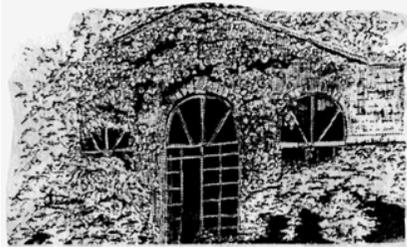


storm of 1703 destroyed the dovecote and damaged the house. The one acre walled kitchen garden dates from 1753 and the elegant orangery still portrays the elegance of the time. The porch was restored during the 19th century and the shape of the archway, which could have given an indication of the



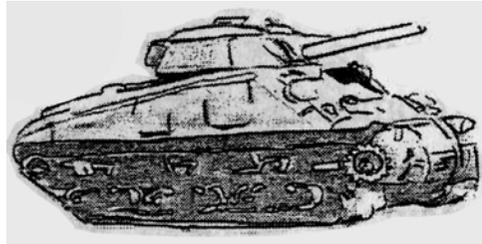
date, appears to have been altered. A stone spiral staircase leading from the original ground floor level to a small room above the porch was discovered in 1951. The heraldic crest panels above the door thought to be the arms of Pym are, in fact, Victorian. The crest was the badge of the Poynings of Stogursey, the feudal superiors of the Pym. In 1836 when Sir Philip's daughter died the estate passed to the Bouveries. They added to the house and in 1892 a third storey was added to the 19th century part with Basil Cottan as the architect. This provided twelve bedrooms, a servants' hall and service rooms. Although the Hales had added considerably to the house early in the 20th century one member of the family over-indulged his passion for the stage, bringing entire theatre companies to Brymore, from London on specially chartered trains, for a weekend's entertainment. Not surprisingly the estate fell into decline and in 1928 was sold to Gordon Cecil Hart. At the outbreak of the Second World War it was requisitioned and the girls of Malvern College spent a year at Brymore. Subsequently the house was used for Italian and German prisoners of War.

In 1943, the 535th Automatic Weapons Battalion of the US Army were billeted at Brymore while preparing for the D-Day landings. Some of the buildings they

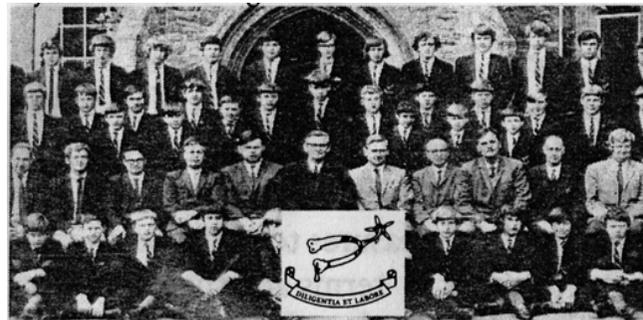
erected are still used as classrooms today. The initials of one American is carved in the lead on the roof of the main house, and their gun emplacements can be found on the site. The heavy vehicles were parked along the front driveway where the soil is so compacted that growing things there is difficult.

Brymore School

In 1951 the Somerset County Council purchased the estate at a cost of £6,600. Following extensive repairs and alterations it opened as a Secondary Technical School in September 1952.



Still successful 50 years later Brymore provides a unique vocational experience by encouraging pupils' interests in agriculture through the management of the farm, in horticulture, in technology through engineering workshops and sport. It has the status of a foundation school with boarding facilities for 200 boys between the age of 13 and 17.



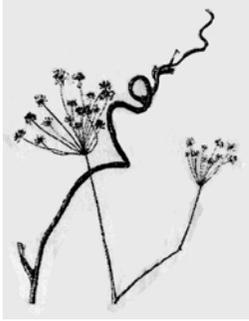
Acknowledgements

History of Brymore - Somerset County Council, 'Civil War' - Downing T. P. Jamieson and J. Lee.



The History of Brymore

Situated outside the village of Cannington on the A39 is Brymore School. The story of the main house and surrounding land have not been well documented but what little has been researched provides us with a small insight into its history.



Early Times

During the Saxon period a man named Edric worked the land.

Following the Norman Conquest and into the 12th century the deeds were owned by the 'de Coursey' family.

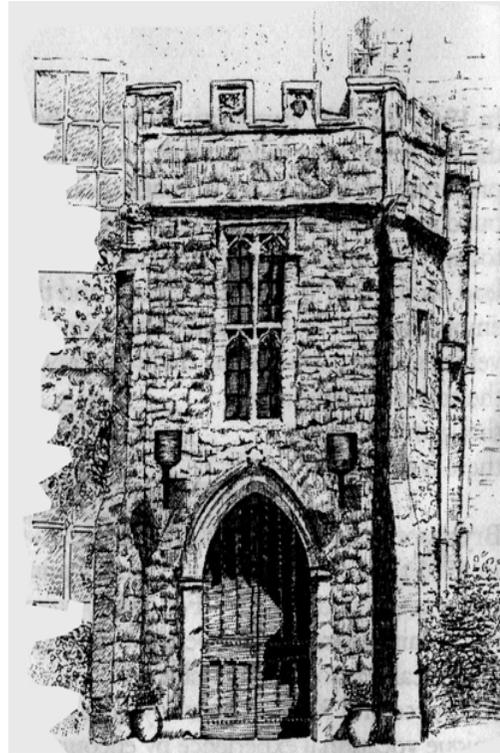
The origin of the name Brymore is unclear - it may have come from a Geoffrey de Bramora who owned the land in 1216 or it may be a corruption of 'Broom Moor' after shrub the wild yellow flowered shrubs.



The Pym Family

The house came into the family in the 13th century and it was Philip Pym who was probably responsible for building the porch during the 1400s. In 1936 a document was found in the attic dated 1400 allowing Isabel, step-mother-in-law of one of the Pym's a pension of five

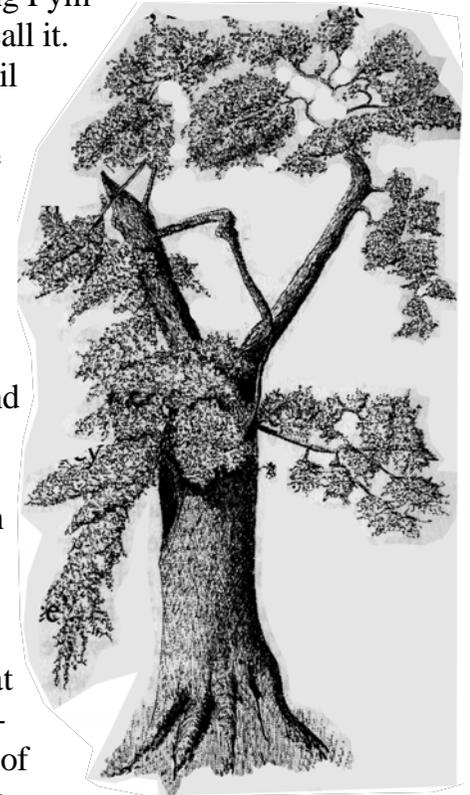
marks (£3.50) per year together with a lodging called 'Hodkin Chamber' The lodging appears to have been a one-room house near the main residence - the original medieval granny annex.



The most celebrated member of the family was JOHN PYM, born at Brymore in 1584. He became a Member of Parliament for Calne in Wiltshire in 1614 where he began a career of opposition to Charles 1. His great hour came as Leader of the House of Commons. During the early days of conflict he revealed the first Army Plot of 1641 to support Charles against Parliament. He steered the first measures to try to persuade Charles to come to terms and then was one of the first MPs Charles tried to arrest. Pym led the group who were moving towards armed conflict. He became a dominant voice

in the prosecutions of the early part of the War - 'the reign of King Pym' people were to call it.

The English Civil War began and Pym learned the difficulties which beset a sovereign, but steered the ship of state through raging storms and the course lay open for Oliver Cromwell. Worn out by his exertions he died of cancer in 1643 and was buried at Westminster Abbey by direction of Parliament, 'with wonderful pomp and magnificence'



The Main House

In 1729 the HALES family bought the house, and at the end of the 18th century Sir Philip Hales rebuilt it with the exception of the Porch. The house had been recorded as a capital messuage in 1579 but during the 17th and 18th centuries was let as a farmhouse with the owner reserving the right of use to certain rooms and stables. The great