, the Olympics, and recently COP 26 Glasgow.



I am still playing hockey for Ashby and we are in the last 32 of the Vets (over 40) national cup. I started playing at 12 after getting involved and supported through Mr Brittain, Mr Cox, Mr Plachinski, Mr Moore and Mr Pymm. I am very grateful for time at SJN as it taught me a lot of values that I regard as important today.

**Bret Butler (1951-1958):** Good to hear from you. Not much to report from our part of the world. The Delta variant arrived in Auckland in August and the city is only now just emerging from the lockdown. The frustration for us is that we have not been able to see our grandkids that are based up there but we hope to be able to do so for Christmas.

The New Zealand response to COVID has been extraordinary. We have a situation where parts of the country have been infected whereas others have not. Hence, we have been living with internal border controls as well as external ones. In the latter case we really are fortress New Zealand with strict isolation and quarantine conditions. Along with many others, we have not been able to travel overseas and have missed seeing our London based son and his family.

There have been some benefits. There have been only 44 deaths attributable to the COVID virus. Our golf club has boomed with increased membership and visitors, especially Kiwis spending their money at home rather



than overseas. We have a great golf club which runs two high quality eighteen hole courses within some spectacular scenery around such as volcanic mountains and the lake. I have personally played more than 120 rounds this year.

### **Gordon Maw (1941 -1946):**



Julie Taylor received a request from April Mazza (Maw)

I am reaching out to you in regards to your commemorative “Our Place in Time” mug. My grandfather is Gordon Maw, and is a very proud alumni (photo attached of him with his jacket). I would absolutely love to surprise him with this gift, realizing there will be fees for shipping, etc., as we live in the United States. At his age (90.5 years young!), I think it would mean a great deal to him.

If you would, kindly let me know if it is possible to purchase one and what the costs might be. I appreciate your assistance, April



PS. He loved his mug that Julie sent, I will have to get a photo to send to her.

Attached is a photo of Grandpa in his jacket with his wife Joan, in case you’d like to include a photo.

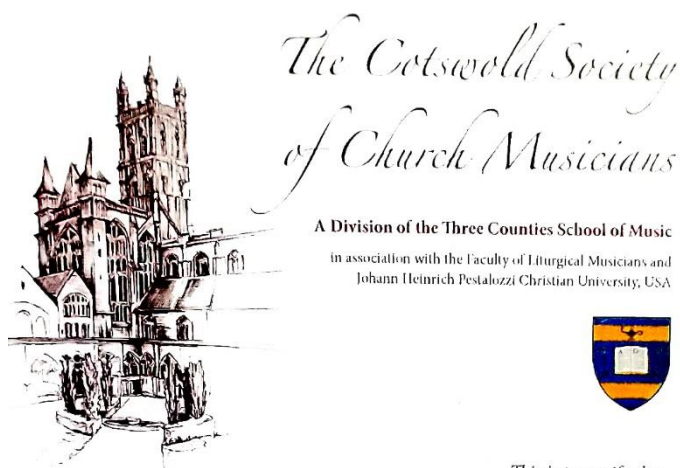
**Howard Paynter (1960-1964):** At last, aged 75 and a half I decided to seek recognition for my organ playing over the past 55+ years and here is the evidence. If you'd like to read my "road map", let me know. Like many boys in the post war years, I was sent to 'piano lessons once a week, my parents having been convinced by neighbours that I had “considerable musical talent”. The lessons were not particularly interesting but I performed satisfactorily in the local annual music competitions, according to the Adjudicator, Myers Foggin. Then, being told at the age of 10 that I could not play the organ at Nostell Priory made me all the more determined to find out more about the instrument.

Subsequently, boarding at Lincoln School gave me the chance to admire the Father Willis organ in Lincoln Cathedral, sometimes three times a day! These visits did little to inculcate any sense of religion in me, but did stimulate still further my nascent interest in “The King of Instruments”. The organist at the time was, of course, Gordon Slater, a dour-looking man of great physical stature, or so it seemed to a small 12 year old boy. I well recall a tour of the Cathedral with the Headmaster in 1957 when all the new boys examined the Bishop's Eye and the Dean's Eye from the triforium: Health and Safety laws did not abound in those days! The 'piano lessons continued under the auspices of Clifford Hewis, Sub-Organist at the Cathedral, and I rapidly became adept at playing the hymn for House prayers, if only to be released from prep. early in order to practise: this strategy never once failed!

A good O level pass in Music in the LVI (largely involving theory and composition, not to mention J.S. Bach, Beethoven and Haydn) was followed in 1965 by Hatfield College, Durham where I first came to terms with the instrument itself in all its glory, but initially the two manual device did lack certain stops which were added during a rebuild in the latter part of the twentieth century.



It was possible to play without interruption most afternoons although, as I recall, my subject was French! Meanwhile, the near-by Cathedral organ was under the auspices of Conrad Eden, a most interesting man who,



*This is to certify that*

**HOWARD PAYNTER**

*is awarded by the Cotswold Society of Church Musicians  
the Diploma of*

**FELLOWSHIP**

*in recognition of Services to Church Music*

*and is entitled to wear the authorised regalia and to  
append the post-nominal letters FCSCM*



19 April 2021

Ian Higginson – Principal & Chief Examiner

when refused service at a restaurant displaying an “OPEN” sign on the pavement outside, promptly removed it to the boot of his Jaguar – and a court case ensued! Professor Arthur Hutchings, who was a delightful dinner guest prior to his lecture to the French Society on French music, regaled us with (both unrepeatable and lewd) stories about local prelates: I recall well the latter, but little of the former! A year's sojourn in Reims, sadly, yielded very little musically in spite of its potential. Back, then, to College, where I studied, as a post-graduate, Palaeography and Diplomatic in the Prior's Kitchen of the Cathedral at 10.00a.m. on Wednesdays – the quickest route was through the West end of the Cathedral during the morning service! - and it was at Durham School where I first met Gillian Weir.

Returning to Lincoln on my appointment as Second French Master at Lincoln School, it was here that I met Cliff once more (but in a different context) and he kindly invited me to join him in the Cathedral organ loft in 1972 for Evensong one Sunday. One cannot fail to recall the uplifting *St. Matthew Passion* each year in the Cathedral, Philip Marshall being the Conductor, and his splendid descants and accompaniments of *Praise to the Holiest*. Later, I dabbled a little here and there in Retford at four Churches, enjoying especially the Boys' Grammar School Christmas services, but these involved playing on

a very *ad hoc* basis. When a promotion took me to central Berkshire, I played occasionally at Purley-on-Thames and Caversham Baptist Churches (nothing of great significance in terms of instruments) and some 30 years ago we arrived in Newbury, but not before, as Founding Chairman of the Pangbourne Twinning Association, I had exercised on many occasions the most interesting Clicquot organ at *St. Jacques* in Houdan, noted *inter alia* for its *tempérament inégal*.

Newbury has an active Organists' Association and one can readily recall the exuberant Carlo Curley's recital, not to mention the monthly lunchtime recitals at St. Nicholas which boasted a half decent three manual organ. A change of professional direction led to more free time and consequently the opportunity to develop my skills. There were – and still are – many good organists in the area but there are never enough and one was welcomed into all sorts of Churches as word spread that there was another reasonable organist “on the block”. In the meantime, it was a great pleasure to participate in the I.A.O. Congress in Paris which was simply mind-blowing. Furthermore, via the good offices of David Reynolds, the Newbury Spring Festival Committee managed to attract Colin Walsh, then Organist Laureate of Lincoln Cathedral, to perform at St. Nicholas. This was the first time that I had met Colin. Shortly afterwards, I encountered my first four manual organ at St. John's, Cambridge, courtesy of a former Organ Scholar, Christopher Whitton, who was examined for the F.R.C.O. by - yes: you've guessed – one Colin Walsh!

It is certainly gratifying to be invited to play at weddings and funerals. Indeed, one is often sought because word has spread and compliments sometimes abound: the Great and the Good and the County people occasionally need an organist! However, when a person from an unknown congregation approaches an organist, one does wonder why. I had played for a funeral on a rather difficult one manual organ which I hadn't seen before. The man in question was roughly my age and congratulated me warmly and then added, “You know that I take organ lessons from the President of the R.C.O.”. Praise, indeed!

Most independent Schools have organs and Cheam led me to meet an ex-Lincoln Chorister, David Bishop. Later, I worked at Downe House where there is a very good Allen organ which I have played more times than the Headmistress knows since, unknown to her, I have been known to replace the resident organist. The things that go on in organ lofts! More gratifying, however, were the introductory sessions which I arranged for the University girls: I would talk to the girls about the organ, play a variety of pieces (some blind-folded!) and then, more importantly, each one of them would play something. Two subsequently went on to play seriously, which is most pleasing: one became the organ scholar at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, and another coincidentally took up the same post at my *alma mater* in Durham.

Over the past 30 or so years, I must have played at most churches in West Berkshire. I was *pro bono* Organist and Choir Master at St. Mary's Greenham 2000-2004 before spreading my wings more widely. For many years I played at Boxford and places within that Parish until the incumbent retired (with whom I remain in contact to talk football!) and still hold the post of *organiste titulaire* (I bet that some Priests wouldn't understand this term!) at both Ecchinswell and Newtown, occasionally filling in at Burghclere (very stiff tracker action - with reeds!). At Newtown I was pleased to make Evensong a little more "choral" by encouraging the congregation to sing the *Mag.* and *Nunc.* I play when required at Combe (harmonium on steroids!), Inkpen, Kintbury (new three manual), Hamstead Marshall and Enborne – and anywhere else where I am needed. I have also had the great pleasure of playing the very fine instrument at Cirencester (where one of the volunteers asked for my address so that she could send me a C.D.). On two occasions I have been the Guest Organist for St. Bartholomew's School, Newbury, Founder's Day Service. I have also had a personal guided tour by Robert Sharpe of the organ at York Minster which has recently been in receipt of considerable attention from the much lauded H. & H. team. I had arranged a meeting with Houbart at the Madeleine in Paris but this did not take place owing to my Mother's sudden death in Lincolnshire. I take in Choral Evensong every Wednesday at 3.30p.m., attend the monthly recitals in Newbury when I can, have subscribed to *The Organists' Review* for more years than I care to remember, and I must count my C.Ds. of organ music and D.V.Ds. about organs. I have been named on two occasions in *The Daily Telegraph* – not for my sins, but for my playing. Somewhat naughtily, I have also been known to change tunes between verses for *In the bleak midwinter*, preferring Darke to Holst. But I digress!

Back to Lincoln Cathedral on Monday 8th November 2010 to play the organ, a birthday gift from Alun and Judi Jones. Wearing my Hatfield tie by chance, I was approached by the Sub-Dean who was Chaplain of Hatfield College just after I had left. Antiphonally, we sang *sotto voce* a couple of lines of the College song and duly took our respective routes to Evensong, on conclusion of which the Organ Laureate appeared.

Colin Walsh is a man of great charm and wit and readers will know that organists speak a special language which only they understand. There was an immediate meeting of minds (albeit on different levels!) between the internationally renowned musician and the "local lad". In *Midsomer Murders*, always keep a close eye on the organist! Just like a dutiful schoolboy, I had done my prep.: I had watched again and again Colin's brilliant DVD *The Grand Organ of Lincoln Cathedral* (from Priory) which I would happily recommend to anyone wanting a close-up of the instrument being played. However, no matter what preparation had been undertaken, it was still staggering not only to see it again, but also to play it – after 53 years!

More of this later, perhaps, but in the meantime, if you can listen to Colin's *Prières pour Notre-Dame* played on the Cavaillé-Coll at St.-Ouen with the Senior Girls' Choir of Romsey Abbey, please do so. You will not be disappointed! Colin informs me that he had colleagues to deal with changes of registration and a technical expert on hand in case of problems. He has very recently become Organist Emeritus.

In conclusion, I commend to you Jenny Setchell's recent books about organs and *The Organist's Dictionary of Real Meanings* by one Horatio Netherwallop to whom I once spoke on the telephone – which proves that he does really exist!

**John Cresswell (1985-1992):**

This clip was noticed back in September and we send belated congratulations to Jon



**1re Division**

26 August at 08:01 · 🌐



Brigadier General Jon CRESSWELL has recently joined the 1st Division Staff as Deputy General Operations (GAOPS).

🇬🇧 British Royal Artillery officer, he follows a major part of his military education in France. However, it was the first time for him that he served in the French army.

“ It is a great honour for me to serve the French army, especially in Besançon with its rich historical heritage, an opportunity for me as president of the royal artillery historic society ”

🌐 General CRESSWELL served notably in the Balkans, Afghanistan, Norway, Iraq, Cyprus, but also in the Lake Chad basin.

👍 We welcome him in the 1st Division!

**Richard Lawson (1961-68):**

It is a truism, I think, that when you are looking for something at home which you have not seen for many moons you can find you discover something else you have not seen for ages, which turns out to be more interesting!

This is how I came across the photo that is in, what I assume to be, its original protective cover which says on it - "Photographs by the Hull Daily Mail and Times Series".





My Mother had written on the reverse of the photo - "Garden Fete Brigg Grammar School July 1964". It depicts a very serious looking bunch of lads from the Model Railway Society! My memory cannot help me remember too many names, but (all L to R as you look at the photos) I am seated second in. **"Mouse" Miller** is first in standing. Standing third in is **Stewart Teesdale and Robin Arrand** fourth in standing (I think). I still have a model railway today and some items date back to my first layout which I had at home in Scunthorpe whilst I was at BGS. As I recall "Mouse" Miller wrote articles in the school mag about the club with the "nom de plume" "Linesider" and after he had left I wrote some as "Viator". To translate and quote the French poet Francois Villon "...where are the snows of yesteryear"!

**Anthony (Mouse) Miller (1958-1965):** Anthony responded: Thank-you for the e-mail. The photograph is intriguing! I honestly have no memory of it being taken! The effect of the stroke means that there are "holes" in my memory that means I cannot recall certain events. However, I believe that the person sitting on the extreme left is **"Twiggy" Gloyn** (but I'm open to being wrong!). He was "Twiggy" because his older brother (who came to Brigg first) was "Sticky", and a little "Stick" is a "Twig". I'm sure that you will remember that "Gloy" was the name of a sort of glue that was universal at the time. I cannot for the life of me remember what his first name was in reality. "Twiggy" was a contemporary of mine at Brigg. His family were farmers I believe in the Goxhill area.

**(Peter Gibson Gloyn (1958-1965) and Arnold John Gloyn (1952-1959) from Wooton)**

The person standing next to me second from the left is, I think, called Clarke, who was in the form a year older than me. We knew him as **"Clarkey"**. I have no memory of his first name either, although I have a very vague idea that it might have been David, but that is very dubious. I cannot recall where he was from. Kirton Lindsey area, possibly (not guaranteed).

I do not recall the names of any of the other persons in the photograph, but I am sure that they were younger than me. Sorry. I also do not recognise the location.

I hope this is helpful. I am sorry that I cannot be of more help. I should be pleased to hear if you get any better information about the other characters in the photograph. My brother Neville may possibly be able to supply a few names. Another possibility is Alan Turner at Caistor, who supervised the model railway group at Brigg, and possibly Nick Dew at Winterton, who also had an interest.

Brother **Neville** added: Front row **'Twiggy' Gloyn, Rick Lawson, David 'Fatty' Cooper.**

**Can anyone add to this list?**

**President John Hastings (1961-1966):** John raised about **£3,000** in memory of his late wife



We send John our very best wishes and hopes that he has no recurrence of the colon tumour that he had removed by specialists at Castle Hill Hospital, Hull. I can report that John is now declared free of cancer, not requiring further treatment and regaining his strength day by day. We all wish him a speedy return to full health.

## Message from teacher David Waite at SJN:

The school magazines are great for cricket scores, house matches and names of pupils who join or leave but they don't describe much about the day to day details of what life was like. The school still gets two or three contacts a year from relatives of former pupils asking if we can help with research. They get passed to me, and I tell them what I know and send a link to the Briggensian website.

Just before the first lockdown we had quite an emotional visit from the nephew of a former pupil from the 1930's who had been taken prisoner in North Africa and then died when his transport ship was sunk. One of the magazines mentioned a former pupil being awarded a DFC and bar, and a quick check online showed that he had only died quite recently, hence the prompt to get in touch with people now. Was he a Briggensian?

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brian\\_Tierney\\_\(medievalist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brian_Tierney_(medievalist))

**Dave Brittain suggested names of those who may be able to assist David in his research:**

**David replied:**

I contacted the three names you sent me and have had some really interesting replies. Air-raid shelters, seeing the glow from Hull during the blitz, V1 rockets overhead and the day-to-day life of school as well; tuck shop, prep and memories of some of the teachers. John Rhodes has promised a copy of his book too. When it looks like I have all the memories collected I will try to combine them all into a single article. I will email Mr Gurnell tonight. He also had a page in an old school magazine, describing his wartime experiences in the merchant navy.

I notice that you included Oliver Baudert in the original email. I came across an article from him in a school magazine explaining how he had been evacuated from Holland in 1940, and then saw that he had contributed to the recent Briggensian newsletter too. He now appears to following a career in the theatre, having first performed in A Midsummer Nights dream on the school field. I may try to contact him directly - he's on Facebook and Twitter.

I realised also that I am not a member of the Briggensians, and should do something about that oversight. Is it Helen Cresswell I need to contact about joining? **(Yes)** Many thanks for your help. David

**Sam Barber (1996-2001):** married Holly Wainwright in Tetbury Wiltshire on 30th October 2021 at the Great Tithe Barn on the outskirts of the town. Holly is a PE teacher at the Chippenham Comprehensive, and Sam is an engineer with James Dyson at Malmesbury. Needless to say some North Lincs residents travelled down for the week-end to enjoy the proceedings and the delights of Wiltshire. The Prince of Wales and Duchy of Cornwall shop in Tetbury was popular to visit!

Regards

Sylvia Barber



**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 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.*

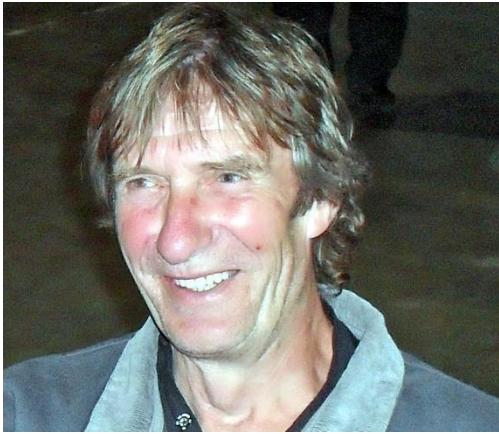
*Best wishes to all for 2021, keep safe and get the vaccine as soon as you are offered.*



# BRIGGENSIANS SPORTS 2021:

**Cricket, Football and Netball etc. all cancelled:**

**Adrian Gibbons (Gibby) Memorial Football Match.**



The Boxing Day game is in memory of this very popular teacher who sadly died of a heart attack.

With no new government restrictions we were able to run the Sir John Nelthorpe annual old boys fixture. The football score was 1-1 at full time with Jon Taylor setting up the old boys only for the young boys to draw level late on. The old boys won on penalties with Colin Mumby slotting in a majestic Penalty. Among those to score from the spot was



72-year-old Col Mumby who, well over 50 years ago, played for Scunthorpe Reserves alongside Kevin Keegan, who went on to become a much-capped England international.

The games then progress to the bar for indoor games including darts, pool, dominoes and fives & threes, plus a quiz and a drink or two.

The old boys dominated throughout despite a surprising quiz defeat.

Over **£837** was raised for the chosen charity - Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY).

Everyone loved the day with Steve Jordan - rolling back the years.



## Golf: Reports and results of the 2021 matches – David Harness

**2021 was a much better year** (than 2021) for the Briggensian Golfing Society with all three events played, and a good turnout for each event.

The **Spring game** in April was a real bonus with a very wet and COVID-19 ravaged first quarter causing the



course to be closed for a long period, and looking like we might have to cancel, but just in time the course opened, the sun came out, and the game was played under blue skies. The course was in excellent condition, mainly due to the great work by the ground staff while the course had been closed.

Congratulations went to Matthew Holmes who came in first with 45 points, playing of HCP 12 with 3 birdies, 12 pars, 2 bogies and 1 double. (His HCP was considerably lower by the Autumn game!) Richard Golland came 2<sup>nd</sup> with 34 points and Dave Howson 3<sup>rd</sup> with 33 points. The 2's competition was won jointly by Tim Phipps and Richard Golland.

By the time early **July** came around the **school**, & schools in general, had been in turmoil for many weeks due to the covid restrictions, but this didn't deter 8 of us turning out to play the annual Past versus Present match. It was a very close run evening with Jack Siddall and Kevin Turner (Past) winning 5&4 against Reece Preston and Euan Taylor, and Jon Taylor and Rich Rivron (Present) winning 4&3 against Dave Brittain and Dave Harness. So honours were shared.



**In October 16** players played in heavy drizzle for a couple of hours, and then overcast skies, but neither deterred the quality of the golf, with a good number of players scoring more than 30 points. Dave Brittain, Ted Cox and PeterJon Dodd led everyone out on the day, but it was the younger generation who scooped the prizes. Congratulations went to Adam Ellis with 39 points, followed by Ross on 37, and Jon Taylor on 36. Dave Brittain and Alan Taylor shared the 2's pot.



In the after match AGM:

Dave Brittain was re-confirmed as

President

Ted Cox stood down as Vice-President, and

Trevor Vessey was nominated, and voted in (as Vice President)

Keith Barnes was nominated as Captain, and was voted in.  
Mark Boast was nominated as Vice-Captain, and was voted in  
Dave Harness was re-confirmed as the Secretary.

In the President's summing up of the season, Dave Brittain recognised everyone for ensuring that the fixtures were firmly re-established after the difficult 2020 season, he welcomed the younger generation (particularly Matthew Holmes, Richard Golland and Adam Ellis who had shared prizes this year), and Dave also recognised & thanked Ted Cox for his many contributions to the Briggensians Golf Society over a lot of years.

## **Golf Section 2022**

**Spring Meeting 12.00PM, Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**Autumn Meeting 12.00PM, Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**Past vs present 4.00 PM, Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

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

## 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: [hcresswell@westrum.co.uk](mailto:hcresswell@westrum.co.uk)

### For those using the postal service:

#### I/We have received the 2021/22 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 2022/23 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](mailto:dave.brittain@talktalk.net)



# Briggensians' Association

## 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner 2022 - Booking Form

**I will** be attending the Briggensians' Dinner on **Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022** (application closing date: **Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022**) and enclose payment to the Briggensians Association

to the value of £ ..... for ..... place(s) at **£25.00 each**.

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

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

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

Payment:

Cheque

Transfer

Tables are usually for  
6, 8, or 10 places

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

Confirmation Details to:		Starter				Main			Dessert			Special Dietary Needs
Group's Names	School Dates	Melon	Tomato Soup	Pâté	Roast Beef	Salmon	Butternut Squash (✓)	Raspberry Roulade	Fruit Crumble	Cheese & Biscuits		

Please send this completed booking with menu choices, along with payment to  
The Briggensians Association by cheque or bank transfer to  
Barclays Bank Account: Sort Code: 20-76-14 Account: 90194050  
Please add your name to the transfer, i.e. 45Dinner: Dave Brittain

Forms to The Briggensians Dinner Secretary, c/o Rachael Harvey, Sir John Nelthorpe School,  
Wrawby Road, Brigg. DN20 8DS Tel. 01652 656551 or by email to [r.harvey@nelthorpe.org.uk](mailto:r.harvey@nelthorpe.org.uk)