

# BRIGGENSIANS' NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2010



## Briggensians' Association 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dinner

Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010, 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

£18.00 Elsham Golf Club £18.00

*Guest Speaker: Peter Laurence 1964-1971*

# Dates for your diary:

**2011: 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner**  
**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011**  
**Elsham Golf Club**

**Summer Sports 2010**

**School Field Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

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

**Cricket or Rounders**

**Youth vs. Experience**

**and later at the Yarborough Hunt**

**Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2010 Tennis**

**School  
Sports  
Day:**

**Friday,  
9<sup>th</sup> July  
2010**

**Winter Sports 2010**

**School Field Friday**

**17<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

**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 2010 – 10.30 am start**

**Briggensians' Golf Championships 2010**

**Individual Stableford Rules**

**Spring meeting at Elsham Golf Club**

**Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2010 – 4.30 p.m. start**

**Autumn Meeting at Elsham Golf Club**

**Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2010: 1st Tee off 12.00 noon**

**Match Play**

**Past v Present Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010 Elsham Golf Club 4.00 p.m. start**

# Annual Dinner Guest Speaker

**Peter Laurence:** Peter was a pupil at BGS from 1964 to 1971, travelling in from Scunthorpe every day on the 114 School Bus. An enjoyable and too leisurely Sixth Form existence was rounded off by an uncharacteristic burst of intensive (re)vision, when he surprised himself- and his teachers; English (Ken Miles), French (Vernon Atkin) and History Nick Lyons and 'Eddie' Jackson; by doing well enough at A-Level to go on to study history at Warwick University.



A PGCE in Birmingham followed, and Peter had his first experience of comprehensive school teaching, loved it, but decided to work abroad before committing himself to a teaching career in England. He was employed by The British Council as a peripatetic teacher of English as a foreign language in Rauma, Finland, working with school pupils, shipyard and pulp-mill workers, bank staff and private students, travelling from lesson to lesson on a bicycle. Not much fun in -25C weather.

After returning from Finland in 1975 Peter taught History at Yarborough High School in Lincoln and then worked in schools in Leeds and Calderdale - as Head of History, Head of House, and as a Deputy Headteacher.

He has been Principal of Brigshaw High School and Language College since 1997. Brigshaw is a large high school of over 1400 students and 160 staff in outer East Leeds. There is a strong community dimension, and Brigshaw is part of a 'federation' with eight local primary schools.

Peter has been fortunate to have had opportunities beyond his own school over recent years - for example as the Yorkshire and Humber regional adviser for school workforce reform between 2004 and 2006, and most recently as a consultant Headteacher working with Education Leeds in its leadership development and

succession planning work, and in developing stronger 14-19 partnerships between High Schools, FE colleges and employers.

His wife Becky works as a senior careers consultant at The University of Leeds, and they have two boys, Will (having a 'gap' year between school and going on to study Geography at Newcastle) and Tom (in Year 11). Unlike their father, they are good sportsmen.

*“Although the world of education has changed enormously since I left BGS, good schools have timeless characteristics - places where young people are challenged, inspired and stimulated to achieve their potential, where they are valued and aren't afraid to take risks and make mistakes, and where staff provide role models which they can learn from and respect.*

*I was very fortunate that I went to such a school as a boy, and hope that in my own work as a teacher and a school leader I have helped to create learning environments where my students can say the same thing.”*

# *Briggensians' Association* *33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dinner 2010*

## Menu for the 2010 Dinner

(v) Chunky Cream of Vegetable Soup

Or

Prawn Cocktail

Or

(v) Melon with a Berry Sorbet



**Chicken Breast Stuffed with Caramelised Onions  
and wrapped in Bacon**

Or

(v) Stilton and Vegetable Crumble



Roast and New Potatoes

Fresh Vegetables



Sticky Toffee Pudding and Custard

Or

Chocolate Scrapheap

Or

Cheese & Biscuits



Coffee or Tea and Mints



(v) Vegetarian options

*Please note that, as last year, 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*

## **BRIGGENSIANS A.G.M. 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2009/10**

Over the past year the association has continued to keep the Briggensian members up to date with one another, and has seen one of the members, Frank Holmes, mark his 100th birthday.

We have also gained new members, with a number of recent school leavers joining. Hopefully this will also aid the availability of 'old' girls and boys for the summer and winter games.

The Briggensian Annual Dinner at Elsham Golf Club back in March was very well attended with over 100 members and guests enjoying the evening. Karen Rouse (nee Massarella 1971 - 1978) was an excellent choice of speaker with the tales of her life both whilst at the school and her adventures after.

The next dinner (the 33<sup>rd</sup>) is scheduled for 20 March 2010 and we have had confirmation that Peter Laurence (1964-1971) will be our guest speaker. I have already been approached by a long standing Briggensian, who has never yet attended the dinner before, to ensure he can secure a ticket! So I look forward to another successful, well-attended, dinner.

Having read with interest the newspaper reports of the exam results, I would like to congratulate the school on the outstanding results achieved, both at GCSE and A Level, and to acknowledge the time and effort the students have evidently put in, along with the teaching and support staff.

Finally I would like to thank all the committee members who have supported me in my first year chairing the committee, particularly Barbara who has kept me in line, and I look forward to another successful year.

**Donna Fryer, Chairman 2009-10**

### **Headteacher's Report 2009/10**

**What a difference a year makes!** The **GCSE results** achieved by the Year 11 students who left Sir John Nelthorpe last summer were **the highest ever achieved by the school**. The percentage of students achieving **5 or more A\*-C grades including English and mathematics rose to 68%** (our government target was 62%). The national average was 50% and the Local Authority 45%. The **overall percentage of students achieving 5 or more A\*-C grades was 72%**. These results are for full GCSE courses, which enable students to access a full range of post 16 courses.

The GCSE results achieved in science and mathematics in 2009 ensured that the school was easily able to complete its 'redesignation' for Specialist Status within the designated 6-week period. This has significant funding consequences for the school and lasts for the next three years.

I am equally pleased to report that 100% of our 16-year-old students achieved qualifications commensurate with their ability. We had no student deemed to be 'NEET' – neither in education, employment or training, once they had left us for pastures new.

**The GCSE results place the school in the top 25% nationally**, which includes independent schools. These high results are a reflection of the professionalism and dedication of the teaching and support staff at Sir John Nelthorpe School who have high expectations for the students in their care.

Once again we recruited a respectable number of students in to the Sixth Form College this September, no doubt encouraged by the GCSE results they had achieved.

**The A level results** were also encouraging with a **2%** increase in the number of students achieving higher grades and an **overall pass rate of 98.2%**. Sixth form students moved on to follow a wide range of post 18 courses and employment opportunities. Details can be found later in this report. We celebrated their achievements at the BSF Presentation Evening on 17<sup>th</sup> December at which the guest speaker was **Dr Eric Stainton** who retired as Deputy Headteacher at Sir John Nelthorpe School two years ago.

In **June 2009** the school was given 48 hours notice that **Ofsted** was coming to do a full inspection of the school. We had been 'randomly selected' to be a 'pilot school' for the new Ofsted regime which is far more demanding than the previous process. Not only did we have the Inspection Team but extra HMI who were quality assuring the new system.

Many aspects of the school's work were recognised as 'good' including teaching, sixth form, behaviour, attendance and personal education. A 'good' overall category could not be achieved because of the dip in GCSE results in 2008. If they had come after the results achieved in the summer it would have been a different story!

Once again we said goodbye to two long serving colleagues at the end of the summer term. **Helen Cresswell** retired after 34 years' service. She inspired generation of pupils to embrace sporting activities both in school and during their leisure time. In recent years Helen also worked with pupils in the Special Needs Department. She continues to be closely associated with the school as a key member of the Briggensians' Association.

**Monica Roche** worked at Sir John Nelthorpe for 17 years as a key member of the English Department and passed on her love of literature to the students she taught. For 15 years she was also a head of year and left as her last year 11 cohort did in the summer. Monica had a genuine care for her students and kept many of them on the 'straight and narrow'.

We wish them both a long and happy retirement.

Finally I would like to thank the governors, Trustees, PTA and Briggensians who have supported the school over the past year particularly those who were involved in the Ofsted process. It was appreciated!

**Linda Hewlett-Parker**

## The way things were:-

**50 Years ago:** *GREAT surprise and much sadness followed the bombshell announcement 50 years ago that popular Brigg Grammar School headmaster Nigel Cale Matthews was quitting.*

He was only 52 – a tender age for a head in those days, but he stressed he did not want to become "another Mr Chips".

That was a reference to the central character of the famous novel by James Hilton – later made into a 1939 film – set in a fictional boys' public boarding school.

There a very popular master devotes his life to teaching and then comes out of retirement to help out again in a crisis, despite being regarded by some as "a doddering fossil".

Mr Matthews's decision to quit his post in Brigg attracted so much attention in educational circles it was picked up by the national press.

The Sunday Express made it the main story on a page in the edition of June 7, 1959.

It reported how boys, parents and governors of the school – founded in 1669 – had tried to get him to change his decision.

But he would not be moved and departed the following month, at the end of the school year, despite being on a reported £1,500 a year, which was a very impressive figure half-a-century ago.

The softly-spoken head, wearing a blue herringbone jacket and grey flannels, sighed as he told a Sunday Express reporter: "Things have changed so much since the war. I feel I am losing control of the reins.

Things are getting so much harder. I would rather go now, while people think kindly of me, than risk being called another Mr Chips in a few years' time.

At the end of a 14-week term I was tired out, irritable and frightened that, because of the strain, I might have made a wrong judgment because I appeared always to be finding fault.

I am so weary. My job has become a constant nag, instead of offering encouragement.

There is good discipline at the school and I have tried to maintain it. But some lads do not care about appearances. I have to nag about haircuts, about wearing school uniforms, even about keeping classrooms clean.

Their mental attitude and personal appearance made me feel the boys were straying from my grasp.

I had to get out. I just fail to understand their outlook and desire to wear outrageous clothes."

He recalled the day he told parents and boys in the "red brick school" of his decision to go.

"The silence, instead of the usual clapping at the end of my report, almost brought tears to my eyes," he recalled.

"It was a hard decision to make, but I was convinced the time had come, after 15 years, for me to move out for a younger man."

Looking to the future, Mr Matthews, who had helped an impressive total of 15 Brigg students get to Oxford or Cambridge university that year, said: "I am getting away from it all. I am going to be a horticulturist in Huntingdon.

A lot of people say I am crazy throwing away my salary – £12,000 for the next seven years. But with these nagging fears and the desire after 31 years as a teacher to spend a bit of time with my wife and two children, it is worth the risk.

If anything should go wrong until I get my pension in 1966 I shall have to go back to work. That could be the testing point."

Colonel Oliver Sutton Nelthorpe, from Scawby, chairman of governors, said: "It was a terrible blow when we heard his decision because he has been extraordinarily good in difficult times. We tried to persuade him to stay, but it was no use.

He will be missed by many people, both as a teacher and as a friend."

Mr Matthews was succeeded as headmaster by Brian Williams, who was to be Brigg Grammar's last – after more than 300 illustrious years. For, in 1976, a new comprehensive, Sir John Nelthorpe School, was created and the school abandoned.

*Ed – Not sure the school was abandoned but to some it felt like it!*

Brigg Sixth Form A Level Results 2009													
	A		B		C		D		E		U		
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	TOTAL NO. OF ENTRIES
ARCHEOLOGY			1	100									1
ART & DESIGN			1	20	1	40		40	3	100			5
BIOLOGY	1	6.25	1	12.5	3	31.25	3	50	6	87.5	2	100	16
BUSINESS STUDIES	3	16.7	5	44.44	9	94.44	1	100					18
CHEMISTRY			2	66.7	1	100							3
DRAMA			2	50	1	75	1	100					4
ENGLISH LIT	5	27.8	4	50	3	66.7	6	100					18
FRENCH	2	100											2
GENERAL STUDIES			1	16.7	2	50	1	66.7	2	100			6
GEOGRAPHY			2	66.7	1	100							3
GERMAN									1	100			1
HISTORY	4	36.4	3	63.64	3	90.9	1	100					11
I.C.T.			1	12.5	2	37.5	3	75	2	100			8
MATHEMATICS	1	14.3	3	57.14	1	71.43	1	85.7	1	100			7
MEDIA STUDIES	2	20	2	40	4	80	1	90	1	100			10

MUSIC TECH			1	25	3	100								4
P.E.			1	5.6	7	44.44	3	61.1	7	100				18
PHYSICS			1	25	1	50	1	75	1	100				4
PSYCHOLOGY			3	23.1	5	61.54	3	84.6	2	100				13
TECHNOLOGY			2	50	2	100								4
<b>APPLIED COURSES:</b>														
ART & DESIGN							2	50	2	100				4
HEALTH & SOC					1	20	1	40	2	80	1	100		5
<b>NO. &amp; % BY GRADE</b>														
	18		36		50		28		30		3			165
GRADE%	10.9		21.8		30.3		17		18.2		1.8			
CUMULATIVE %	<b>10.9</b>		<b>32.7</b>		<b>63</b>		<b>80</b>		<b>98.2</b>		<b>100</b>			

## Brigg Sixth Form Prizes 2009

ART & DESIGN ART & DESIGN APPLIED	Taylor Prize SJN Parents' Association Prize	Samuel Budworth Daniel Conlin and Heather Armitage
BIOLOGY	Nelthorpe Foundation Prize Derek Appleyard Memorial Prizes	Mary Lee and Amy Taylor Calum Cogan
BUSINESS STUDIES	Henthorn Prize	Mary Lee
CHEMISTRY	Nelthorpe Foundation Prize E. F. Brown Memorial Prize	Mary Lee Calum Cogan
DRAMA	Production Prizes	Ciaran Savage and Charlotte Whitehead
ENGLISH	Spilman Prize Briggensian Prize	Nicole Laffan Nathan Dean
FRENCH	SJN Parents' Association Prize	Sophie Van den Bos
GENERAL STUDIES	Baker Prize	Sarah Dennie
GEOGRAPHY	Vale College Prizes	Sean Crowther and Alice Beasley
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE	SJN Parents' Association Prize	Natasha Dexter
HISTORY	Taylor Prize Sergeant Prize	Sophie Van den Bos Samuel Budworth
ICT	Vale College Prize	Oliver Taylor
MATHEMATICS	Briggensian Prize	Mary Lee and Eloise Wright
MEDIA	Vale College Prizes	Rikki Barratt and Nicole Laffan
MUSIC TECHNOLOGY MUSIC	Morris Prizes	Adam Perkins Adelle Grierson
PHYSICS	Stephenson Prize Nelthorpe Foundation Prize	Calum Cogan Benjamin Saint-Clair
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Upper Sixth Prize Upper Sixth Prize (AS Level)	Paul Norris Lewis Parker
PSYCHOLOGY	Vale College Prizes	Hayley Hamilton and Paul Norris
CONTRIBUTION TO SIXTH FORM EVENTS	Lardelli Prizes	Amy Taylor and Oliver Taylor

PROGRESS PRIZES: English Music Sixth Form History	Lardelli Prize Lardelli Prize Lardelli Prize Vale College Prize	Deborah Clarvis and Stephen Fisher Adam Perkins Sarah Dennie and Jonathan Woodliffe Hayley Hamilton
ACHIEVEMENT	Howitt Prize Cusworth Preston Prize	Mary Lee Oliver Taylor
Head Boy and Head Girl	Sir John Nelthorpe Vale of Ancholme	Ciaran Savage and Charmian Smith Joseph Widdowson and Charlotte Whitehead

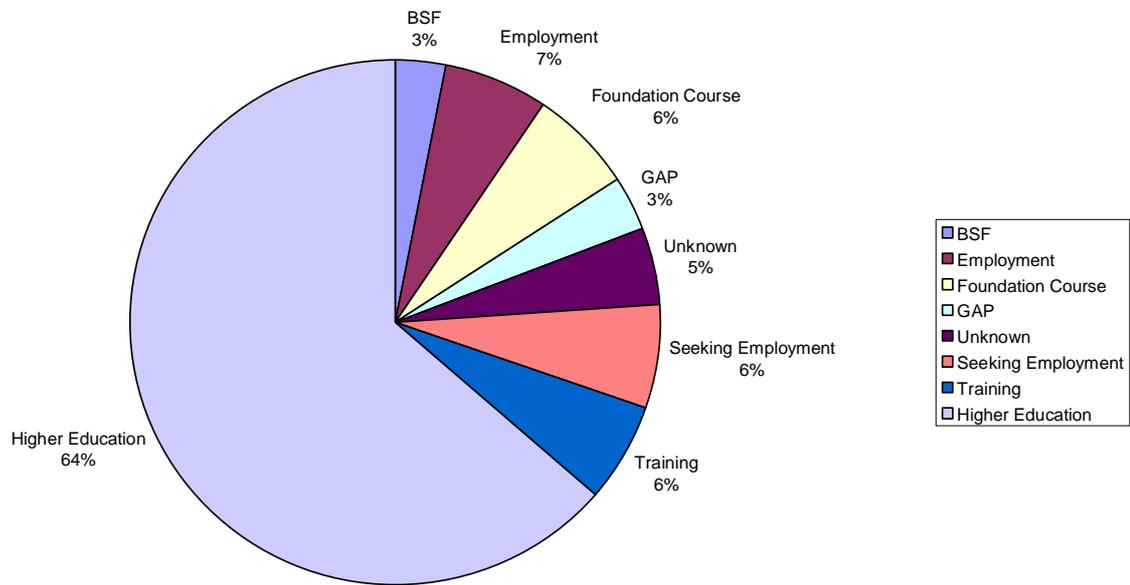
## Lower Sixth Prizes 2009

APPLIED ART & DESIGN	Jessica Withington and Jessica Weston
BIOLOGY	Ian Burkinshaw
BUSINESS STUDIES	James Morris
CHEMISTRY	Bethan Wilmot
DRAMA	Scott Pashley
ENGLISH	Alice Weston and Tim Metcalf
FRENCH	Phillipa Grafton
GEOGRAPHY	Joe Steede
GERMAN	Lauren Bryan
HISTORY	Bethan Wilmot and Lauren Bryan
ICT	Tim Metcalf and James Morris
MATHS	Bethan Wilmot
MUSIC	George Marshall
MUSIC TECHNOLOGY	Sophie Brumby
PHOTOGRAPHY	Hannah Duggan and Cloe Pitson
PHYSICS	Ian Burkinshaw
PSYCHOLOGY	Harry Hall
PRIZES FOR CONTRIBUTION TO SCHOOL / SIXTH FORM	Yasmin Simpson
PRIZES FOR SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS / HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL	James Morris, Bethan Wilmot, Phillipa Grafton and Ben Thomas
PROGRESS	Biology History Music Angus Cogan Lauren Bryan Laura Woodliffe, Louise Cook, Danielle Clayton and Hannah Conway

## Destinations 2009

Callum Abram	Hull University	Jazz and Popular Music
Cane Arical	Lincoln University	Biomedical Science
Heather Armitage	Grimsby Institute	Art Foundation
Rikki Barratt	Bishop Grosseteste University	Education Studies/Sport
Alice Beasley	Bradford University	Archaeology
Mark Brown	Employment	Ambulance Technician
Sam Budworth	Hull College	Fine Art Foundation Course
Nathan Bush	Plymouth University	Architecture
Deborah Carvis	Lincoln University	Media Production
Kristian Clark	Lincoln University	Drama
Callum Cogan	Lancaster University	Accounting and Finance
Daniel Conlin	Grimsby Institute	Art Foundation
Sean Crowther	Employment	Techreet Concrete, Scawby
Nathan Dean	Brigg Sixth Form College	
Sarah Dennie	Hull University	History with Economics
Natasha Dexter	Gap Year	
Adam Douglass	Mechanical Apprenticeship	

Stephen Fisher	Seeking Employment	
Ben France	Accountancy Training	
Luke Garratt	Sheffield Hallam University	Design Technology
Benjamin George	Doncaster College	Creative Music Technology
Alexander Green	Teacher Assistant P.E.	Caistor Grammar School
Sarah Grey	Employment	Equine Care
Adelle Grierson	University of Cumbria	Primary Education
Elliott Gunn	Seeking Employment	
Hayley Hamilton	Seeking Employment	Health & Safety Training
Lewis Harper		
Jack Hendy	Hull University	Business + Professional Experience
Emily Hickman	Pursuing Judo Training	
Luke Jackson	Grimsby Institute	Applied Computing and Multi-Media
Luke Jones	Nottingham Trent University	Law
Antony Keeton	Portsmouth University	International Relations and History
Shaun Kelly	Derby University	Sport & Exercise Studies
Aiden Kilbee	Lincoln University	Psychology
Nicole Laffan	Exeter University	English and French
Mary Lee	Lancaster University	Biomedical Science
Elliott Makey	GAP Year	
Emma Mallender	Bishop Burton College	Equine Sports and Therapy
Rebecca McKluskey		
Verity Nadin		
Paul Norris	Lincoln	Sport & Exercise Science
Oluwafenwa Odutolu	De Montfort University	Pharmaceutical & Cosmetic Science
Lewis Parker	Management Training	Tesco
Adam Perkins	Bishop Grosseteste University	Education Studies/Music
Asley Pitson	Sheffield Hallam University	Architectural Technology
Rachel Reynolds	Bedfordshire University	Sport & Exercise Science
Jade Ronald	BSF	
Benjamin Saint-Clair	Keele University	Mathematics and Philosophy
Ciaran Savage	Acting Agency	Acting
Michael Sharp	Lincoln University	Media Production
Rachael Shirt	Teeside University	Media Studies
Laura Sims	Hull University	Nursing (Adult Nursing)
Bethanie-May Smith	Lincoln University	Social Science
Charmian Smith	Nottingham Trent	Law
Leanne Sutherland	Bishop Burton College	Fnd Degree - Animal Management
Amy Taylor	Sheffield University	Management
Oliver Taylor	Derby University	Computer Networks
Sophie van den Bos	Cambridge University	Emanuel College - Law
Charlotte Whitehead	University of Huddersfield	Events' Management
Joseph Widdowson	Lincoln University	Sports Business Management
Lee Wilcock	Hull University	Computer Science
Jonathan Woodliffe	Lincon University	Computer Science
Eloise Wright	Bishop Grosseteste University	Maths & Education



## NEWS OF OLD BRIGGENSIANS 2009/10

### Staff Related Section:

**Helen Cresswell:** One familiar face in the PE and Special Needs Department is absent for students at Sir John Nelthorpe School.

Helen Cresswell has retired after teaching at the school for **34 years**.

Helen was educated at King Edward School Louth and trained as a teacher

at Dartford College. She began her career in Wiltshire and moved up to North Lincolnshire three years later when her late husband John took over a family business in Broughton.

Helen first arrived to teach PE at Sir John Nelthorpe School part time in 1975 and started full time teaching in 1980.

Hockey and tennis were her specialist sports and she spent hours umpiring and coaching pupils after school in practice sessions or in matches.

Helen played hockey for Brigg Ladies 1st team for many years holding several offices in the club. After retiring from playing Helen took to umpiring and officiated at a high level. Today she is an administrator for North of England Hockey running the national schools competitions.

She also played tennis for the Brigg Club based at the Lower School site.

Another interest is music and she sings with the Singing for Pleasure group in Waddingham.

Now Helen looks to retirement and plans to enjoy sports events nationally and travel.

She will be missed greatly by the many students who have gained so much from her expertise

*Report: Peter Thompson*



**Brian Williams:** Brian is on good form and his wife Margaret had a hip replacement operation before Christmas and is now getting about well with the aid of a stick. We all wish her a speedy recovery and much improved mobility, free from pain.

**John Allcock-(1958-1965):** The grapevine may have been very busy with news that John has throat cancer. We send our best wishes and hope that the present course of treatment can improve his quality of life. **Good luck John and keep fighting.**

**Stan Beedham:** One of the best Groundsman we ever had was 90 in June last year. Keep walking and gardening Stan and may you enjoy many more birthdays.

### Alumni News:

**Christina Cook-(1971-1978):** After 'A' levels I worked for British Steel for 16 years, based in the Payroll Department. I worked on weekly and monthly payrolls for all areas of B.S. Unfortunately during my years there I was constantly working on calculating redundancy payments, so sad to see racks of wallet files each one a person made redundant. I also became involved in TQP, a programme to inspire everyone to give Total Quality Performance. I was often involved in training new staff or giving talks to the graduate trainees. I met Terry my husband on a management training course.

I left BS when my daughter Hannah was born in 1994. In 1995 Alexandra was born. Our two daughters kept me busy.

I became involved in the local playgroup first as a committee member and then as Chairman. This eventually led to me being employed part time since 2001. I have done my childcare courses and have completed NVQ Level 3 in Learning Support.

One of the best things about working back at Sir John Nelthorpe School is keeping up to date with modern education especially since our girls are in years 9 and 10.

I've learnt so many new skills especially in the Resistant Materials Department; let's face it girls didn't do woodwork at BGHS. I went to the BGHS reunion last year and I will be going to the Dinner for the first time in 2009.

**David Selley-(1949-1952):** 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 Briggensians in Toronto?

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?

**Peter Welton-(1944-1949):** Pictured here presenting one of his pictures to HM the Queen.

*(Ed. Not the first either; is she a fan?)*

**Bret Butler-(1951-1958):** Bret emailed to observe that David Leaning was a recent guest speaker at the Annual Dinner. He recalls that David was clearly destined for the church from an early stage, being a kindly, thoughtful and reflective sort at school. Although no great sportsman, he had a passion for cricket, kept score for the XI and actually umpired some school matches and he was a very good umpire, even though he gave me out lbw at Barton one day - and it was the correct decision.

I see in another document that people were trying to contact **John Cuthbert-(1948-1956?)**, who went to Canada after Oxbridge. He and **John McLaughlan** were senior members of the football XI in my first year in the team, probably 1955.

I also saw that **Laurie Collins** died. I knew Laurie as a family friend and he taught me how to play cricket. I mentioned this to Bumper Knight when I first went to Brigg in 1951 and Bumper rated Laurie as the finest batsman to have gone through the school in his time.

Bret was back in Qatar on another educational assignment and consultancy. It was his second one there in 2009.

From Qatar he contacted to say "I enjoyed the photo earlier in the year of the **1958** football team with the powerhouse trio of **Dobson, Holmes and Oates** (1952-1960) in the forefront. That was my fourth year in the XI. I missed a penalty in the 1958 season (the only one I missed in four years) in a vital match against Lincoln. Holmes was concussed in the same game.

**Cale Matthews** was a formidable figure. Deep down he was probably frustrated that he did not get a public school position. He was certainly young to get the Headship at BGS especially in those days. His wife's brother (Peter Godfrey) was one of the most eminent musicians in New Zealand."

**John Colin-(1953-1960):** John emailed to say "You do a splendid job. I have only been to one OB Dinner a few years ago when I went with my brother **Patrick Colin (1959-1965)** 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 from 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. 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 medical 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 whom I kept up with after his retirement.

In the evenings for a while he taught **Roger Dobson (1952-1960)** and myself Italian prior to our trip to the Olympics in Rome in 1966, where we hitch hiked to, just having left school! We bumped into **Gerry Longden** and another young master (name forgotten but not his face!) (*I think it would have been Jack Moore ~ Ed*) at the English church one Sunday morning, in Rome. Will not be able to



come to dinner on 20 March as I'm going to S Africa but will chase up my brothers and try and reappear sometime! Best wishes in your web mastering endeavours!

John F Colin School House, 1953-1960 (Capt of Athletics, Victor Ludorum, goalie in all the football teams and Junior waterman 1954!) I will email some team photos.

**Roger Dobson-(1952-1960):** I am sending you the photo of the 1959 1st X1 Cricket team in case you haven't got it (with names) I'm pretty sure they were unbeaten. I also found a photo of the 1959 School Athletics team which performed excellently at the Lincolnshire Championships at Cranwell. (can give you some names if you would like them). In conclusion I would have to say that in all my years in education (to 2003) I have not witnessed a more successful series of performances by school first teams in the four major sports at the time. Considering how small Brigg GS was in numbers compared with the Lincoln, Scunthorpe and Grimsby schools the results were really outstanding.

**Chris Plumtree-(1959-1965):** Good day or Dobro dan as they say in Croatia (and many other Eastern European countries including Russia), Thanks very much for the Briggensians' Newsletter. I have really enjoyed reading it. Thanks also for including my note, and I would genuinely like to help any potential Briggensian holiday makers to Split and the Dalmatian region. It is a great holiday destination. So if anyone asks you please let them have my email address.

Very well done for pulling all of this information together. But I expect you were very pleased at the response. Not sure yet if I will make the dinner. The cheap flights do not start until March, but I might well pop back from Marbella for the summer golf in June. I shall be there all summer. This will be much easier and cheaper.

**Second email:** At the moment I seem to be pretty fit and well with my 2 hip replacements still being good enough to let me play some good hard tennis here in Split, Croatia and with some of Goran Ivanisevic's older hitting partners. I am sure the good weather, fresh food and local wine and slower pace of life generally in Croatia helps.

One bit of news. One of my daughters, Annabel, is currently dating Gerry Longden's grandson, Jack. It's a bit of a coincidence. Pity I could not tell Gerry.

...for those *who are looking ahead to a well planned retirement who either live outside the UK or wish to consider doing so after they retire in the future* there is some advice from me on the web site ~ have a look.

**Simon Church-(1975-1982):** When he was back in the UK for a few weeks and managed to catch up with a number of old faces around Brigg, **Andrew Longden, Sara Longden, Graham Holmes, Clive Thompson, Byron Coopland, Nigel Fisher, Gary Smith, Andy Roberts, Jill and Linda Howson** to name a few.



Simon reports that over in Perth, he catches up with the odd Briggensian, obviously my brother **Paul Church**, nephew **Tony Church** as well as **Chris Jacklin** and **Paul Jenkinson** who are all in Australia.

"Only last year, Chris, Paul J and myself caught up for an unofficial Briggensian dinner at Coco's restaurant in South Perth. A good time was had by all, including a chorus of 'Fortitudine'..."

**PJ Dodd-(1953-1959):** At 12.30am on Sunday 23rd August Lucas Edward Dodd weighed in at 6lbs and I became a grandfather! He's small but has big hands and long fingers - perfect for a good golf grip. Laura and Lucas are both doing well. Very exciting!

**Ted Cox-(1952-1959):** For the first time ever, I think, since I left BGS in 1959 I have bumped into another Old Boy. I used to envy Old Boys who met up with others in out of the way places all over the world while I seemed to inhabit an Old-Boy-free zone. The only one I ever came across was **Roger Cole-(1952-1958)** when he was a lecturer at Bishop Grosseteste College in Lincoln and he eventually came to run a course for my staff. However, on a recent visit that Murray and I made to Nostell Priory I met **Alan Franks (1951-1959)**. Alan acts as guide there, having spent most of his teaching career in that area. He has changed very little - anyone at school with him would recognise him. As well as acting as a guide, Alan is involved with making sense of the archives and old documents at the Priory. He said he had seen the OB website and thought it was good.

I found the article about N C Matthews interesting. I wonder what he would have thought about the problems faced by head teachers today. I left the same term as he did and I have to say the interest/upset his resignation caused passed me by, and I suspect it did most pupils at the school. He was old-fashioned, and a good, if sometimes unnecessarily strict disciplinarian. Quite a lot of day boys thought he favoured those in School House, while the latter thought he was over-strict with them. He must have found it very hard controlling boys in the era of Bill Haley, the young Elvis and Teddy Boys when 'youth' was beginning to find its feet. We had to keep



to the uniform, of course, but managed a bit of individuality by having our trousers tapered to a mind-boggling 18" bottoms; and when fluorescent socks came out, one group wore one orange and one lemon sock - I'm not sure if NCM ever stopped that. Hairstyles were other ways of standing out. No one was ever sent home as far as I know and the styles were pretty tame by today's standards; nothing much worse than crew-cuts and DAs. All this, and what we called music, was too much for some staff, particularly Mr Thumwood, who could often be seen shaking his head in bewilderment at the way things were going.

Reading what NCM said in the newspaper report gives a different view of him. He was obviously a sensitive man, which didn't come across to pupils, and he was in a difficult position having to care for the boarders. However, I do think he missed opportunities to develop the school and its pupils, particularly the 6th Form. He seemed to have been paranoid about any liaison with the Girls' High School or the Convent. There was one occasion when I was in the 6th Form when a small group of senior boarders asked if we might have a tennis party with the High School using the tennis court at School House. NCM was apoplectic and the idea was never mentioned again. Not that the boarders were completely without female contacts. I often delivered letters on behalf of boarders to attractive young ladies who were at the High School and Convent. They obviously worked because John McLaughlan went on to marry his girl friend, Margaret Briggs. I also took one boarder as pillion on my scooter to meet his girl friend in South Ferriby one Sunday. I dread to think what would have happened to us both if Matthews had found out.

With regards to NCM and the fishing lake at Scawby, the initial contact came when we (**Roger Holmes, Charlie Freeborn, David Rose and me**) presented NCM with the Scunthorpe Angling Association Junior Team Cup, which we had won three years in a row. I think this would be in the autumn of 1957 or spring 1958..

Mr Williams appeared one day shortly after the end of the Summer Term in 1959 - it can't have been more than a week later - and joined in when we were doing some tidying up. I remember those of us who were there were very impressed; we couldn't imagine NCM ever doing that; Col Nelthorpe even got Hoodless, his woodsman, to put in fishing stages and build us a punt. Why couldn't NCM have done that, particularly as we had a very successful fishing team? Mr Williams seemed like a breath of fresh air but not everyone of our era agreed with how he dealt with the incident when a certain young man disrupted the Cross Country Race.

NCM had a very big effect on BGS and its high standing in the area.

As pupils we had a biased and rather too personal view of him and would have had him change many things but much of what we old fogeys hold dear about BGS were started or maintained by NCM and the school wouldn't have been the same without him.

**John Rhodes-(1941-1948):** In the late fifties when I was starting out as a young English teacher things they were a changing and quickly. Obviously Cale Matthews did not like the look of those changes - in education, in hair styles and in manners generally. I suppose there were some incipient, longer-haired Teddy-boy styles at BGS in 1959, but Mohican and Beatle haircuts were still to come. I think Cale Matthews would have dearly liked to have taken BGS out of the jurisdiction of the local authority and have gained some sort of direct grant, semi-independent status, but that would have meant an infusion of substantial amounts of capital - and where was the money to come from; the Nelthorpe family; the Iron and Steel Industry? Academies and the involvement of industrial/commercial benefactors were unheard of then.

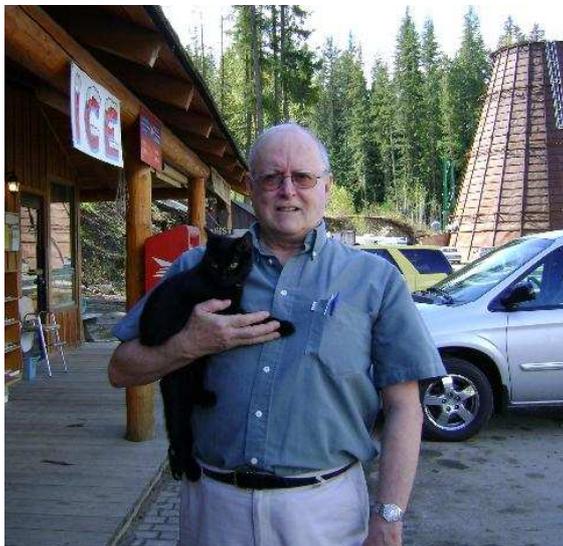
There is an extra twist to the connection between Cale Matthews and myself. Some fourteen years later when I was appointed Headmaster of St. Ivo School, St. Ives in the County of Huntingdon and the Soke of Peterborough, I discovered he was a very 'happy horticulturist' living in my catchment area - some five miles away in the village of Bluntisham, where Dorothy Sayers' father had been Rector and where she was brought up. We met quite often and kept in touch: my elder children would cycle over to the Matthews' fruit farm in the summer holidays and earn extra pocket money by picking a wide variety of fruit. I would come across him and/or his wife Ruth in the market town of St. Ives and they would have heard of the successes, disappointments and scandals concerning St. Ivo School. He sympathised when I featured in the national press for banning boys from wearing white socks, which had come along with bover boots, a cult symbol for the less academic and socially responsible group of pupils rebelling against any authority. However, he just couldn't comprehend what it could be like to be Head of a newish comprehensive school of nine hundred boys and girls that grew to eighteen hundred pupils with a Sixth Form approaching four hundred in the next twenty years. And curiously, like him, I thought that I retired just at the right time when in 1993 I hung up my gown, for a Head and his Governors still had considerable latitude and were not so cribb'd, cabin'd and confined by government instructions and interference.

As a result of correspondence and contacts emanating from my book, I have been in touch with many OBs. More recently I have visited **Stephen Hill** in Gloucestershire and lunched with the former **Caroline Henthorn** in Norfolk. I had not seen both of them for over fifty five years, so we had much catching up to do and the conversation never flagged.

**Nick Lonsdale-(1954-1961):** Just to prove I am alive and well in the beautiful Okanagan Valley of British Columbia here's a picture of me with as Mrs Slocum would say "my pussy" !!!!

**Stuart Douce (1946-53) and Brian Thornalley (1945-52) ~Honorary Degrees:** As part of the celebrations to mark 100 years of education at Loughborough (since the founding of the Loughborough Technical Institute in 1909), Loughborough University invited past Diploma students from its constituent, independent Colleges (Engineering, Teacher Training, and Art) to attend a Graduation Ceremony and accept Honorary Degrees (B.A. or B.Sc.). On Saturday 18th July 2009, no less than 1000 ex-students from the 1930s to the 1970s did so, amongst them being **Stuart Douce (1946-53)** and **Brian Thornalley (1945-52)**. Stuart and Brian, both protégés of "**Timber**" **Watts**, attended Loughborough Training College following two years National Service

after leaving School. Were there any other Briggensians among the thousand "veteran" engineers, teachers and artists?  
Brian T. (Over qualified now for retirement!!)



**Brian Pearson-(1964-1971):** After a blip in communication Brian contacted me to say: “the Email still works and I intend being at the dinner next March. This will be a special occasion, as the guest speaker is my old close friend, **Pete Laurence** (by the way, not David Lawrence). I've spoken to Pete and we are hopeful of getting other old friends, **Gordon ("Haggis") Wemyss, and Phil ("Chas") Wright**, to join us. If we achieve this, I suspect it will be the first time since 1974 that we have all been together. We have often been together in 2s or 3s....but rarely all 4 of us! I think Mike (brother) will want to come along too.”

“Sadly, our connection with the North Lincs area is coming to a close, as our dear old mum passed away in August 2009. We have inherited her bungalow in Hibaldstow, and because I imagine it will take some time to shift, we'll still have a place to land. But once the property has gone, it will become a longer haul for us to return. For me, at least, that treasured link with the area was all about the time I had at BGS...which I still recall as the best days so far. What I wouldn't give to turn the clock back to 1964.....well, OK then, 1969!”

**Derek Sumpter-(1943-50):** Two Briggensians who were former members of School House in the 1940s managed a nostalgic get-together in Bideford, Devon, in November to talk about old times. Although their homes are 300 miles apart, **Peter Wade (1945-53)**, who now lives in Mickleover, Derbyshire, and **Derek Sumpter (1943-50)**, from Tehidy in Cornwall, enjoyed lunch together at a hotel in Bideford with Peter's wife Eileen. There were many stories of the old days in the boarding house and warm recollections of how well they were looked after despite wartime rationing and restrictions.

Four meals a day used to be served in the old dining room which seated up to 50 boys. Among the main dishes were beans on fried bread, corned beef hash, egg on toast, macaroni cheese and sometimes stew and dumplings! Afternoon tea at 4pm was always a buffet type meal with slices of bread about half an inch thick, jam and steaming mugs of tea from two large copper urns.

On the other side of the coin, however, were the Spartan conditions in the living quarters of School House. These were dominated by bare floor boards in the dormitories and no radiators, thick ice on the inside of the windows on winter mornings, no curtains at the windows, a hot bath only once a week and one stove in the day room to huddle round. Nevertheless, there was something special about being a boarder in the '40s. Whether it was the wartime atmosphere or just the awareness of being away from the luxuries of home life, everyone bonded into one big family. Friendships were formed which have lasted to this day - more than 60 years on.

**John R. Lyon-(1937-1945):** Thanks for your recent e-mail with the extract of the press report on Matthew's resignation in 1959. While most of my years at BGS were under JT Daughton, Matthews arrived just before I left in 1945. I remember him as a man with a



shock of red/brown hair so he had already suffered in the way that most of us have. I hadn't realised the way in which he resigned so I feel very sad at what must have been a very difficult decision for him to make.

Does anyone know when he died?

I note that you ask for any recollections or material that might be of interest to members. So, on the assumption that there may still be some of my time still around, I'm attaching images which might be of interest

Anyway, here goes. The first photograph is of Form II in the Prep. Department and, as you will see, it's dated 1938

After all these years my memory isn't all that I would wish it to be, but here is my recollection of the names:

- Back Row:** Wright; J.G.K. "Nick" Davenport; Colin Keay; John R. Lyon(Me); Fred Bell; Owen Day; Stanley Anable; John Codd  
**Middle Row:** Fred Proctor; ???; Raymond Hookham; Deryck Cuthbert; Roy O'Neill; Patrick Cabourne  
**Front Row:** ???; ???; J T Daughton; George Cabourne; Raif Markarian; Wilfred Bee

This photograph is of the back page of the school magazine of July 1943 (Vol. 29 No.3); we were all in UVa and, since some were leaving and some of us going up to the Sixth we signed each others magazines as mementoes.

**Anthony James Callaghan-(1953 – 59):** Headteacher Linda Hewlett-Parker reported that she had an old boy wandering the premises one lunchtime but at least he had the sense to hand himself in. Just as well as he almost joined the GCSE Geography exam!

Anthony James Callaghan (left in the May of L6 as his father was relocated). He lives near Bristol and was driving north to Newcastle to see his old boss in Hexham - small world! He did aeronautical type work.

I gave him the mini tour, via the photos, as exams were on and tried to persuade him that he has a great need to come to the dinner next year. He feels that no-one of his era goes!!!!!!! Of course I had just shredded this years stuff. He has looked on the website. His email is [gallaghananthony@hotmail.com](mailto:gallaghananthony@hotmail.com)

**Richard Brown-(1991-?):** Richard has been appointed Head of Design and Technology in Dawlish in Devon. Father Jack says that "We are fervently hoping that he and his girl-friend like Devon so much that they won't go to Australia. They are already well down the route of getting a work visa for Australia".

**Nigel Fisher-(1967-1974):** Hello - Thought you might like a report from the annual game in new high-tech form! My new cricket website is doing very well. Feel free to download the images off the site (double-click on the pic for high res version) and you are very welcome to the report. <http://lincscricketlatest.blogspot.com>

**Don Middleton-(1937-1943):** has sent his envelope for next year and given this Fax No. 01534 485 194. He has no email address but is happy to be contacted by fax.

**George Gurnell-(1932-1938):** George says that he looks forward to the Dinner and he has a new driving licence to 2012! He included a letter and photos to "Guzzy" from "Sprunny" ie Frank Gant in New Zealand . Ken Proctor will condense all the info for the Magazine (two hand written A4 sheets) I just hope we're all as sharp as him when we reach his age.

**Simone Hunter (nee Stewart)-(1988-1995):** I have just returned from teaching in Bahrain and am now Senior Tutor at Feltham City Learning Centre which I love!

**Roy O'Neill-(1936-1945):** Kathleen Smith (Sambrook) wrote to Roy O'Neill about David Sambrook's death and recalled that Roy's mother always bought a Hovis loaf from Bill Lyon's bakery when she worked there!

**John Hastings-(1961-1966):** wrote to say that he had met old boy **Michael Shaw** and his wife at Peasholm Park. He had thoroughly enjoyed the **1988-1993** reunion at the Ancholme Inn, Brigg with **Sharon Ladlow-(1988-?)** and a full house of contemporaries. **Tendi Huntley-(1988-1989)** was there and many others he didn't name. **Somebody send us a full report!** He also celebrated the wedding of **Andrea Taylor-(1983-1988)** and **Richard Stretfield-(1979-1984)** in Scarborough in July 09 and



says that they had a spectacularly good day all round with perfect weather and superb arrangements to match.

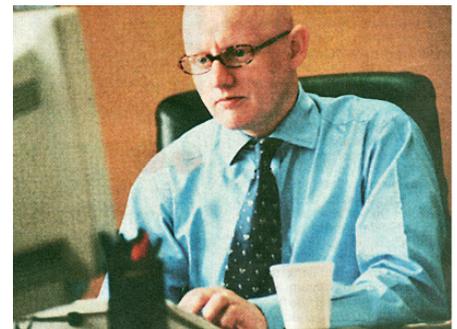
On a personal note **Joseph Hastings-(1992-1999)** married Dr. Katherine Collins at Hemswell Cliff and best man was **Ross Jones**.

Meanwhile **Peterjon Hastings-(1989-1996)** and his wife Teresa celebrated the arrival of second child Hannah May in September 09.

**Frank Holmes-(1920-1926):** Daughter Judy Robinson wrote to say thanks to us for sending a **100<sup>th</sup> birthday** card and best wishes from the Association. You may have read the entry in last year's Briggensian but here we show Frank in good spirits on his birthday. He is not very physically active now but is still quite sharp and enjoyed the magazine last year.

**David Yelland-(1976-1981):** David hit the newspapers again this year after it was revealed that he is a recovered alcoholic and we all wish

him well in his quest as he puts his life back on track. As most members will recall, David was editor of the Sun Newspaper until 2003 and it has recently been revealed that in 2005 he checked into rehab. Few people other than his family were aware of David's drink addiction and it would not have sat well with the Sun readers had they known. David has now been clean and sober for four years but suffered a rough period with his marriage breakdown, leaving the Sun and then the death of his wife from cancer in 2006.



In April David will publish a child's novel about a ten year old boy who tries to hide his father's addiction, based partly on his own experience and it goes under the title '**The truth about Leo**'.

**Rob Towler-(1960-1967):** Responded about the June 2005 mystery photo "I came across the photo in a load of old rubbish" and also sent some information about himself.

Photo taken in the prefect's room in 1966/67. **Back row:** Phil Clayton, John Rounce, Abbey Day **Middle Row:** Rob Towler, Clive Naylor, Colin Millward, Pete Jankowski, Aidan Squires, Porter?, I I can't name, Tess Brookes **Front Row:** Mick Johnson, Hugh Porter

**On the table:** Harry Worth. John Rounce seems to be missing.

I left Brigg to study architecture at Nottingham in 1967, graduated in 1973 and left to work in Alsace, east France where I have stayed ever since. I am

still working, mainly in town planning, for a major French company and still trying to keep fit despite a slight heart attack recently. I was a member of the successful cross-country teams of the 1960's and was interested to read **Pod Hasting's** article on **David Adams**.

I continued to run competitively in France in the 1970's, winning numerous half-marathons and recording a 2hour 22minutes marathon in 1974.

My mother still lives in Caistor so I come over fairly frequently and occasionally see our old art teacher, **Alan Turner**, in Nettelton. Kindest regards to all those who were at Brigg between 1960 and 67.

**Neville Miller-(1961-1968):** Neville's passion for Velocette goes on with the latest being the restoration of a 350 MAC.

He tells me that he has been working in Baker Lake, Nunavut; northern Ontario and now Brazil (to escape the weather I suspect!). He has repaired the cabin by the lake with the help of labouring friends and still plays soccer, sings and plays in the folk groups.

**Professor Sandy Trees-(1957-64):** achieved the honour of becoming the new President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in July 2009. He qualified from Edinburgh's Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in 1969. Some may recall that Professor Trees gave an address at the 2006 Briggensians' Annual Dinner. See Briggensians' website for further details of Sandy's career.

**George Gurnell-(1931-38):** wishes to thank all members of the Committee for organising last year's Annual Dinner, which he thoroughly enjoyed being welcomed by both young and old. He is looking forward to attending the 2010 dinner and informs us that he is still in correspondence with **Frank Gant-(1933-39):** who still resides in New Zealand.

**Derek Sumpter-(1944-50):** contacted the Association after the last Annual Dinner to say that he had heard from the 1940's group that all went well and was extremely enjoyable. He was recovering from a hand operation. Derek kindly donated a fine OBA badge, which is pictured on the website.

**Mike Holmes-(1972-77):** who lives in Lincoln, could be seen in Trafalgar Square on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2009 between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. standing on the fourth plinth, taking part in the Antony Gormley project, 'One and Other'. See *archive 24 and 26 on the website*.

**Tom Wilson-(SJM 1989)** who now has a very interesting career as a Tree Surgeon with the Jenks Group in the Oxford area informed the Association that he has been featured in the Oxford Mail and by the BBC regarding his work on aphids. Tom has researched and evolved a method of using natural predators of aphids to help preserve tree species such as sycamores, limes and planes, whilst keeping ants at bay.

**John Hastings-** (who lives in Scarborough, sent a memoir of his school days at BGS together with an account of his meeting with **Mr DV Adams**, a former Maths teacher at the school, after an interval of 42 years.

Good wishes were received from **PDJ Campbell (1924-31)**, for **Brian Williams** aged 90. He was interested to read **Brett Butler's** account of his time (1951-58), and conditions at BGS. He felt these were probably much the same as in his day except that "things were probably more austere". After leaving school PDJ went on to Oxford and then to India to work on tea estates followed by an eventful life in Burma and Thailand.

**Gerry Richards-(1957-64):** found the last newsletter very informative regarding past teachers at BGS. Gerry is attending the 2010 Annual Dinner.

**Oliver Baudert OBE-(1942-47)** wrote from Australia to request a copy of the newsletter and confirm membership of the Association. He had recently read **John Rhodes's** "Remembered with Advantages" which brought back many memories and greatly impressed him. *We would be grateful if Mr Baudert could confirm his e-mail address with the Secretary.*

**Mike Cosser-(1961-1968):** I had hoped to attend this years reunion, but sadly now realise that I cannot owing to other commitments.

Apologies. Workwise I have just finished four years as a Health and Safety Inspector for my Union NAPO. During that time I was on two national committees, and have managed to perform some 250 inspections of offices in the West Midlands and contribute to an agreement raising accommodation standards in Courts for Probation Staff.

I have just cut down my working week to three days, on flexible retirement. I look forward to learning if I can play golf.

I still run with Coventry Godiva Harriers, but do not race any more. I am reading more crime fiction, but also like biographies and the odd classic book. In 2009, my new hero was William Morris, visiting the V&A, and Kelmscott, and Red House in Bexley heath.

Jenny and I are still Gideons, and enjoy our active Christian life.

We had a brief trip to Paris for the New Year, and went to the Pompidou Centre for the Modern Art Collection. I wish everybody a great 2010, and good health.

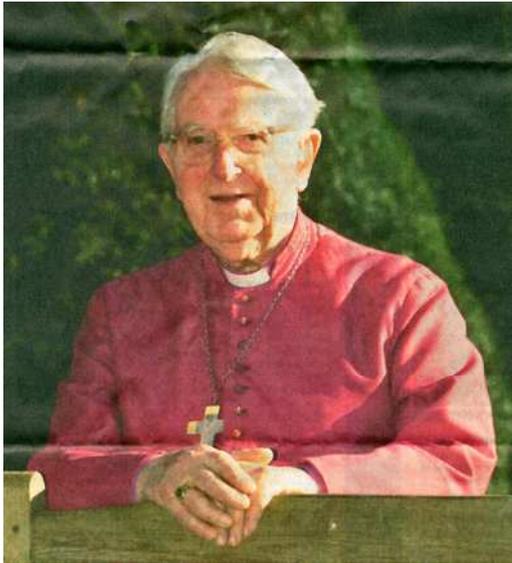


## Obituaries

**The Right Rev Eric Kemp: Bishop of Chichester:** died on 28 Nov. 2009 aged 94; he remained an active figure in the General Synod and the House of Bishops far into his eighties.

Eric Kemp was not only the longest serving diocesan bishop of recent times but also the last "old-style" Anglican bishop who, once enthroned in his cathedral and ensconced in his palace, could retain his see for life. For centuries bishops were allowed, indeed expected, to hold their sees far into old age and die in office. Since 1975 the Church of England has required bishops to retire at 70, but the legislation did not apply to those already in post.

With the retirement of David Sheppard from Liverpool in 1997, Kemp alone remained. Hence it was something of an irony that Eric Kemp, one of the Church's leading canon lawyers and someone who played a large part in the revision of Anglican canon law,



became the last vestige of the older order. He was Bishop of Chichester for 27 years from 1974 until 2001, 16 of them beyond the new retirement age, during which his contribution to the diocese, the Church of England and the wider Church was a particularly distinguished one.

Eric Waldram Kemp was born in Grimsby in 1915, the only child of Tom and Florence Lillian Kemp. **From Brigg Grammar School he went to Oxford**, first at Exeter College where he read modern history and subsequently at St Stephen's House where he took a second degree in theology.

In 1939 he was ordained and served as curate at St Luke's Southampton.

In 1941 he returned to Oxford as one of the librarians and Kemp relished the running of a large and distinguished theological library and the opportunity it provided for academic work in the company of a remarkable generation of Anglican theologians. His interest was increasingly drawn to canon law both as a historical study and as a practical necessity for the contemporary church. In his autobiography he wrote that his childhood ambition was to be "Chancellor of England" and that that interest led into his expertise on Canon Law.

At the same time he had an extensive ministry among undergraduates and was acting chaplain in a number of colleges during the war years.

In 1946 he returned to his old college as chaplain and tutor in medieval history. He

was to remain at Exeter for 23 years.

In 1948 he published *Canonization and Authority in the Western Church*, followed by *An Introduction to Canon Law in the Church of England* in 1957. *Counsel and Consent*, Kemp's Bampton Lectures for 1960 helped him to gain an Oxford DD on publication the following year.

In 1969 Kemp was appointed to the deanery of Worcester, a post he held for five years. His appointment was greeted with dismay by the canons, of the time, one of whom told him that he needed to remember that "the Cathedral is the private chapel of the Dean and Chapter". All that he did at Worcester was designed to undermine this attitude. He revised the liturgies, established an informal family eucharist and a splendid French-style High Mass. He raised money for a new heating system and spent some time trying to find the burial places of St Oswald and St Wulfstan of Worcester. He also engaged deeply with the city and helped to establish a centre for the homeless.

In 1998 he was made a Canon of Chartres Cathedral, an ecumenical gesture that gave him (and his diocese) great pleasure. He remained close to Pusey House, serving as a governor for more than 40 years, and served for many years on the Council of St Stephen's House.

He remained in Chichester in retirement, and published a warm and honest autobiography with the title *Shy but not Retiring* (2006), which revealed his human side and his social commitment. In 1953 he was married to Patricia Kirk, one of the Bishop of Oxford's daughters. She survives him, as do their five children.

**David Sambrook, aged 72.** He went to Glebe Road School, passed 11+ in 1948 from there, going on to Brigg Grammar, then to Appleby-Frodingham Steel Works to study metallurgy. In those days he cycled to and from the works and attended night school in Scunthorpe. Eventually he moved to work in Wolverhampton but never forgot his teachers like 'Chips' Morris and 'Bumper' Knight. He suffered from Parkinson's disease and had not been well for some time.

David's sister, Kathleen, still lives in East Parade, Brigg, and wrote to me with news of his death; he leaves a wife who was at the Convent School in Brigg.

**Kenneth Allcock:** We record here the death of an Old Briggensian – Kenneth Allcock, John's dad. He died on Monday 16th Feb 09 - he had been very ill since Christmas. Also **Stan Cranidge** who was on the ward at the same time – he died on the 8Feb. 09. Ken and Stan had played in the same football team at the Grammar School.

**Leslie "Danny" Triggs:** Leslie "Danny" Triggs died in Grimsby's Diana Princess of Wales Hospital on 11th April 2009 -- his 75th birthday. Danny's School dates are hard to find -- he seems to have arrived in 1944, into the Prep Form (boarding) and he left in the Lower 6th at Easter 1951. His departure seems not to have been recorded in the Briggensian Magazine. He became a Librarian with Humberside County Libraries and Arts Department following National Service in the RAF. His two passions were Jazz music and Grimsby Town Football Club. For the Club, he was a statistician and co-wrote "Grimsby Town -- A Complete Record 1878 - 1989". He organised the first ever Cleethorpes Jazz Festival at the boating lake in 1961. Brian T. (1945 - 52)

**Peter Lofthouse:** died on 8th September 2009. Peter had kept in touch with **Ron Waller** over the years. He visited Brigg and attended the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dinner in March 2000. With his wife Rhoda, he lived in Burpengary, a few miles north of Brisbane, Queensland.

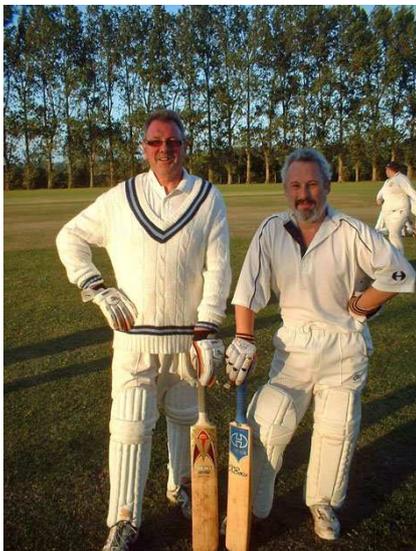
Nigel Fisher says: I don't think you normally publish details of the causes of deaths in the Magazine, but Peter's illness started with cancerous growths on the spine, only one of which, I understand, was successfully removed, round about last Christmas time. My mother, who lives in Central Square, Brigg, told me last night that Peter had died in Australia. He was a Briggensian, as I think you know, teacher and motorcycling enthusiast. One or two of his articles have appeared in our Motor Biking Bygones mag. Mr Lofthouse's surviving sister, Ann(ie), lives a few doors from my mother, in Central Square. I think the Lofthouse family is mentioned in John Rhodes' book on Brigg.

**George Edwin Feirn-():** It is with sadness that we note the passing of George Feirn. George was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 1914 at White Hall Farm, near Bigby, the eldest of four children. He spent a happy childhood with his parents, George and Sarah Feirn, on various farms in Owmbly, Grasby and Searby in north Lincolnshire. While he was attending Brigg Grammar School, his world was

shattered by the death of his mother so he went to agricultural college at Sutton Bonington even though he aspired to a career in banking. He returned to help his father on the farm, especially with the breeding and rearing of Lincoln Longwool sheep; their flock was so prized that his father took a collection of his sheep to Argentina to help improve their sheep-rearing industry. But tragedy was to strike again, twice. First, their valuable sheep had to be slaughtered because they contracted liver fluke disease. Then, when he was 23, his father died. George was left almost penniless and had to start farming on his own. George enjoyed bell ringing. He rang his first bell at the age of nine and by the time he was 18 he had rung his first peal. George and five other ringers broke the world record by ringing 125 methods. This meant that each ringer had to make 6,480 strokes and it took them 3 hours and 26 minutes. He once said that when he was out all day ploughing a field, walking behind a horse, he would replay all the changes in his head. He went on to become the Peal Secretary of the National Council of Bell Ringers for many years and continued to ring until he was 89 years old. When the Second World War broke out, George was quick to volunteer; farmers were in a reserved occupation so could not join the regular army. He joined the secret army established in 1940 by Winston Churchill. It was the world's first resistance organisation ever to be established in the advance of an invasion and George was a member of it. The Royal Engineers helped them construct a secret bunker in the woods – George's daughters remember being told it was somewhere near Pelham's Pillar. In 1944, George was called away on some emergency on the day he was to set out on his honeymoon, much to Frances's frustration! They had two daughters and were determined to create a happy family life. George made a success of his farm as did Frances with her poultry farming. Many people will remember "Frances Feirn's Finest Fresh Farm Eggs". Once their daughters were married, George and Frances would visit them in the United States and in Thailand, especially when the grandchildren arrived. George continued to farm until he was 70, drove until he was 90 and remained remarkably healthy and active, enjoying his daily walks to the top of the Lincolnshire Heights. He was able to continue to live in the farmhouse until he passed away in August 2009.

## BRIGGENSIANS SPORTS 2009:

**CRICKET:** Dave Willey (left) and Andy Sharp, who shared a 60-run, match-winning partnership for the Briggensians' Association



against Sir John Nelthorpe School in the annual challenge match at Brigg Recreation Ground. The School made 95 for six (Richard Eagles 27 not out) and the Briggensians reached their target for the loss of only one wicket, Andy Sharp scoring 49 not out and Dave Willey 12 not out.

Peter Douce kindly umpired the game, which was memorable for Old Boys' skipper Lee Fielden bowling the first maiden over of his career. He generally keeps wicket.

Many players visited Brigg's Yarborough Hunt pub after the game for a few beers.

School v Old Boys used to be a fixture at many schools in Lincolnshire - but not many have survived.

**GIRLS' SPORTS:** Three of the four sports arranged took place, starting with a very good turn out for the **Rounders** in the summer. Although the school team was short of players, two teams were arranged and a successful and enjoyable match was played.

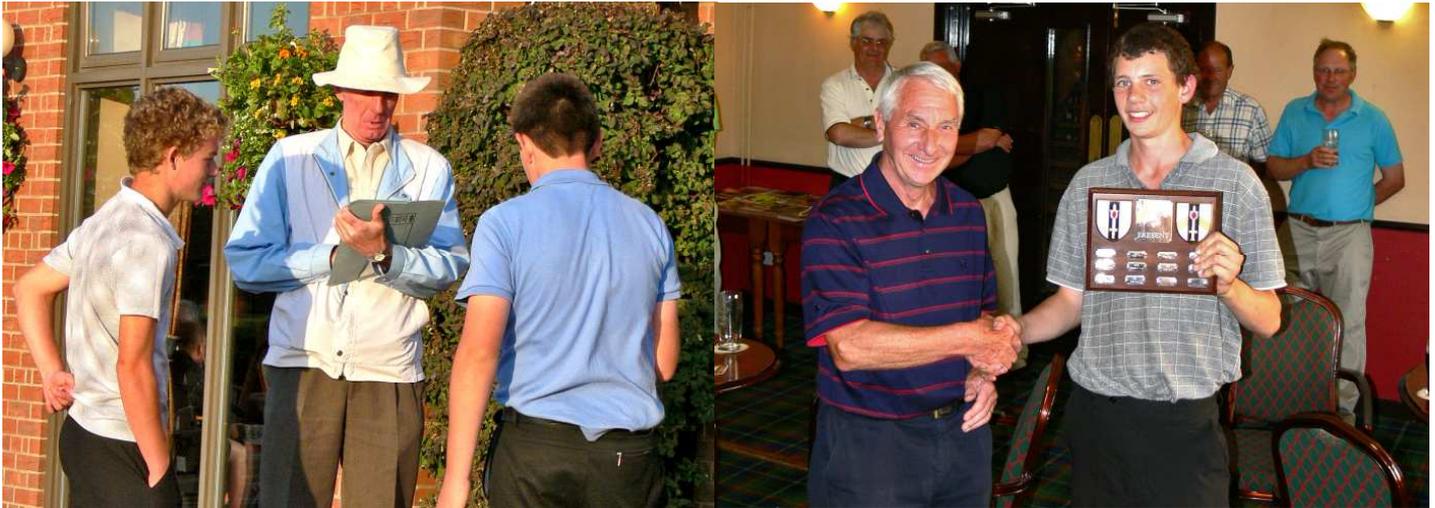
**Result : School 12 ½ Briggensians 6**

Later on, the **Tennis** had to be cancelled due to too few players. Unless there is an overwhelming interest, this event will not take place. However, if you are interested please contact the committee.

The **Netball and Hockey** took place on a gloriously sunny September evening. The school hockey team was made up of Year10 (14yr old) boys – and very talented ones at that. They ran rings around us! It was a five a-side game so we shortened the pitch. It was great fun and the final beating was 7 -11 ! Helen Cresswell

## GOLF: Past v Present Challenge, July 2009

Having driven through several heavy showers en route to Elsham I was pleased to see the clear blue sky and sunshine ahead of me as I



crossed the Humber Bridge. The weather was set for a wonderful evening of golf. Since arrangements had been made four pupils and two staff were absent from the "Present" team due to School Productions while late appointments had changed the team sheet for the "Past" team but we were able to shuffle the pack and produce six four ball games with players taking shots off the lowest handicap player of the four and then ¼ difference being applied. The 'match play challenge' began at 4.00.p.m. and some of the 'past' team had to work very hard to keep up with the young 'present' players. The evening's results are shown below.

### **Present**

Joe Knox  
Dominic Bishop  
Matthew Cox (Captain)  
Deiniol Cottam  
Cameron Gunn  
Joe Coburn  
Craig Bray  
Harry Steer  
Richard Rivron  
Jon Taylor  
Adrian Gibbons  
Joe Davidson

v  
v  
v  
v  
v  
v  
v  
v  
v  
v

### **Past**

Roger Holmes(Captain)  
Nick Golland  
Ted Cox  
Peterjon Dodd(V.President)  
Dave Brittain(President)  
Eric Clark  
Craig Holmes  
Andrew Morris  
Charles Mailing  
Peter Evans  
Richard Golland

Win for Past  
Win for Present  
All Square  
Win for Present  
Win for Present  
Win for Past

### **Present won 3½- 2½**

When everyone had had a chance to have liquid refreshment and a chat the presentation of the Past V Present Shield began.



Our President, Dave Brittain, handed the shield over to a stand in Captain Craig Bray due to the 'Present' Captain Matthew Cox having to leave early after his match. The comments which were expressed by our President were echoes of previous speeches made by Presidents on this particular occasion. The remarks pointed out that all the young players had shown a wonderful sporting attitude, been very polite and friendly and a credit to the School, their parents and Elsham Golf Club. After three years of coming second the Present will have their name engraved on the shield for 2009 with the 3½ - 2½ points win which was a reflection on some outstanding play from the younger team.

Mr. Ted Cox had the initial idea to start the annual Past v Present games and now in its 8th year it has always been a wonderful event bringing out all the excellent qualities that should be seen at such an event. Our thanks need to be extended to Elsham Golf Club especially the Manager Mr. T. Hartley for his help in organising the event, all the Green Staff for the excellent course as well as all the kitchen and bar staff who supplies us with our supper. Finally many thanks to everyone who took part to produce another memorable evening.

Certain players were unable to play this year, due to various reasons, such as Derek Stones (Secretary), Andrew Longden, John Monteith, Alan Taylor (v.Captain), Trevor Vessey, Tim Phipps, Brian Wesley, Andrei Lukianczuk and many others. We hope to see them next year and especially Keith Barnes who has had a long lay-off with a back injury but hopefully will be picking up a club soon and getting into action again. We send all our "Best Wishes" to you Keith and hope you return to full fitness very soon. **John Hastings**

**Autumn Meeting; Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

Presided over as usual by 'the dogsbody' Derek Stones and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The AGM forms part of the meeting and a rather handicapped Secretary duly read the minutes prior to approval.

Roger Homes won the trophy and was presented with the traditional 'old school' blazer and cap by captain Andy Longden.

President, Dave Brittain presented the cup and then Alan Taylor was elected Captain for the 2010 season.

We hope that even more members will attend in 2010 and make this another memorable meeting.

Roger Holmes	39 pts	John Taylor	38	Alan Taylor	36
Andy Longden	35	P J Todd	34 B9	Adrian Gibbons	34 M6
Joe Hastings	34	Allan Powell	33	Dave Brittain	33
Richard Rivron	33	Jennifer Rivron	31	Ted Cox	27
Jamie Allcock	26 B9	Nick Golland	26	Andre Luckodcznk	23
Martin Lawley	23	Dom Jeffrey	23		





# Briggensians' Association

## 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dinner 2010 - Booking Form

**I will** be attending the Briggensians' Dinner (**closing date 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010**) 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 2010 Dinner

<b>Contact Name:</b> <hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid red;"/>		Starter			Main		Dessert			If there are any special dietary requirements please let us know.
		Vegetable Soup	Prawn Cocktail	Melon	Chicken	Stilton and Vegetable Crumble	Sticky Toffee Pudding	Chocolate Scrapheap	Cheese & Biscuits	
Name of Guests	School Dates									
e.g. John Nelthorpe	1614-1669	✓			✓			✓		

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)