

January 2026 Newsletter

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2025 Winter Gathering, Buxton

The 2025 Winter Gathering was held on Friday 12 December in Buxton, Derbyshire, initially in the Pavilion Gardens and later in the adjacent Buxton Opera House. A capacity attendance of 200 Liverymen and guests attended, with a substantial waiting list.

Talk, 'Taking The Waters'

Richard Groome, PM Engineer and Chairman of the Brigantes Winter Gathering Committee, introduced Mike Higginbotham, our speaker. Mike has lectured in social and architectural history for the Universities of Nottingham, Birmingham and Keele. He is an Arts Society (formerly NADFAS) lecturer and former tutor-guide for the Matlock Travel Society.

Mike took us on a virtual tour down the ages of the country's many spa towns, their hydros and their treatments, from Roman to Victorian to the present day.

Such was the belief in the health-giving properties of their magical waters that the discovery of just a single spring could be the catalyst for huge economic transformation.

As Mike explained, while some spas have seen better times, others like Bath, Buxton and Harrogate are popular visitor destinations and continue to thrive.



Mike Higginbotham with
Past Master Engineer Richard Groome

Annual General Meeting

After a short break, our Tribal Chieftain Adrian Waddingham CBE (PM Actuary) took the Chair for the Brigantes 2025 AGM.

2024/25 Accounts

Retiring Accounts Examiner Ian Somerville (Tax Adviser) was thanked for his assiduous work over several years.

Richard Geldard (PM Tax Adviser, Treasurer) reported that the Association's finances and membership numbers were in good shape.

Following scrutiny by our new Examiner, Tony Botting (Chartered Accountant) and circulation to Members, the accounts up to 30th June 2025 were approved. The 2026 membership subscription remains at £50.

Adrian thanked Richard, Tony and our Administrator, Fiona Robinson, for their valuable contributions throughout the year.

Constitution

The proposal to amend the Constitution, increasing to four the number of Members who may be co-opted to the Tribal Council, was approved.



Tribal Chieftain Adrian Waddingham CBE chairing the 2025 AGM, with Richard Geldard, Treasurer, and Fiona Robinson, Administrator

Elections

Adrian Waddingham and Sir David Wootton (Master Bowyer) were re-elected by rotation to the Tribal Council, alongside Mark Levy (PM Clockmaker, VC West), Peter Thompson (PM Actuary, VC East) and Richard Geldard.

Matthew Ellis (PM Framework Knitter) and Martin Horsfield (Gunmaker) were elected to assist the Tribal Council.

Also re-elected to assist were Richard Groome and Lynn Webster (Environmental Cleaner), alongside Keith Houlston (Baker) and David Boyne (Chartered Surveyor).

Retirement

Adrian, as well as reporting on another first class year for Brigantes, announced that after eleven years as Co-Founder and Tribal Chieftain of Brigantes, he would be retiring from the Brigantes Committee at the 2026 AGM.

Adrian will then join his three fellow retired Co-Founders - Nick Gale (PM Plumber, former VC West, retired 2024), David Bentley (PM Baker, former VC East, retired 2024) and Charles Cowling (PM Actuary, retired 2018).

At the 2026 AGM, Brigantes Members will be invited to elect their new Tribal Chieftain.

2026 Events

Reports were given on planned events for 2026 – see later.

Reception and Supper

A highly convivial reception and early evening supper in the Octagon Hall followed.



Winter Gathering Reception



The Octagon Hall



David & Alison Boyne with Mike Higginbotham



Supper and speeches in the Octagon Hall

The formal 'Welcome to Buxton' was given by Cllr Barbara Hastings-Asatourian, Deputy Mayor of High Peak. The Revd Dr Peter Sutton said Grace. Richard Groome proposed the Loyal Toasts.

Sir David Wootton proposed the Toast to the Guests to which Mrs Elizabeth Fothergill CBE, Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire, responded.



Sir David Wootton & Mrs Elizabeth Fothergill CBE, Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire

Adrian Waddingham made presentations including a Brigantes charity donation to the Deputy Mayor and gave closing appreciations.



Adrian Waddingham Tribal Chieftain

Christmas Concert

At 7.30 we joined the audience in the adjacent Buxton Opera House for this year's Christmas Concert. The Opera House, opened in 1903, has a magnificent, gilded auditorium created by the famous theatre architect Frank Matcham, who designed the London Palladium.



The Brighouse & Rastrick Brass Band at the Brigantes Winter Gathering

Here the Brighouse & Rastrick Brass Band treated us to a festive programme of traditional and modern music.



The Band proudly displayed their Shield of Honour as the current UK Brass Band Champions

The programme included fabulous solos on cornet, flugel horn, euphonium, tuba and trombone that had the atmosphere positively crackling.

The evening closed with a nightcap or three at the Crescent Hotel, the Brigantes HQ for the Gathering, a two-minute walk from the Opera House.

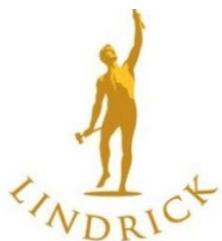
Dates for Your Diary in 2026

Brigantes Golf, 15/16 April

The championship course at Lindrick, between Sheffield and Worksop, is our venue once more for the Brigantes Golf Spring Meeting.



18th Green and Clubhouse, Lindrick Golf Club



Lindrick is one of Britain's finest inland golf courses, providing an excellent challenge to golfers of all abilities.

We will start with a Fine Dining Dinner in the Clubhouse on the evening of the Wednesday 15 April. This is open to all Brigantes Members, non-golfers as well as golfers.



Brigantians dining at Lindrick in 2023

The golf will begin at 10.00 am on Thursday, 16 April, followed by an early supper and prize giving.

Booking details will be circulated shortly.

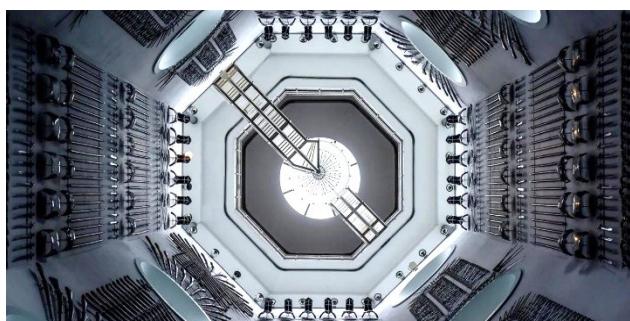
Brigantes Breakfast – 16 July

On Thursday 16 July we shall be at the Royal Armouries in Leeds, the National Museum of Arms and Armour, which displays most of the Tower of London's vast collection.



The Royal Armouries, Leeds

If you are able to arrive early, the ever-popular Annual Brigantes Lecture is at 10.30 am in The Bury Theatre preceded by morning tea & coffee served in The Hall of Steel, the architectural centrepiece with the largest display of arms and armour created since the 19th century.



The Hall of Steel

Our Reception commences at 12 noon followed by the Brigantes Breakfast in the Royal Armouries Great Hall.

We will conclude at 4.30 pm.

The Royal Armouries is a short walk or taxi ride (including the option of the water taxi if desired) from Leeds Station, with excellent train services from across the country.



Leeds Dock Water Taxi

Details will be circulated in early March.

** Note: The date falls in the week of the fabulous Great Yorkshire Show (14th -17th July) in Harrogate for those who may wish to lengthen their stay in Yorkshire. Trains run from Leeds to the Showground every 30 minutes. www.greatyorkshireshow.com. **

AGM and Winter Gathering

Planning is in progress

With Very Best Wishes for 2026 from the
Brigantes Tribal Council and SubCommittees

** STOP PRESS **

Our Tribal Chieftain's second book was published by The History Press on 29 January. Much of the action takes place in Brigantia.

**FIRST KINGS R. A. J. Waddingham ISBN 9781837050550;
RRP £22.99 Hardback, Published 29 January 2026.**

It is available slightly cheaper on Amazon - but ordering from a local book shop encourages them to stock the book.

After decades of devastating raids, Viking armies first overwintered in England in 850. In doing so, they opened a century of conflict and reaching ambition.

In Norway, Harald Fairhair rose from a regional chieftain to become its first king, while in England Alfred the Great preserved Wessex from conquest and laid the foundations for unity. His successors extended that vision, leading to the creation of a single English kingdom after Athelstan's decisive victory at Brunanburh in 937.

Meanwhile, the struggle for Norway's throne erupted among Harald's heirs, with Eric Bloodaxe briefly claiming the Crown before being overthrown by his younger brother Hakon. Upon fleeing to Britain, Eric was allowed the York throne by King Edred, which he retained until his violent death in Cumbria in 954. There would be no more kings in York.

This turbulent century saw kings rise and fall; it saw rivalry, betrayal and open conflict. Out of the chaos of shifting allegiances and warfare, England and Norway began to take shape as the countries we know today.



We are sure Adrian will sign your copies if you bring them along to the breakfast in July!

More details of Brigantes events, governance, charitable giving, photo galleries, applications for membership, etc can be found at the Brigantes website
www.brigantes.org.uk