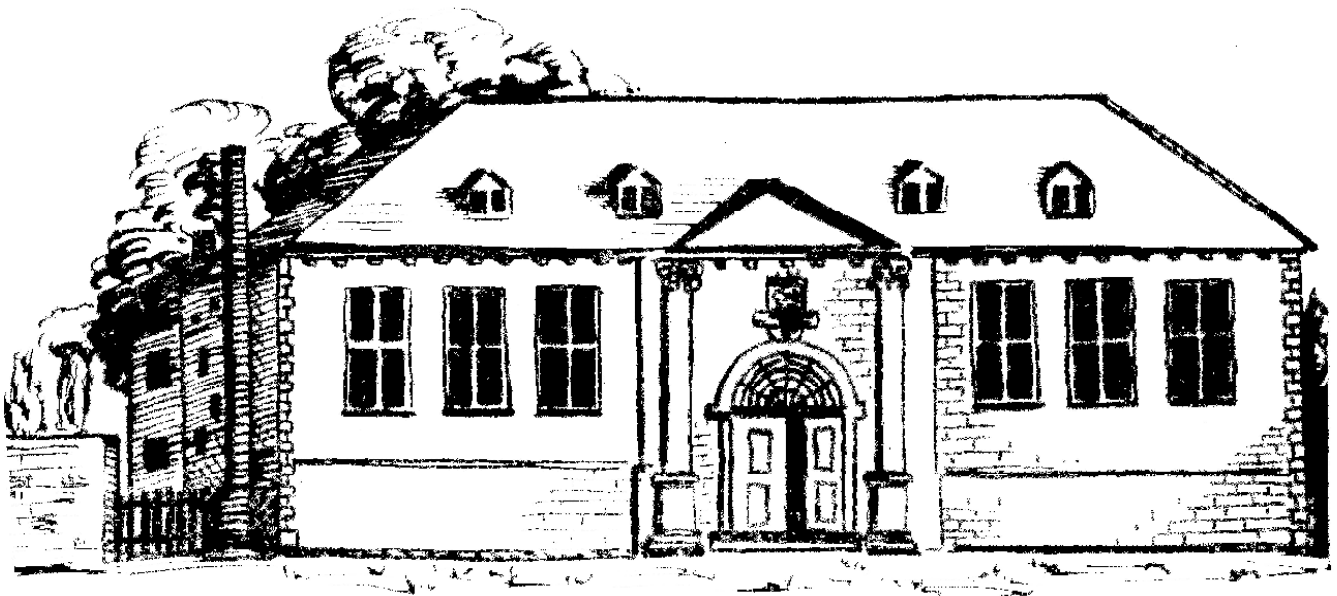


# BRIGGENSIANS' NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2009



## Briggensians' Association 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dinner

Saturday, 21st March 2009, 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

£18.00 Elsham Golf Club £18.00

[Guest Speaker: Karen Rouse \(Masserella\) \(1971-1978\)](#)

# Dates for your diary:

**33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dinner**  
**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010**  
**Elsham Golf Club**

**Summer Sports 2009**

**School Field Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at**

**6.00 p.m. for 6.30 p.m. start**

**Cricket or Rounders**

**Youth vs. Experience**

**and later at the Yarborough Hunt**

**Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009 Tennis**

**School  
Sports  
Day:**

**Tuesday,  
14<sup>th</sup> July  
2009**

**Winter Sports 2009**

**School Field Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup>**

**September 2009 at 6.00 p.m. for**

**6.30 p.m. start**

**Football, Male and Female**

**Hockey, Netball and afterwards**

**at the Yarborough Hunt**

**Football + Pub Games, 27<sup>th</sup>**

**December 2009 – 10.30 am start**

**Briggensians' Golf Championships 2009**

**Individual Stableford Rules**

**Spring meeting at Elsham Golf Club (Changed Venue)**

**Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009 – 4.30 p.m. start**

**Autumn Meeting at Elsham Golf Club – Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

**1st Tee off 12.00 noon**

**Match Play**

**Past v Present Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009 Elsham Golf Club 4.00 p.m. start**

# Annual Dinner Guest Speaker

## Karen Rouse (nee Massarella) – 1971-78

In the thirty years since leaving school I haven't travelled very far – I've had lots of holidays in the UK but incredibly have only used my passport twice. Nevertheless, life has been quite an adventure. I have lived in nine homes in five counties. I have studied at three colleges and four universities. I have had eight different jobs, nine if you include the years spent at home with my four children. Oh, and just the one husband – Graham and I met in 1976 in the Lincolnshire Youth Orchestra, got engaged in 1978 and married in 1981, a week after my graduation.



I started out as a scientist, leaving school with 'A' levels in Biology, Physics and Chemistry and going on to take a degree in Biochemistry followed by a PhD. My research project involved working in a hospital clinic, taking blood from volunteers and analysing it to look for metabolic abnormalities. This sparked my interest in the NHS, which I had to wait 24 years to develop...

Our first child, a girl, arrived in 1985, closely followed in 1987 by twin girls and in 1989 by a boy. Needless to say during the next few years I was very busy at home, or more accurately in a further eight homes, owing to the fact that the teacher I married became an Anglican Vicar along the way. Since 1986 we have spent all but two years in Lancashire, our youngest three being born here, which earned one of our daughters the nickname "Hot Pot" when she went to university in deepest Surrey.

As the children grew up I started teaching evening classes, firstly tutoring small children in violin and viola. Later on I was asked to stand in at 12 hours' notice as a temporary tutor to an adult GCSE Human Physiology and Health class at Blackburn

College. I stayed for 10 years, teaching Biology part-time to sixth formers and adults and preparing students for careers in medicine and other NHS professions. I also gained a PGCE in Further and Adult Education. In 2005, with three out of four children at University, I decided it was time to get a full-time job, and to follow my longstanding interest in working in the NHS. I now work in a Primary Care Trust, managing a small team which supports Clinical Audit across a large Directorate. I am studying for a Masters in Public Health – an interesting course which is delivered online to students across the globe. My modules have included Major Incident Management, which makes me look at lorries carrying exotic chemicals on the motorway in a completely different way.

Through the years I have continued to play the violin in different amateur orchestras. This has kept me relatively sane in an otherwise chaotic existence. Looking back, I can see how the subjects I studied and the interests I pursued at school have enriched everything I have done so far. My husband is currently busy with three churches and a community project, so I think it's safe to say that we won't be moving again just yet... but never say never!

# *Briggensians' Association*

## *32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dinner 2009*

### Menu for the 2009 Dinner

**(v) Cream of Vegetable Soup**

Or

**Prawn Cocktail**

Or

**(v) Melon**



**Pork Steak in Mushroom and Stuffing Sauce**

Or

**(v) Red Onion and Goat's Cheese Tartlet**



**Roast and New Potatoes**

**Fresh Vegetables**



**Chocolate 'Scrap Heap' & Ice Cream**

Or

**Treacle Sponge & Custard**

Or

**Cheese & Biscuits**



**Coffee or Tea and Mints**



**(v) Vegetarian options**

*Please note that, as last year, we are asking Briggensians to make their meal selections at the time of booking in order to speed up table service*

## **BRIGGENSIANS A.G.M. 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2008**

John Allcock's Speech at the 2008 Annual Dinner: John gave the most entertaining and illuminating address that it has been the pleasure of Briggensians to receive for many years.

He talked about his early days travelling by bus to BGS from his home in Scunthorpe and the many ways in which an exclusive 'homework industry' worked to take full advantage of the various skills collected together on one bus. There was also the ritual of 'caps on' as the bus crossed the bridge into Brigg.

He spoke warmly about the various characters amongst his contemporaries, many of them gathered at nearby tables to hear his recollections. Football, cricket, swimming and athletics were high on the list of priorities and each held an amusing story or anecdote.

John moved on to provide graphic illustrations of how life has changed in teaching since those BGS days. Challenges are different, pupils and facilities need to move on except in the case of Sir John Nelthorpe School when the sports facilities remain untouched by the LEA.

**Jane Gibbons, Chairman 2006-8**

### **Headteacher's Report 2008**

The examination results achieved by the Sixth Form this year were some of the best we have ever had with our 'value added score' moving into the 'very good' category as the majority of our students achieved their 'aspirational' target grades. The three-year improvement trend is very encouraging in a climate in which school sixth forms are constantly under threat. The new funding formula means that the money allocated to each sixth former will reduce over the next two years making it increasingly difficult to fund small groups. In an effort to overcome this we have begun to work with Baysgarth School to offer our specialist teaching in Sciences and Maths to their students. This has been a successful pilot, which we hope to build on in the future.

As you will be aware from reports in the media the government has abandoned the Key Stage 3 SAT examinations taken by Year 9 pupils. The company awarded the contract to administer the SATs failed to meet marking deadlines and scripts were lost. This has made it difficult to have confidence in this year's data.

The GCSE results can only be described as disappointing. Ironically this has not impacted on recruitment and we are pleased that the most academically gifted students have decided to stay on to follow sixth form courses at Sir John Nelthorpe.

I was very proud of the sixth form who raised over £3,000 during their charity week. Cheques were later presented to their chosen charities at the carol service. You may have seen the reports and photographs in the local press.

The weather in the summer term was more traditionally seasonal than last year. The annual Barn Trip to the Yorkshire Dales, the junior trip to France and community activities were all the more enjoyable because of it. Mr Gibbons however, still managed to schedule the Outward Bound course on the wettest week of the year!

Sports Day took place on 18<sup>th</sup> July and it was greatly appreciated by all involved as we had missed it the previous year because of the torrential rain and floods in the area. It was probably the best sports day for some years and it was good to welcome many ex pupils and friends of the school.

It was a good year for sporting results in the school with Year 11 boys winning the District Schools' Sports Trophy, Year 7 girls winning the Rounders District Tournament, the girls winning the Under 14 District Hockey Championship. All school teams made a very good showing at the Scunthorpe and District Sports and achieved either 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> places. There were also several commendable individual first places.

The school has been able to completely refurbish the changing room and facilities and gym area this year. This does not detract from the fact that the gym itself is inadequate for the number of pupils in Sir John Nelthorpe School and the governors have continued to raise awareness of the situation at government level.

The Year 11 Presentation Evening had an extra element this July. As well as the celebration of five years of pupils, parents and staff working together we were proud to announce that one of our pupils, Lee Hargraves had been awarded a Princess Diana Trust Award. This is a national award for pupils who overcome adversity and despite their own challenges contribute over and above the norm to their school. Lee joined the school in 2002 and despite having complex medical needs he became an example to his peers and the staff of the school. Very few of these awards are given. Ian Cawsey visited School and presented Lee with a pair of House of Commons cufflinks in recognition of his achievements.

At the end of term we said goodbye to two long serving members of the Science Department. John Allcock, who gave us an entertaining speech at last year's dinner and Joyce Pierce the senior technician. It is amazing to realize that between them they have given over 70 years' service to the school. They are greatly missed in their professional capacities but both have already been back to visit us on several occasions and to participate in social events.

As ever the Trustees, Governors and Briggensians continue to support the school in practical and financial matters. I wish to thank them on behalf of all pupils and staff.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the dinner on the 21<sup>st</sup> March.

**Linda Hewlett-Parker**

# The way things were:-

## 25 Years ago: (1973)

### **Old Briggensian Notes:**

We have been less business-like this year in making jottings, so apologies are required to those who have called in or written during the year but whose news is not recorded below.

**John Hastings** (1961-66) has been seen and heard of several times for he is now resident House Master at the Cathedral School, Lincoln. He entertained one of our football teams there during the year. Another young O. B. schoolmaster is **Roger Williamson** (1958- 65) teaching geography at Matlock Grammar School.

**Peter Thompson**-(1957-65) has come back to Brigg as the R. E. Specialist at the Brigg Secondary School (for older readers the newly joined Westmoor and Glanford Schools under Mr. Price, **Ernest Urry** (1919-26) having retired in 1972). **Tony Ayres** (1954-63) is still at Winchester and is producing a series of Physics texts of which he has kindly sent the first to appear. Doing some Humberside liaising, the Headmaster met **Michael Avery** (1943-48-and 1949- 51) now a Headmaster in the East Riding. **Ken Horton** (1939-46) has renewed close contacts with the school as his son has started as a boarder. He is to be the Chief Surveyor for the new Glanford District of Humberside. **J. E. G. Hulme** (1942-46) was recently in Brigg and called on Mr. Jarvis. He is a consultant interior decorator in Brisbane, Australia.

There is distressing news from overseas of **Percy Cleaver** (1927-30) who has been imprisoned somewhat mysteriously in Dar-es-Salaam. It is believed that **Dr. Brian Bowles** (1945-52) currently lecturing at Tanzania University was, coincidentally, asked to be a European observer at the trial.

**Andrew McCarthy** (1963-70) is joining a London firm of solicitors and searching for a flat to share with **Ian Wild** (1963- 70) now in the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank: the criterion appears to be that it shall be called Baysgarth. He reports that **Michel Archer** (1965-70) was successfully completing his College of Education course. Another newcomer to London will be **Miles Buttrick** (1964-71) who takes up an accountancy post with the South East Gas Board. Miles and **Philip Adams** (1964-71) helped us at a residential course at Horncastle for High School and Grammar School fifth formers aspiring to the Sixth.

**Howard Payntor** (1960-65) moves to Retford King Edward VI Grammar School as Head of the French Dept. **Paul Mountjoy** (1964-71) has joined the N.A.A.F.I. as an Assistant Auditor after his business studies course. **Tim Rounce** (1964-71) is managing a British Home Stores in Liverpool. **Michael Draper** (1958-65) is leaving Corah's at Doncaster to manage a furniture factory for Christy-Tyler in Ripley.

**Keith Davenport** (1966-71) had success from his new school in his A levels and is going on to the Portsmouth Polytechnic to read Biology. By chance at a football training session he met **Colin Ward** (1955-62). Another Colin is **Colin Speakman** (1958-64) whose mother has just become our Secretary. He has just married and settled down round the corner from us in Glebe Road. He is now the Accountant, Spring Food Products, Ltd., Brigg.

Finally, we congratulate **Hugh Beckers** (1965- 72) who on his first year's results at the Imperial College of Science, London, has been awarded a College Scholarship.

## 50 Years ago: (1958)

DEAR old Bumper! In those three words, Tommy Sumpter managed to convey the feelings of hundreds of old boys all over the world towards a master due to retire after having taught succeeding generations at Brigg Grammar School for 46 years.

The occasion a presentation ceremony at the Angel Hotel, Brigg, on Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup> (1958), old boys travelling from all parts of the country to pay tribute to one who was so aptly described as "The epitome of Brigg Grammar School."

Dear old Bumper, officially on the pay-roll since 1912 as Mr. A. E. Knight, supremely happy and content in the role of "first mate" to three headmasters, giving to each a full measure of loyalty, a reassuring presence in times of stress and a happy companionship in fair weather. ....

Describing the school as "this remarkable living organism," Dr. Baker observed that the gathering included old boys of all ages, varying origins, from all walks of life, differing in character, ability, achievement and purpose, but all knit together by one common tie, one affection, the memory of four, five or six years spent at Brigg Grammar School.

"To us," he said, "Mr. Knight represents Brigg Grammar School. He is to us the epitome of the school and your committee have chosen Tommy Sumpter and myself to try and express on your behalf the memories and thoughts of old boys everywhere." .....

"To me", recalled Dr Baker "he was an Olympian. I remember his enormous stride down the soccer field or up to the wicket, yet no boy, however frail or small, was afraid to play against him. We remember him for his lovely, mellow voice leading the evening hymn in the boarding house or as the inspiration of the school concert".

Again looking back over the years, Dr. Baker recalled, "He disciplined us all and we held him in awe — but never in fear. We trusted him implicitly and each of us, as we grew to manhood and middle age came to know him as a friend and he, bless him, seemed happy to look upon us as men like himself. So let us give him this wish, that wherever we meet old boys, whether in London or in Africa or any other part of the world, when the question is asked, as it always is, 'how's old Bumper?', we may be able to say for many years to come, 'He's all right' ". .....

Mr. Sumpter said that Mr. Knight had been an example and inspiration for many years, both in and out of the form room. "On the cricket field, he always bowled a straight ball, one that never deviated. That seems to me to have been symbolic of his life—as straight as a die. Though old boys the whole world over, hurrying rather too quickly through life, busily intent on their own occupations, may not often meet him, they are hardly likely ever to forget him. If proof of that were needed, it is here tonight. In this album are the names of old boys from Great Britain, Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa, America and Canada, all wishing to show their affection and regard". .....



Mr. Knight referred to teaching as a most rewarding and satisfying thing. In his case, he said, he had started with a band of men who did not regard teaching as just another chore they were men with ideals.

“A young schoolmaster gains quite a lot from the company he keeps and I was fortunate in becoming a member of such a staff.” He owed a tremendous amount to the influence of his first headmaster, the late Mr. H. E. Bryant. Equally, it had been a pleasure to serve under the others, Mr. J. T. Daughton and Mr. N. C. Matthews, no two alike, but men who trusted the staff to get on with the job.

## HIGH SCHOOL REUNION:

### Additional pictures from June 30<sup>th</sup> 2007:



The left hand picture shows:- Geraldine Butler, Liz Couch and Margaret Bradley.

The right hand picture shows:- Margaret Bradley, Liz Arbuckle and Gerry Butler. *Pictures by Liz Fallon (Arbuckle)–1963-1969*

### Brigg Sixth Form A Level Results 2008

	A		B		C		D		E		U		TOTAL NO. OF ENTRIES
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	
ART & DESIGN			2	28.6	2	57.1	3	100		100		100	7
BIOLOGY			3	21.4	4	50	2	64.3	1	71.4	4	100	14
BUSINESS STUDIES			3	33.3	4	77.8	2	100		100		100	9
CHEMISTRY			1	20	0	20	3	80	1	100		100	5
DESIGN TECHNOLOGY				0	2	66.7		66.7	1	100		100	3
DRAMA	1	9	6	54.5	3	90.9	1	100		100		100	11
ENGLISH LIT.	1	6.7	7	53.3	3	73.3	4	100		100		100	15
GENERAL STUDIES	1	5.9	1	11.8	5	41.2	8	88.2	2	100		100	17
GEOGRAPHY	1	16.7		16.7	3	66.7	1	83.3		83.3	1	100	6
GERMAN					1	100		100		100		100	1
HISTORY	4	22.2	7	61.1	2	72.2	4	94.4	1	100		100	18
I.T.			2	50	1	75			1	25			4
MATHEMATICS	2	33.3	1	50	2	83.3	1	100		100		100	6
FURTHER MATHS			1	100		100		100		100		100	1
MEDIA STUDIES	2	20	2	40	4	80	2	100		100		100	10
MUSIC									1	100			1
MUSIC TECH			1	100									1
P.E.			2	20	2	40	5	90	1	100		100	10
PHYSICS			2	15.4	3	38.5	5	76.9	2	92.3	1	100	13
PSYCHOLOGY			3	25	3	50	5	91.7	1	100		100	12
APPLIED SUBJECTS:													0
ART & DESIGN					2	100							2
BUSINESS	2	100											2
HEALTH & SOC			1	25	1	50	1	75	1	100			4
NO. & % BY GRADE	14	8.1	45	26.2	47	27.3	47	27.3	13	7.6	6	3.5	172
CUMULATIVE %		8.1		34.3		61.6		89		96.5		100	

# Brigg Sixth Form Prizes 2008

MATHS	Briggensian Prize	Timothy Jones
CHEMISTRY	Nelthorpe Foundation Prize	Douglas Gordon
PHYSICS	Stephenson Prize Nelthorpe Foundation Prize	Douglas Gordon Timothy Jones
BIOLOGY	Nelthorpe Foundation Prize Derek Appleyard Memorial Prizes	Laura Hancock Christopher Barrett & Kelly Drury
ENGLISH	Spilman Prize Briggensian Prize	Joel Francis Danielle Compton
BUSINESS STUDIES	Henthorn Prize	Chelsey Barnes
HISTORY	Sergeant Prize Taylor Prize	Michael Cressey Joel Francis
ART	Taylor Prize	Lacey Jenney
MUSIC TECHNOLOGY	Morris Prize	Nicholas Pinchbeck
PHYSICAL EDUCATION		Laura Marshall
GEOGRAPHY		Michael Cressey Laura Marshall
GERMAN	SJN Parents' Association Prize	Nico Williams
PSYCHOLOGY		Lauren Harvey
MEDIA		Erin Hall Alexander Dunn
PROUDUCT DESIGN		Craig Thurston
BUSINESS STUDIES	SJN Parents' Association Prize	Simon Morgan
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE	SJN Parents' Association Prize	Abi Antcliff
DRAMA	Production Prizes	Danielle Compton & Alexander Dunn
ICT		Andrew Willerton
CONTRIBUTION TO SIXTH FORM EVENTS:-	Lardelli Prizes	Laura Marshall Daisy Bell Shaynie Bird Sarah Dibdin Joseph Hebblewhite Helen Callaway Luke McMillan
PROGRESS:-	Lardelli Prize for Physical Education Lardelli Prize for Media Lardelli Prize VoA Technology Prize—Psychology VoA Technology Prize	Robert Palmer Heather Armitage Robert Everatt Abi Antcliff Keeley Greenwood
HOWITT PRIZE FOR ACHIEVEMENT		Alexander Dunn



## Prizes for Head Girls & Head Boys

Sir John Nelthorpe

John Burkinshaw & Daisy Bell

Vale of Ancholme

Craig Thurston & Danielle Compton

### Lower Sixth Prizes 2008

MATHS	Jack Hendy
CHEMISTRY	Mary Lee
PHYSICS	Calum Cogan
BIOLOGY	Alice Beasley
ENGLISH	Nicole Laffan
ENGLISH	Stephen Fisher
BUSINESS STUDIES	Paul Norris
HISTORY	Antony Keeton
ART & DESIGN	Deborah Clarvis
MUSIC	Adelle Grierson
MUSIC TECHNOLOGY	Adam Perkins
GEOGRAPHY	Sean Crowther
MEDIA STUDIES	Deborah Clarvis
DRAMA	Ciaran Savage
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Charmian Smith
PSYCHOLOGY	Paul Norris
PRODUCT DESIGN	Ashley Pitson
FRENCH	Nicole Laffan
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE	Natasha Dexter
ICT	Joseph Widdowson
PRIZES FOR CONTRIBUTION TO SCHOOL / SIXTH FORM	Benjamin George Charmian Smith Emma Mallender Natasha Dexter Sarah Grey Sarah Dennie Eloise Wright Amy Taylor Emily Hickman
PROGRESS PRIZES: ART	Samuel Budworth
ART	Lee Wilcock
MUSIC TECHNOLOGY	Oliver Taylor

## Destinations 2008

Luke Abram	Hull University	Sport & Exercise Science
Abi Antcliff	Leeds University	Social Work
Heather Armitage	Brigg Sixth Form	
Chelsey Barnes	Lincoln University	Architecture
Christopher Barrett	Lincoln University	Biomedical Science
Alice Beasley	Brigg Sixth Form	
Daisy Bell	Gap Year	
Shaynie Bird	Lincoln University	Sport Development & Coaching
Adam Boone	Hull University	History
Christopher Bradley	Hull University	History
Joshua Bratton	University of Bolton	Psychology
John Burkinshaw	Bradford University	Civil & Structural Engineering
Bethany Burks	Grimsby Institute	Art Foundation
Nathan Bush	Brigg Sixth Form	
Helen Callaway	Hull University	Psychology
Danielle Compton	Lincoln University	Drama
Michael Cressey	Hull University	History
Sarah Dibdin	Sheffield Hallam University	Sport & Community Development
Kelly Drury	Seeking Employment	
Alexander Dunn	Lincoln University	Film & TV & Journalism
Robert Everatt	Lincoln University	Games Computing
Joel Francis	Sheffield University	History
Jamie Garratt	Employment	Care Worker
Thomas Geddes	Employment	Retail
Douglas Gordon	Exeter University	Biological & Medicinal Chemistry
Keeley Greenwood	Lincoln University	Drama
Erin Hall	Sheffield Hallam University	Film & Media Production
Richard Hamilton	Olympic Training	Wind Surfing—Weymouth
Laura Hancock	Gap Year	Application to study Equine Science
Lauren Harvey	Lincoln University	Psychology
Joseph Hebblewhite	Leeds Trinity & All Saints	Sports Journalism
Amy Hickabottom	Brigg Sixth Form	
Lacey Jenney	Lincoln University	Fine Art
Timothy Jones	University of Southampton	Philosophy & Mathematics
Emma Kerrawn	Hull University	English with Theatre & Performance
Jake Lingard	Employment	Military & International
George Lyne	Gap Year then Salford University	History
Andrew Marr	Newcastle University	Chemical Engineering
Laura Marshall	Employment	NLC Leisure Services
Luke McMillan	Doncaster College	Legal Training
Simon Morgan	Hull University	Business
Robert Palmer	Employment	NLC Leisure Services
Sara Peall	Hull University	Geography
Nicholas Pinchbeck	Thames Valley University	Popular Music Performance
Joseph Scott	Hull University	History
Jonathan Shaw	Hull University	English
William Shirt	Services	RAF Application
Ashley Simpson	Derby University	Social Studies
Anthony Storr	Lincoln University	Accountancy & Finance Application

Gareth Stuble	Gap Year	Nursing
Benjamin Swift	Hull University	Creative Writing & English
Kylie Thomas	Leicester University	English & History
Craig Thurston	Loughborough University	Industrial Design & Technology
Holly Turner	Employment	
Andrew Willerton	Sheffield University	Urban Studies & Planning
Nico Williams	Lincoln University	European Business

## NEWS OF OLD BRIGGENSIANS 2008/9

### Staff Related Section:

**Brian Williams:** On 8<sup>th</sup> July Brian Williams celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday; congratulations to Brian and best wishes for many more years of happy and healthy retirement with his wife Margaret.

Brian celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> with a gathering of 26 family members, on both his and Margaret's side, in a Derbyshire farm cottage, enjoying the countryside and views.

Three generations all together with many memories recalled and altogether a very special occasion.

**John Allcock-(1958-1965):** I start a new "career" as a Lab Tech. in January 2009! It's at a girls 11-18 Independent Quaker School - The Mount - just round the corner from us here in York. No more than 40 in each year and years 10 and 11 in 3 groups - 2 Dual Science and one Triple Science. I'm looking after their Biology and top half of the Physics - there's another tech for Chemistry. Flying off to Barcelona first for three nights then I start work on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> January. So after 40 years of not getting my slippers in on time - I'll see what it's like from the other side!

### Alumni News:

**Bret Butler-(1951-1958):** I have just come to the realisation that it is almost exactly 50 years to the day that I left Brigg Grammar School, as it then was, in December 1958, shortly after being offered a place at Pembroke College, Cambridge.

I was at Cambridge from 1960 to 1963 and graduated with a degree in history. I came to New Zealand as a ten pound pom in 1965 and stayed three years before returning to the UK for 1968 and 1969. I then emigrated permanently to New Zealand at the start of 1970.

I was Headmaster of Huntley School in Marton from 1970 until 1987 and then Headmaster of King's School in Auckland from 1988 until 2000. Since then I have been involved with educational consultancy for Massey University, the Ministry of Education and Multi Serve Education Trust. I was in the Arabian Gulf state of Qatar in 2004 and 2005, where I headed up a programme of introducing self-managing systems into the local Qatari schools.

My mother is still alive near Grimsby and I get back there most years. I have called in to Brigg on a number of occasions and have driven into the school grounds, but it is greatly changed. The old Grammar School Road seems much diminished and I am sure that the tuck shop across the road is long gone.

I was at the school as a boarder from 1951 to 1958. We were thoroughly and rigorously taught by some long-serving and dedicated staff such as Knight, Henthorn, Richards, Atkins, Jarvis and Barker among others. Quite a lot of boys won state scholarships or Lindsey senior scholarships and Matthews seemed fairly successful in getting boys into Oxford or Cambridge in those years.

Football and cricket were the dominant sports and I remember some fine players such as Roger Holmes, the Oates boys, Roger Dobson and Rick Carter among others. There were also some fine swimmers and athletes. Cross country appeared to dominate the cold middle term and the name Brickyard Lane is forever etched in the memory.

Peter Jarvis was a contemporary and I was sad to miss him when he made a trip to New Zealand, since I was out of the country at the time.

The structure of the school is much changed with a larger roll, co-education and no boarding. I think that we had about 50 boarders in School House out of a total roll of about 350.

My wife Sue, who is a New Zealander and I have three sons and four grandsons. We live in the central North Island at a place called Lake Taupo and have magnificent views over the lake and the mountains. It's starting to get warm here now and we are looking forward to a good summer. I follow the school news on the website and must try to get back again one day. With kind regards, Bret.

**Graham Hall - (1971-78)** (also known as Nogsy): Have recently retired from the Lincolnshire Police (Sept. 08) after 30 years service as Constable in the Force. He is now living at Snitterby and would be glad to hear from any school friends. [nogsy1@hotmail.com](mailto:nogsy1@hotmail.com)

**Paul Jenkinson (1974-1981) Sydney, OZ.** An old friend of Paul's used the association to get back in touch via email and a grateful Paul sent this reply: Many thanks - a chap I travelled round Australia with many moons ago - and who I lost touch with about 5 years ago - really appreciate the contact !

I had a flying visit to Brigg last December with my 2 kids to visit mum who lives at Scawby Brook - took them to Lapland to find Santa which was quite exciting for a couple of Aussie kids!!

From a pure nostalgia point of view have to say I was very proud to take them for a walk in Brigg to see the Christmas lights and tuck them in the corner of the snug at the White Horse while dad had a sneaky pint - just like the very old days !!

**Jamie and Nic Allcock-(1981-1987)**, Otaki, New Zealand: [jammic@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jammic@xtra.co.nz) Hope all is well. We are both using our medical insurance to the max. I am having ops on both wrists to relieve carpal tunnel and Nic is booked in for a laparoscopy early Oct. Apart from that the weather is turning very spring like. The snow is melting and the days getting longer.

**Jim Carey-(1960-1964)** I should be down as a life member of the Old Briggensians. I left when I was 15 in 1964 (was in the same year as John Brain) and returned around 1972 to join the association. I have moved around a bit but now have a permanent residence at Congleton, Cheshire.

**Bill Eaton-(1973-1978)**: I still have my two ties; one Brigg Grammar and one Sir John Nelthorpe along with my Briggensian Magazine from 1973, the panoramic photo of 1974 and my Briggensians card duly signed by J Hastings from 1978. I will be down for one of the golf days this year; it's just a question of timing with work etc.



**Walter Thorpe:** Old Boy living in Elsham reached 100 years old last July! *Pictured opposite.*

**Stephen Blakey-(1968-1975):** Had a charming personal note from Stephen~ Dave, Many thanks for all your hard work arranging the Briggensians dinner (actually Barbara does the real work!!). This is the second I have attended. I was much more relaxed this year. It was all a bit much to take in last year seeing you guys for the first time in 32 years! It was good to see you looking so well.

I've never had the opportunity to thank you for getting me a grade A in physics when such things were difficult to come by. You did meet us for a celebration drink in the Angel at the end of our final term but the results were not in by then, of course.

I put my physics to good use both as an automotive engineer and later as a university lecturer.

I'm currently living in Sheffield with wife, Barbara (GP) and three children, the eldest of whom is applying to do medicine at Cambridge but describes physics as her favourite subject, mainly due to the enthusiasm of the teacher. Déjà Vu?

**David Jardine, Jakarta-(1960-1966):** sent a personal message for John Allcock just prior to last year's Annual Dinner; "John, it has been more than 40 years since I left school but I still recall you with fondness, both as a damn good goalie in the school team and as someone who was always prepared to talk to me, and, believe me, as a rather lonely boarder I always looked to find someone who I could converse with! I played for the team too and my favourite memory is of outplaying Robin East in mid-field in 1965 when the Old Boys came back to play the school team. Easy, like you, was from Scunthorpe and not only a superb player but a character."

**Paul Moss-(1981-1988):** Can you update my contact details please. I'm now living in Calgary, Canada working as a freelance lighting designer and IT consultant! My correct and current email address is [paul@moosetek.com](mailto:paul@moosetek.com)

**Mike Jenkinson-(1975-1982):** I am still working for PA Consulting - mostly in London on a variety of central government projects and I'm one of the many commuters crammed onto trains morning and evening going to Liverpool Street from our home in North Essex. We will be celebrating our 17th wedding anniversary this year and our daughter Victoria (14 going on 22) is in her first GCSE year

**Simon 'Choz' Church-(1975-1982):** Thought, I'd send over a couple of pics of our 'unofficial' Briggensian meeting held at Coco's



Restaurant, South Perth (W Australia) in December 08.

A good night was had by all, including a poor rendition of 'Fortitudine' ....!

Present were Paul Jenkinson (now living in Sydney) and friend Jo, Chris and Ria Jacklin (who live between Perth and Bangkok) and myself and my wife Joanna.

The three (ex BGS boys) try to keep in touch as best we can and always reminisce about the good old days at Brigg Grammar.

Simon and family were due to be in Brigg for a reunion but this message came just 2 weeks beforehand: "I feel fine in myself, but a recent test has revealed an abnormality in my heart, which needs further investigation. With that said, once I have obtained the all clear from the Cardiologist we will be re-scheduling our trip and heading back to 'sunny' Lincolnshire".

"I am currently compiling a DVD, to wish everyone at the re-union a wonderful Australia Day 2009.



I am extremely happy to hear that everyone is still meeting up at the Yarborough Hunt on Saturday 31 January 2009 (7.00pm) Our thoughts and wishes will be with you all and we will catch up very soon."

**Peter Welton-(1944-1949):** Our son is getting married in New Zealand on March 15th and we will be down there for that great event. He's marrying a Samoan girl and we are all going over to Samoa as part of our trip. Makes me feel a bit like Gauguin!

**Brian Thornalley-(1945-52):** went to New Zealand in February 2008 to meet Brian Thornalley, a descendant of Samuel who emigrated to Auckland in 1859. Soon after their initial, vigorous hand-shake in Richmond, South Island, there was an earthquake in Lincolnshire, the Thornalley family's 'home' County. How's that for cause and effect?!" Happy New Year.

**Spring Wedding in France: Rachel Snelling-(1998-1999)**, Head Girl from the Vale, and **Dr Steven Ramm-(1992-1999)**, Head Boy from Sir John Nelthorpe School, were married on 26th July 2008 at L'Eglise St Laurent in the village of Concoret. Steve's sister Hayley was a bridesmaid and it was a truly happy occasion.



**David Selley, Toronto-(1944?-1952):** I left Brigg Grammar School in 1952, after spending two and a half years there. I travelled every day from Scunthorpe. My father was transferred to Newcastle but thanks to a recommendation from the Headmaster, I was accepted at Newcastle Royal Grammar School, and became an instant Geordie and Magpies fan. Previously I had supported Scunthorpe United (non-league at that time, but I do remember them playing Tottenham Hotspur in the FA Cup and losing by only one goal, I think). In fact, I used to sell programs at their (former) ground and earned about a shilling every Saturday.

After RGS Newcastle I did my National service in the RAF, who taught me Chinese and sent me to Hong Kong for a year. Then I went to Christ Church, Oxford and immediately thereafter emigrated to Toronto, Canada, where I met my wife and have lived ever since. I became a Chartered Accountant and worked for my entire career for the firm that is now Ernst & Young.

My early experiences instilled in me an enormous enthusiasm for travel, and I have now been to over 90 countries on all continents except Antarctica. Until I retired I was on several international committees and travelled much of the time at somebody else's expense. After I "retired" I had to keep working half time, and still do, to help pay for my addiction. But I enjoy the work, so this is not a problem.

It is so sad that Brigg Grammar is no more. Recently, I was at a lunch in Toronto sponsored by Oxford alumni and found that three out of the eighteen present all attended RGS Newcastle! I have never met anyone since who was at Brigg. I do have a copy of the 1959(?) photograph with me sitting in the front row. I hope to visit the office when I am next in the UK in late 2009. Are there any other Briggians in Toronto? [dselley@sympatico.ca](mailto:dselley@sympatico.ca)

I enjoyed my sojourn at Brigg except for two things:

- The water in the swimming pool was deathly cold - we all thought they refrigerated it; and
- The food was absolutely terrible.

One further memory illustrates how times have changed. Every now and then some of us would accidentally or deliberately miss the bus back to Scunthorpe. When this happened we would hitch-hike home, sometimes alone and sometimes in pairs. Can you imagine today 12 and 13 year olds hitch-hiking?

**Raymond Scholey-(1929-1934):** An Ashby boy, now resident in Redholme Nursing Home, Wrawby and he would dearly like to receive a visit or just hear from anyone who would reminisce about BGS in the old days. Contact his daughter Ann on **01649 530509**

**Ted Cox (John Edward)-(1952-1959):** I wonder if you could ask if anyone has any photos, programmes or any other memories of the production of "Trial by Jury" that the school performed just before Christmas in, I believe, 1953.

**Keith Cawkwell-(1973-1980):** Has changed his position and is now working as a Regional Franchise Development Manager with the Royal Bank of Scotland Group.

**Julie Stewart (nee Bowers)-(1971-78):** I live in Bishop's Stortford, Herts with my two sons age 14 and 12. I work full-time as a civil servant in central London, managing a small policy team in the Department for Work and Pensions. In my spare time I'm a parent governor at my sons' secondary, Birchwood High School which is a mixed community comprehensive with technology and PE specialist status. Both boys are music mad and play drums, and the older one is a rugby fanatic - keeps me on my toes!

**Helen Flewker-(1992-1999):** I'm coming to the last few months of my 16 month stint in the British Embassy in Kabul where I have been working on Political-Military issues. It has certainly been a challenge but there have been many great moments and I have had the good fortune to have travelled a bit around the country. 2009 and 2010 will be important years for Afghanistan as the country approaches Presidential, Provincial and Parliamentary elections.

**John Colin-(1953-1960):** I have only been to one OB dinner a few years ago when I went with my brother **Patrick Colin** who left in about 1966. My other brother **Andrew Colin** was also a border for a few years but left to go to Louth in about 1968. I was a border 1953 to 1960.

I have just retired having been a consultant surgeon in Norwich since 1979. I was heavily involved in the training of surgeons in GB and Ireland and was vice Chairman of the committee responsible for this. I was also on the Council of the Association of Surgeons of GB and Ireland for a number of years. I thoroughly enjoyed my professional life and have also worked as a surgeon in Kenya for 2 years, Hong Kong and Ethiopia and was in Labrador and Newfoundland as a med student. I now live in Norwich, play tennis, fish in Scotland and travel and read.

W T Thumbwood was the biology master who stimulated me and who I kept up with after his retirement. In the evenings for a while he taught Roger Dobson and myself Italian prior to our trip to the Olympics in Rome in 1960, where we hitch hiked to just having left school! We bumped into Gerry Longden and another young master (name forgotten but not his face!) (Ed. would have been Jack Moore) at the English church one Sunday morning, in Rome. Will not be able to come to the dinner on 21 March as going to S Africa but will chase up my brothers and try and reappear sometime! Best wishes in your web mastering endeavours!

John was in School House, Capt. of Athletics, Victor Ludorum, goalie in all the football teams and Junior Waterman 1954!

**Brendan Thorpe-(1970-1977):** [brendan@springetts.co.uk](mailto:brendan@springetts.co.uk) Still Head of Marketing & Communications for a graphic design consultancy in London. Busy life! It would be good to hear from old school friends.

**Roger Dobson-(1952-1960):** Since retirement I have been working on a book which came out just before Xmas - '*A History of Southwell Inns and Alehouses*'. One of the books I used as a background to life in a small town in Victorian times was Frank Henthorn's *History of Brigg*. Back in 1959 he asked all members of the school cricket team to deliver his first book - *History of BGS*. Ed. Roger is trying to organise a reunion at the Annual Dinner of those who played in the 1958 and 1959 BGS 1<sup>st</sup> XI soccer teams and his contact is: [dobson\\_rog@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dobson_rog@yahoo.co.uk)

**Adam Lindley-(1983-1988):** I have recorded a new CD to raise money for Lindsey Lodge Hospice, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire.



The hospice is an amazing place; they cared for my Mother in her latter stages of secondary breast cancer offering both day care and then full time care in the last week of her life. They also provided amazing care for my family & friends. <http://www.lindseylodgehospice.org.uk/>

The CD has Adam on Trumpet & Flugel and is due to be released in January 2009 & will be available direct from myself, more details of how to order please visit [www.linsley.co.uk](http://www.linsley.co.uk), join the facebook group <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=40578911733> or email me at [adam@linsley.co.uk](mailto:adam@linsley.co.uk) To hear some samples from the CD please visit: [www.linsley.co.uk](http://www.linsley.co.uk)

I am funding the project as my donation to Lindsey Lodge; therefore all money raised from the sale of the CD will be donated to the hospice. I am truly indebted to the wonderful musicians and friends who gave their time and expertise for free to help me realise this goal.

**John Rhodes-(1941-48):** has written '*Yeller-belly Years: growing up in Lincolnshire 1930-50*', in which he writes at length about his days at BGS. He says there are a considerable number of pleasing results in becoming a new, published author when you are dispatching the orders yourself. The greatest is to receive an order from someone you knew or knew of some sixty years ago. Sometimes after reading the book they write again, commenting on the contents, adding nostalgic reminiscences of their own or gently pointing out inaccuracies. How could I confuse Queen Street with Cross Street and call the Queen's Arms, Jobby's kingdom, the Queen's Head? (My only excuse is that the Queen's Head is in the next village here in Cambridgeshire and owned by a friend of mine.) I may be forgiven a few misplaced initials. However, it was my more mathematically minded brother (**David Rhodes 1950-57**) who caustically emphasised that, though we did live in somewhat cramped conditions, our living room in Central Square was hardly fourteen feet square. Having taken great pains with spelling and the proof-reading, I am mortified as a former English teacher to see that a spelling mistake has crept in. Did you spot it - on page 204?

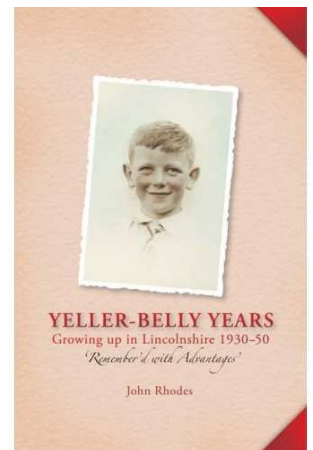
I have sent copies to personal friends and to Yeller-bellies in the four corners of the earth, many of whom were educated at the old Grammar School or the High School. It is obvious that for many Briggensians, who have long moved away from the area, the School and its teachers still hold a very warm place in their memories and their affections.

The daughter of an old school friend of mine - **Don France** - whom I hadn't seen for nearly fifty years, had seen a copy of the book in the Buttercross, Brigg, and made contact. To my delight Don lived not so far away in Northampton and she arranged a meeting for us all. We had a wonderful nostalgic time in St. Ives and his old stamping ground, Cambridge. We had much to remember and much filling in to do.

**Part Two:** For some unknown reason I didn't mention **Brian Thornally**. He was a Yarborough and devotee of '**Timber**' **Watts**, for he went on to be the very model of a modern Woodwork teacher after gaining a degree in Creative Design at Loughborough. He taught abroad and in Leicestershire, where he still lives. He once met '**Nero**' **Romans** in Loughborough and was immediately recognised and greeted by name. Brain is still in contact with many of his contemporaries at BGS.

Another OB I failed to mention was **David Capes**, originally from Scunthorpe and a 'Sheff' before becoming an 'Anchor'. He was more my brother's generation at BGS, but we have a connection through Ashby Primary School. He still lives not far away in Scotter and again has a wide friendship of other local OBs. David's son is a policeman like his grandfather and amazingly the son lives in a village barely five miles from me in Cambridgeshire.

**David Atton**, the grandson of that redoubtable Arm of the Law, Sergeant Atton (to whose name I had added an unnecessary initial 'H') wrote at length from Devon about events and families I had mentioned, adding further details and insights. As did the grandson of Farmer Hill, whose land became the sports ground and tennis courts opposite the Cemetery on Wrawby Road: he too had been in awe of his grandfather's unpredictable temper. Stephen Hill, once a near neighbour in Woodbine Avenue but now living near Bristol, had a clearer memory than mine and offered a number of corrections, details and embellishments. One lady thought she recognised her late





husband in one of the team photographs in the book and I was able to confirm her suspicion and then was able to give dates and names to photographs of school teams and Speech Day prize-winners she sent me. A surprising number of those who wrote were or had been schoolmasters in their careers, like me, and they had happy memories and anecdotes about members of staff at Brigg Grammar. More recently **Geoff Bell**, who was in the same form as me, was in touch. He now lives near Warrington. We differed on his nickname: I had always thought it was 'Tinker' after Peter Pan's fairy, but he assures me it was 'Tinkle' after tintinnabulation! However, the biggest surprise was a telephone call at breakfast time one Saturday morning from New Zealand. **Cliff Turner** of the famous Turner's sausages family, now in his eighties and a long time resident in New Zealand, rang to say he had enjoyed the book he had received as a Christmas present and we proceeded to compare notes and reminisce about Brigg and its inhabitants, girls we had fancied long ago and neighbours of note. He had cut pit props in Col. Nelthorpe's woods at Scawby in the summer of 1940 to help the war effort and had been paid nine old pence an hour to top carrots. Time sped by in a warm, nostalgic glow; but I'm glad he called me. It is pleasing to realise how much we owe to BGS and that the warm memories linger on even after sixty years!

**Ben DaCosta-(1961-1968)**: Unfortunately I'll miss this year's reunion at Elsham. My wife and I will be celebrating 30 years of marriage, and we'll be on a cruise ship somewhere between Rio and the Cape Verde Islands on that date, so not too much of a sacrifice!! Give my best to everyone I know and I look forward to the next one.

**Robin East-(1958 – 1965)**: A message of thanks was received by Barbara Kernon, Briggensians' Secretary, saying that the 2008 Annual Dinner had been a super evening; also passing on congratulations to **John Allcock (1958-1965)** for delivering a thoroughly entertaining speech.

**Mike McCleave MBE-(1964–1968)**: informs us that he attended a formal dinner at RAF Fylingdales, North Yorkshire on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2008. He was seated next to the Station Padre and the conversation turned to the earthquake at Market Rasen, and subsequently to the fact that the Station Padre, **Stuart Gunsen (1950 –1961)** had also been a pupil of Brigg Grammar School. Mike says they had a great time sharing experiences of the school and recalling names and memories of the teachers who had been there. On 10<sup>th</sup> April 08 Mike met up with **Bill Phipps (1961–1968)** and **John Hastings-(1961-1966)** for a mini reunion in Sleights. He took them to see Stuart and his wife (also a Brigg High School pupil) who live in Sleights and enjoyed a great afternoon with tea and home made lemon cake.

John Hastings who now lives in Scarborough and is a member of the Westborough Methodist Church came into contact with **Mike McCleave** in Sleights whilst attending a church event as mentioned above. Again at a church meeting John met up with **Rev. Anne Cox** and her husband **Peter Cox**. Rev Anne Cox used to be the Methodist minister at Brigg and Peter used to teach Chemistry at Brigg Girls High School and later at S.J.N.S. before retiring. Rev Anne speaks at services on the Scarborough Circuit. John is looking forward to meeting with Stuart and his wife again.

**John Joe Newbert-(1975-1978)**: now lives in Paris and has regular contact with his family in Brigg area. His new e-mail address can be found on the Briggensians' website.

When **Derek Sumpter-(1944–1950)**: sent in a mystery photograph for the website he mentioned that he meets **Peter Wade-(1945–1953)** and his wife every year in Cornwall to muse over old times.

**John Osborne-(1993-2000)**, local author, returned to Brigg for a special performance giving a reading as part of a new independent film entitled "Local Boys Done Good." John is a poet and writer, his first book being "Radio Head", to be published by Simon & Schuster in May 2009. He is a member of Aisle 16, the UK's most sought after poetry collective, who can be regularly seen performing at festivals such as Glastonbury and Leeds. John lived in Brigg until the age of 18 when he went to Norwich to study German at the University of East Anglia. He attended SJN and the Brigg Sixth Form.

The Briggensians were able to assist in finding contacts for a family from South Africa who wished to investigate the Gurnell family history. **George Gurnell-(1931–1938)** from Sheffield and **Neville Gurnell-(1934-1939)** from Canada are now assisting with this task. Contact was made with Neville Gurnell via **Derek Denton-(1934–1939)** who speaks to him weekly on the telephone.

**Eric Hair-(1954-57)**: recently visited our President **Roy O'Neill-(1936-45)** during his travels to see various people and places that had featured prominently during his lifetime. After training with Roy, a Partner in Taylor Patchett & Co (as his first Articled Clerk) he qualified as a Chartered Accountant and moved on to Messrs Streets & Co of Lincoln where he did extremely well and became one of their Senior Partners. During the visit Eric and Roy talked about other Briggensians who trained and qualified with Roy naming **Robert Dent-(1948–53)** now retired to the Crawley area. Robert previously spent time in Hong Kong and was a great supporter of the Ancholme Rowing Club. **Ron Carline-(1951-56)** now deceased, **David Padley-(1958-63)** who had a passion for fishing and **Stuart Dickinson-(1958-60)** who practised locally and retired to Lincoln and is in regular contact with Eric. Eric's father, **Ronald Hair-(1922-24)** attended BGS and both father and son were taught by Dr Thumbwood.

**John Walshaw-(1984-1991)**: Still living it up in CT, USA but always find time to come to 'li'l' old Brigg every year for some Chinese chips, Bakewell tarts and fish and chips! Hope all is well, John.

**Chris Plumtree-(1959-1966)**: I now live in Split, Croatia, with my wife, Galina who is a Bosnian War refugee, with Croatian nationality, and our 7.5 year old daughter, Katarina.

I am semi-retired but act as an adviser on offshore investment and pensions, based on my own experiences as to the safest and most tax efficient ways to protect your wealth. I play very regular tennis (although I have had both hips replaced due to arthritis) and occasional golf (when in Marbella, Spain in my 2nd home). I am regularly in touch with many of my school year.

Anyone considering a holiday in Croatia can contact me for advice. It is a naturally beautiful and very safe relatively cheap holiday destination and a lovely place in which to retire (tax-free pensions). I may see you all at this year's Old Briggensian's dinner.

**Russell Thompson-(1965-1972)**: I've been trying to persuade Messrs **Good, Baggott and Middleton** to attend the Annual Dinner but it seems very difficult to get us all in one place at one time. Will continue to persevere and hopefully see you will see them once more before too long. I haven't seen the 3 of them since 2002!!

**Nicola Benjamin-(1976-1983):** I'm now married, 2 children and an Assistant Head at a large comprehensive near Peterborough. Career inspired by **John Harding** (English) all those years ago.

**Joyce Lunn (nee Easton)-(1949-1956):** I still have a few contacts but trips to Brigg are now few and far between. However, I shall recall the town with affection this year as in July, my husband and I (where have I heard that phrase before?) celebrate our golden wedding. In 1959 I had completed my first year of teaching at Doncaster Road Girls' School, Scunthorpe. We were married in the Congregational Church on Wrawby Street before setting off for a honeymoon on the Broads. We sailed out of Oulton Broad (this was the only boathouse that had craft with double bunks!) with instruction book in hand! After all I had not sailed before..... Barrie had done so with a group of his Sheffield Uni. guys a couple of years before. 'Much better when I came with the lads' he remarked at the end of our week. 'There was more wind!'

**George Gurnell-(1931-38):** reported that a week after he had attended the 2008 Dinner, which he thoroughly enjoyed, he dislocated both shoulders playing table tennis. He is now well recovered and hopes to attend the 2009 Dinner. He also reports that **Frank Gant-(1933-39)** of New Zealand keeps in touch and is still very active.

**Denis Laycock, Parwich, Ashbourne, Derbyshire:** I was saddened to hear of the death of Vernon Atkin; I remember him as an enthusiastic and excellent teacher. I played hockey under his captaincy in the 1960s; learning not only from his excellent skills, but also from his sporting and fair approach to the game. He trained the Grammar School cross country team in 1961 when we won the County Grammar School championship run that year at Brigg. David Havercroft was the overall winner, with Ivan Bett, Geoff Towler and me coming in 10th, 11th & 12th position. We beat the Scunthorpe Grammar team into second place; if memory serves me right a young Graham Taylor was in their team. Vernon had given freely of his time to train us at a time of personal stress as his wife was seriously ill. Brigg has lost a true gentleman, sincere in all he thought, said and did.

## **Obituaries**

**Vernon Atkin has died aged 86:** Vernon was born at Heath in Derbyshire on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1921 where he attended local schools.

During the war Vernon served in Burma and was given the task of interpreting Japanese messages ~ so he became fluent in Japanese and he also spoke excellent French.

In 1943 he met Min and they married in the September of that year.

Vernon's love of languages led him into education and eventually he succeeded 'Chips Morris' as Head of Department at Brigg Grammar School and then Sir John Nelthorpe School from where he retired from teaching in 1983.

After Min's death he was remarried to Mary in 1962 and they enjoyed dancing, gardening and caravanning. Together they organised school adventure holidays in the lakes and many educational trips together to Paris.

Vernon was a keen walker and also taught hockey in the school during games sessions and again voluntarily on a Wednesday afternoon at a time when this was reserved for sports training and school lessons took place on Saturday mornings.

Vernon was also a keen sportsman playing golf at Elsham and hockey with Brigg as a driving centre-half, inspiring many hopefuls onto greater things.

He enjoyed a cigarette and a glass of Brandy or two!

One of the great loves and successes of Vernon's life was his involvement in the Lions in which he identified and helped so many in need. A founder member, Vernon Atkin filled every senior position in the Brigg club, including president, secretary and treasurer.

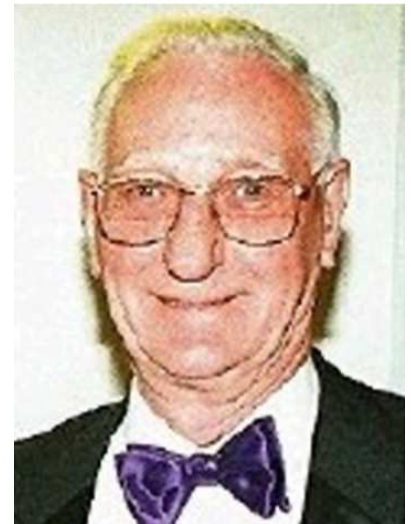
He was honoured for his contributions and service by receiving the International Leadership Medal for his work for Brigg District Lions over more than 30 years.

To a standing ovation from delegates at the Lions District Convention in Nottingham, he collected the medal from international director Philippe Gerandal, of Belgium

**Edward Hunt (1940-1947).** Edward was a member of School House and lived and worked in Winterton where he was a baker and grocer. He died in late 2007 aged 77 years.

**Janet Cossins (née Hardaker) February 24, 1960 to March 31, 2008.** From 1972 until 1978 Janet was a pupil at the Sir John Nelthorpe School in Brigg, where she laid the foundation for her career in education. Daughter of Ronald and Kathleen Hardaker of Wrawby, Janet spent most of her childhood in Wrawby and encouraged by her parents, sat BA and PGCE degrees specializing in education at Newcastle between 1978 and 1982. It was in Newcastle that Janet met John Cossins, and they were married in December 1982 at the chapel in Wrawby (now a private residence). In their 25 years of marriage, Janet and John lived in Northamptonshire, France, Connecticut, York, The Netherlands (briefly), California and finally Arizona. Janet taught at various schools in several countries, and taught English to adults in France.

To all who knew her, Janet's invariable good humour and genuine interest and compassion for others left lasting impressions. With John, she shared a passion for nature and travel and became an accomplished hiker and scuba diver. They shared many adventures in places as diverse as the French Alps



and the southern coast of Tasmania and explored extensively the stunning desert scenery and coastline of the Western US. Janet's other great interest was literature, particularly the classics.

In 1999 Janet was diagnosed with an extremely rare and mostly untreatable form of cancer. In the nine years after diagnosis, she endured five major surgeries and five chemotherapy sessions, several experimental. Throughout her long and difficult path with cancer, her complete refusal to allow her life to be defined by the disease and her astonishing courage in the face of a grim prognosis were an inspiration to many. After every treatment, she made a rapid recovery and launched into planning the next great travel adventure.

Janet is survived by her parents, her sister Julia Hardaker and by her husband. A memorial bench has been placed in the [Desert Botanical Gardens](#) in Phoenix, Arizona, and Janet has her own website at: [web.mac.com/johnccossins/Janet\\_Cossins](http://web.mac.com/johnccossins/Janet_Cossins)

**John Bell (1934-1939):** John, a former Brigg Grammar School student and teacher who survived a torpedo attack on his ship in World War 2 has died in Canada where he lived after emigrating.

He attended Brigg Grammar School in the 1930s where he was soon recognised as an outstanding sportsman. He was also believed to be the first King's Scout in the 2nd Brigg Scout Group. He had another link with the school in that he later married Barbara Knight the daughter of a former long serving Deputy Head.



On leaving the school at 18 he joined the merchant navy sailing with the Blue Funnel Line. Remarkably he escaped with his life after being rescued from an open boat. His ship had been torpedoed in the Atlantic and he was cast adrift on a life raft. He was spotted by a passing aircraft from the West Indies. It was three weeks after they had been told he was missing, that the family received the news that he was alive.

After the war John Bell trained as a teacher at Loughborough teaching for two years in Hull before returning to teach Physical Education and Geography at Brigg Grammar School in 1951. He was particularly remembered for the construction of long jump and high jump pits at the school with volunteer pupils. He was also secretary for the Old Briggensians Association.

In 1958 he emigrated to Canada, taught at Fredericton University and also worked in Canadian Athletics in a high profile coaching role involving national athletes. John Bell died at the age of 85 and is survived by his wife, three daughters, a sister

Kathleen and his brother Peter who still lives in Brigg.

Peter said, "My brother made a great success after emigrating to Canada. He and Barbara had three girls and a number of grandchildren. The news reached me that he had died after a short illness in a local hospital. He did not often talk about his war time experience but his ship travelled between South Africa and America. It was sunk two days out of Cape Town. The life boat he was on floated for some 21 days before he was spotted."

**John David Dodds-(1935-1939):** I have had an enquiry from a relation of his, Brenda Robinson, who tells me he was known as David Dodds. He lived in the family home at 20 Woodbine Avenue, Brigg, which is very close to the School and on the estate adjoining Glebe Road.

During the war he was killed in Germany and buried there, probably in Hanover. He would be approximately 20 years old.

It is a very long shot to expect information but should anyone know of someone who might be able to remember him and add to the information gathered by the family then I am sure they would be most grateful.

**Dr Chrissie Freeth, Saltaire, West Yorks emailed for help:** My great-great grandmother was Delia Horberry; her sister was Clara Louisa Horberry who married a Brigg chemist called George Brown. Their only child - **George Harold Brown** - attended Brigg Grammar School.

He was killed in June 1917 and a great deal of information about him has been posted on the 'Great War Forum' website by a teacher called 'davebrigg' who is interested in researching former pupils of Brigg grammar who died during the war.

I have had a great deal of trouble trying to contact him through the website and have been concerned as his posts seemed to have ceased around November 2007.

I am keen to get in touch with him because following the recent death of my grandfather several papers have come down to me (as pretty much the last of the line in the UK and someone interested in the family history). Amongst the papers was Clara Brown's will and this also contained a photograph of George Harold Brown and - startlingly - several letters from the front; the letter frantically written by his parents on learning of his injury (returned to them as he was already dead) and two letters from his CO describing his death and popularity; I have managed to track down another photograph of him and gleaned a few snippets of information from other family sources. As it seems 'davebrigg' had an interest in Harold, I wanted to make sure he knew these documents and photographs were in existence and that I would be more than happy to pass on what I have learned as well as scans of the original sources.

**Pamela Smith (nee Miller)-(1956-1961)**, wife of Briggensian **Keith Smith-(1953-1961)**, lost her fight against cancer on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 after a long illness, bravely borne through much suffering. Pam and Keith married in 1967 and had two sons Nicholas and Christopher. Many local Briggensians will know Pam through her work as a hospital Sister having trained at Scunthorpe and latterly Practice Nurse at the Riverside Doctors' Practice.

Pam was younger sister to Colin Miller, deceased, who many will remember as local joiner and Caretaker at Sir John Nelthorpe School.





# BRIGGENSIANS SPORTS 2008:

**CRICKET:** The scheduled annual cricket match between The Briggensians (ex-pupils) and Sir John Nelthorpe School at the Recreation Ground was called off, due to heavy rain.

Not a ball was bowled, with captains Adrian Gibbons (School) and Lee Fielden (Briggensians) agreeing after half-an-hour that there was no prospect of any play.

Some of the senior players then headed off to the Nelthorpe Arms and the Yarborough Hunt to drown their sorrows.

Due to the school year ending the next week it was not possible to re-arrange the match.

**GIRLS' SPORTS:** The summer sports Rounders match just finished before the rain really set in. Everyone had a lot of fun despite a poor showing of school pupils.

School (staff +) won 18 ½ to 9.

The tennis was unfortunately cancelled due to the rain.

**WINTER SPORTS:** In September the winter sports again suffered from poor weather conditions, it rained most of the day although it did improve from about 5pm onwards.

**Hockey and Netball:** Only a few hockey players attended, so some of them joined in a very high powered netball match. The school team battled well but were somewhat outclassed by a very talented Briggensian team which boasted many county juniors players!

Four periods of 10 minutes were played with conditions applied to the former pupils e.g. only bounce passes to be used or one hand only etc. but they still won. However, the school team enjoyed playing against such skilful opposition. Final score: 43-4

The **Old Boys football** team included Mr Gibbons and Mr Taylor, both teachers at the school and other well known local sportsmen such as Craig Benson, Steve Jordan (back from his world tour) and Chrisopher Fail. A few newer faces helped make up the team such as Joe Hebblewhite and Michael Farmery and they also helped reduce the average age of the team. The opposition were a talented year 11 team who have not been beaten this year. A number of pupils played for the old boys because of a few late withdrawals prior to kick off because of old age and injuries. Alex Hawes, Liam Driscoll and Joe Tinsley-Hewson all had excellent games against their peers.

The Old Boys didn't take long to stamp their authority on the game and their experience helped them to a 4-2 victory with Liam Driscoll playing one half for each team and scoring for both teams. Steve Jordan also enjoyed a tap in and Benson and Farmery were also on the score sheet. The school's second goal was a very debatable penalty. Calum Christopherson put his first effort over the bar but the referee offered a retake and he coolly put the ball past the helpless Gibbons on his second attempt.

The game was enjoyed by all and a great thank you must go out to Steven Glentworth, a year 11 pupil, who refereed the game excellently. There were many fine individual performances and Jamie Fussey (year 11) played really well in the centre of midfield. Alex Hawes was impressive in defence for the Old Boys and Steve Jordan was always a threat, apart from some of his long range shooting.

**GOLF:** The Spring meeting at Messingham Golf Club was a disaster in 2008 with only two people able to play on the appointed day and then only three people on the rearranged date. This had caused great embarrassment to the organisers especially Derek as the club had been expecting 20-25 players and bacon butties had been ordered.

The Secretary (Dogsbody) suggested that since Elsham G.C. members felt unhappy or seemed unavailable to play at other courses he should attempt to come to an agreement with the Sec/Manager of Elsham G.C. to organise a Spring fixture at Elsham as a late afternoon competition in mid to late June, when daylight was extended.

This has now been confirmed and dates for 2009 meetings are 4.30 pm Monday 15 June and 12 noon Sunday 18 October 2009.

## Election of Officers:

**President:** Dave Brittain having agreed to continue was unanimously re-elected.

**Vice President:** Having agreed to appoint a Vice Captain at last years AGM meeting it was felt that a Vice President would be equally appropriate. P J Dodd having been approached to undertake this onerous position and having been proposed by the Dogsbody and seconded by the President was also unanimously elected.

**Vice Captain:** Alan Taylor was elected Vice Captain for the 2009 season to succeed Roger Holmes appointed Captain for 2009.

Discussions at the AGM led to a decision to change the venue to the more favoured Elsham, later in the summer so that the light nights enabled more people to play with a tee-off time of 4.30 PM. Please make a note of the revision so that we can have a successful event in 2009.

Andy Longden	37 pts				
Mark Boast	35 pts back nine	Matt Holmes	35 pts	John Taylor	35 pts
Dave Barraclough	34 pts back nine	Rebecca Watson	34 pts	Neil Rodgers	32 pts back nine
Chris Hackford	32 pts	Nick Golland	30 pts back nine	Tim Phipps	30 pts
Alan Taylor	30 pts	Jamie Allcock	30 pts	Ted Cox	29 back nine
Dom Jeffery	29 pts	Kelvin Brown	27 back nine	Alison Golland	27 pts
Trevor Vessey	26 back nine	P J Dodd	26 pts	Dave Brittain	25 back nine
Dave Howson	25 pts	Richard Rivron	24 back nine	Nick Good	24 pts
Jennifer Rivron	24 pts	Adrian Gibbons	24 pts	Kye Brown	21 pts

Grange Park Results ~ first 3 as follows:

1st	P J Dodd	35 pts
2nd	Dave Brittain	33 pts
3rd	Ted Cox	30 pts



# Briggensians' Association

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dinner 2009 - Booking Form

I **will** be attending the Briggensians' Dinner (**closing date 7<sup>th</sup> March 2009**) and enclose a cheque made payable to the Briggensians Association for the sum of:

£ ..... for ..... places at **£18.00 each**.

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

Name: .....

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

Address: .....  
.....

Post Code: .....

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

**For Confirmation of Places:**

Tel: .....

Email: .....

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

Person(s) ..... year ..... etc.

..... year .....

### Menu Selection for the 2009 Dinner

Contact Name		Starter			Main		Dessert			If there are any special dietary requirements please let us know.
Contact Number/ email (for booking confirmation)		Vegetable Soup	Prawn Cocktail	Melon	Pork Steak	Vegetarian Tartlet	Chocolate Pudding	Treacle Sponge	Cheese & Biscuits	
Name of Guests	School Dates									
e.g. John Nelthorpe	1669 - 1675	✓			✓			✓		

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

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