

May 2025 Newsletter

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2025 Brigantes Golf – Royal Liverpool

Brigantes Golfers were treated to marvellous hospitality, spectacularly good weather and a hole in one at the Open Championship links of Royal Liverpool Golf Club (RLGC).

Royal Liverpool has a worthy reputation as one of the finest Open Championship venues. Brian Harman, Rory McIlroy and Tiger Woods are Royal Liverpool's last three Open Champions – testimony to the skill required to triumph over these hallowed fairways.



Tuesday evening, 29 April, saw a highly convivial reception and dinner in the Clubhouse. A number of non-golfing Liverymen joining us to enjoy the fellowship, beautiful views of the course and lovely surroundings. We enjoyed first class fare and fine wines with the Toast to Brigantes proposed most eloquently by Arthur Noble, Past Captain of Royal Liverpool.



Then, come Wednesday morning it was down to the real business rewarded under cloudless skies, a flat calm and balmy temperatures in the high 70s.

In teams of four, including one RLGC member in each, Liverymen from across the UK teed off in the annual Brigantes Spring Meeting.



The fast-running fairways and immaculate greens brought out the very best in the strong field of experienced players, and the scoring was excellent.

Driving here at the 11th is David Collinge (Weaver), with Wendy Giardelli (Lightmonger) and Mark Matthews (RLGC member).



Royal Liverpool's halfway house provided timely refreshment, in this case for Christian Brash (Tyler & Bricklayer), Jane Matthews (Lady Captain, RLGC), Keith Artus (Maker of Playing Cards, resplendent in colourful playing-card shirt), Annabel Barton (Spectacle Maker and RLGC member) and Ian Davies (Past Master Spectacle Maker).



At the later prize-giving dinner the Lady Captain presented the winners - Michael Colyer (Fishmonger), Team Captain Ian Clokey (Master Mariner) and Marilyn Luson (Immediate Past Mistress Turner) - with Brigantes engraved glasses for their magnificent score of 94 stableford points.



Second prize, and only 3 points behind the winning team, were Malcom Arthur (Tallow Chandler), David Collinge (Weaver), Wendy Giargelli (Lightmonger) and Mark Matthews (RLGC member).

Third place went to Christian Brash (Tyler & Bricklayer), Jane Matthews (Lady Captain, RLGC), Keith Artus (Maker of Playing Cards) and Ian Davies (Past Master Spectacle Maker).

The Ladies Prize, awarded for the best points scored by a lady over four nominated holes, went to Marilyn Luson (Immediate Past Mistress Turner).

The Nearest the Pin competition, on the notoriously difficult 15th hole, went to Wendy Giardelli (Lightmonger) **for a remarkable hole in one!**

With recognised odds of 12,500-1 against, holes in one are very rare. For a Brigantes golfer to achieve 'the ultimate shot' therefore had to be rewarded with not just the planned "Nearest the Pin" prize but also with an unplanned bottle of Champagne.



The Master of the Worshipful Company of Distillers again donated a bottle from The Master's Cask for our charity draw – a fine 15 year old Royal Brackla malt.

The draw was undertaken by the Lady Captain and won by David Homer (Clerk to the Tallow Chandlers), below.

The Master's Cask could not have fallen into better hands! The funds raised were donated to the Maggie's Wirral Cancer Care Centre, chosen by the Lady Captain.



For those with a demanding programme for the rest of the week, it was then time for home.

Others however could savour this glorious sunset over Liverpool Bay before heading to nearby Caldy Golf Club the following morning.



There, Mike and Annabel Barton (Past Master and Mistress Spectacle Makers), who had already assisted so much with the arrangements at Royal Liverpool, where both are members, organised a further round for us, again in glorious weather.



The lovely Caldy course, an Open regional qualifier running beside the Dee Estuary, provided another enjoyable day's golf as well as superb long-distance views along the North Wales coastline.

And while the golfers were toiling on both days, the non-golfers immersed themselves in the many delights of this wonderful part of Cheshire, including walks and a pub lunch overlooking the Dee and visits to nearby Chester.

Finally, we are most grateful to the members and staff of Royal Liverpool and Caldy who gave of their time and hospitality so generously, making the 2025 Brigantes Spring Meeting yet another successful occasion for everyone.

Subsequent appreciations included:

"We both enjoyed the two dinners at Hoylake and the company of everyone who as usual were all extremely friendly and jovial."

"It was a real treat, beginning to end and in every possible way. We are immensely grateful to you for making the day so special. We all loved the experience."

"I thoroughly enjoyed playing Hoylake and the extra bonus of playing at Caldy yesterday. That was a big surprise, I wasn't expecting such a wonderful course."

"As in our previous visits, the Club's hospitality team looked after us exceedingly well. We are most grateful to the members for joining us, which makes the occasion quite special and very much in keeping with Livery."

"Thank you so much for a wonderful time at Royal Liverpool. As the Lady Captain said last night 'this is what we dream of'! It could not have been better. The food was excellent, and the camaraderie was second to none."

Book now: Brigantes Breakfast at The Spa Pavilion, Scarborough on Thursday 24 July 2025

You are warmly invited to the 2025 Brigantes Breakfast, the Northern lunch for City of London Liverymen and their Guests, which will take place at the beautiful Scarborough Spa, boldly standing over the south bay with unrivalled views across the harbour and beaches on Thursday 24th July.



The Brigantes Breakfast provides the perfect opportunity for Liverymen from all City of London Companies to gather together in the North.



Previous venues have included St George's Hall, Liverpool; the Royal Hall, Harrogate, the Tower Ballroom, Blackpool and the Royal Armouries, Leeds.

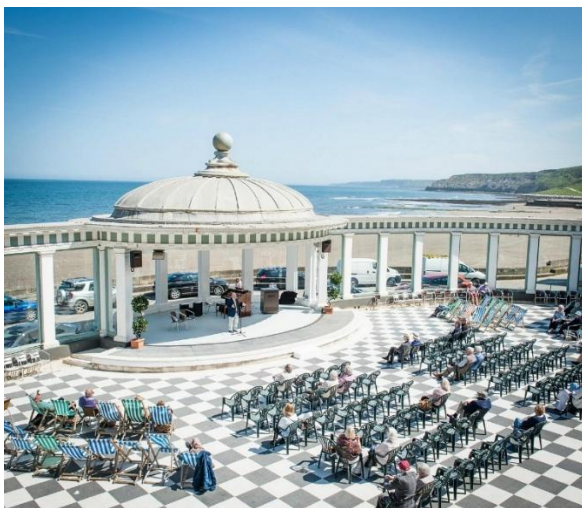
Among our Principal Guests will be Alderman and Sheriff-Elect Robert Hughes-Penney and his wife Elspeth and fellow Brigantian, Judith Donovan CBE, both shown below.



Following the 'Welcome to Yorkshire' will be Grace by the Right Revd Barry Hill, Bishop of Whitby.

Dress code is lounge suits. Current Livery Masters will be processing. Badges of Office may be worn.

We will be entertained with music from Yorkshire Wolds Versatile Brass (of 'Brassed Off' fame) in the wonderful Sun Court for our reception with its magnificent views overlooking the South Bay.



The reception commences at 11.45, with the call for lunch at 12.20.

Principal guests and attending Masters will process appropriately into the Ocean Room where lunch will be served.

A further musical interlude will follow the lunch by The Shamrock Experience with a medley of tunes.

Formal proceedings will close at 16.30, a post prandial paid bar will be in the Sun Court with a final rendition from Yorkshire Wolds Versatile Brass.

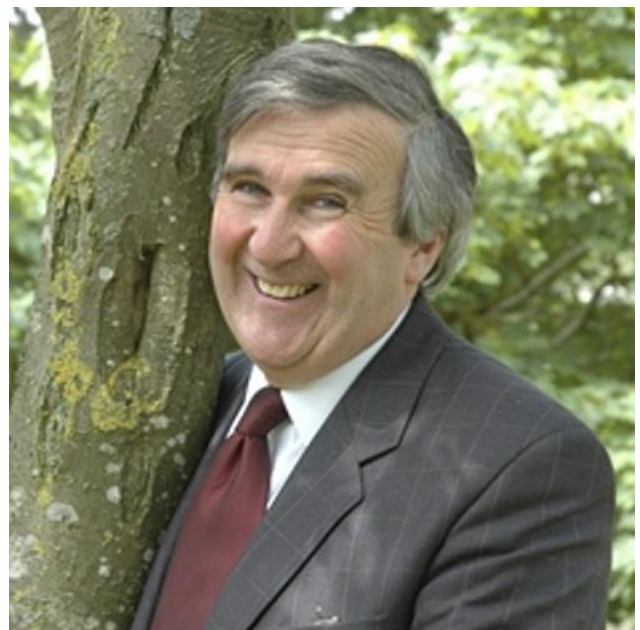
Close 18.00

Brigantes Lecture

For those able to arrive early, we will be assembling at 10.30 in the Spa Theatre at the Spa for our ever-popular Brigantes Lecture.

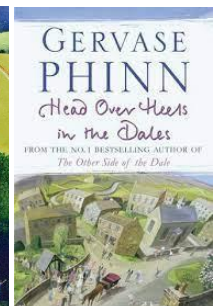
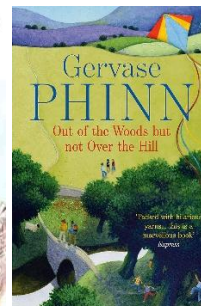
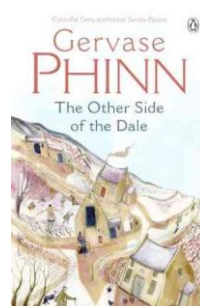


This this year's speaker will be Yorkshireman, Dr Gervase Phinn.



He was born in Rotherham, is an author, comedian poet and broadcaster, honoured in 2004 as 'the Speaker of the Year' by the Association of Speakers Clubs.

He is probably best known for his autobiographical novels, *The Other Side of the Dale*, *Over Hill and Dale* and *Head Over Heels in the Dales*.



Scarborough is well served by rail from London, Manchester and the north. Scarborough Spa is 5 minutes by taxi, or 15 minutes' walk, from Scarborough station.

For Liverymen and guests wishing to stay overnight, or perhaps a weekend break, there's well served by a range of hotel accommodation in Scarborough.



We have arranged attractive B&B rates at the Crown Spa Hotel which is accessible via the funicular railway or on foot to Scarborough Spa.



To take advantage of these rates, you should call the hotel directly on 01723 357400, ask for Beth Mallender and quote 'Brigantes Group Accommodation'. Please ensure that you check the hotel's cancellation policy when making a booking.

To book for the 2025 Brigantes Breakfast please contact Fiona Robinson, the Brigantes Administrator, at livery@brigantes.org.uk for full details and a booking form.

We look forward to welcoming you and your guests to yet another memorable Brigantes occasion.

Dates for your Diary

2025 AGM & Winter Gathering, Buxton

This year's AGM and Winter Gathering will be on Friday 12th December 2025.



Preparations are well advanced with exclusive seating secured at the iconic Buxton Opera House for a Christmas Concert being given by the Brighouse and Rastrick brass band.



Further details and booking forms will be circulated in September along with suggested hotel accommodation.



2026 Brigantes Golf – Lindrick

Venue

Lindrick Golf Club, located between Sheffield and Worksop, a famous championship golf course that has hosted many professional and elite amateur tournaments, including the Ryder Cup, the British Masters, the Women's British Open in 1977 and 1988, and the Curtis Cup.

The Club has once more invited us to hold the Brigantes Spring Meeting over their famous links.



The exact date, scheduled for late April as usual, will be confirmed shortly.



Details and a booking form will be circulated early in the New Year.



BRIGANTES
CITY OF LONDON LIVERYMEN IN THE NORTH
www.brigantes.org.uk