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Old Brymorian Committee 2008

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Chairman's Report

I hope you find the 3rd edition of the 'Spur' of interest and I would like to thank those old boys for their support in sponsoring this edition with their advertisements.

It has been a great year for the OBA, the highlight has to have been the Pym's Night Dinner in December 2007. We, and our guests, almost managed to fill the dining room which of course brought back many memories, the school kitchen staff provided excellent fare. We had our very own MEP, Neil Parrish, as our guest of honour which was quite a coup. We were delighted by the presence of some retired members of staff and their partners; Messrs Hemming, Walker, Munro and Whiteley enjoyed the occasion particularly meeting up with so many of their 'old pupils' Make a note that this years Pym's Night Dinner will be held at the school on the 6th December and I would advise noting the date now and reserving a ticket on what promises to be another memorable occasion.

Our membership continues to increase but we still need your help in locating and recruiting the 'lost boys'. The main objective of membership is to support a bursary to fund a boarding pupil for three years and we succeeded in handing over £6000 to the headmaster to provide the first full bursary. It is hoped that we will be able to continue and improve on this worthwhile support.

The OBA have provided the school with an engraved plate which will be awarded each year for Excellence in Practical Agriculture. The first name on the plinth is Edward Squire who photograph features on page 11.

This years Open Day, held in glorious weather, was a great day especially for the Old Brymorian's Association. The Summer Draw organised for the second year by Rex Steer raised £2058 for our next bursary; well done Rex and Pat! A well attended AGM was followed in the evening by a memorable reunion supper.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and to especially thank the committee for their assistance and support during the past year. We also owe a dept of gratitude to the school staff, especially Gina Bryant and the headmaster Malcolm Lloyd, without whose help and guidance we would struggle.

John Manning (Chairman)

Headmaster's Report

It hardly seems a year since I wrote, in the last edition of the Spur, that the "American" classrooms were due for demolition but September 2008 sees us moving into seven new teaching spaces. Old Brymorians will be able to see for themselves what a wonderful addition the buildings are to the school as it is my intention to host the drinks reception, before the Pym's Night Supper on December 6th in the new building. There is still a period of "snagging" to be completed, but the building looks good!

At the same time the new boarding houses will be virtually complete, or at least they had better be, because we are supposed to move into them in January! It is an amazing looking building and to watch the construction process has been an education. I am sure the boarders of yesteryear will consider that the boys of today have a much softer time than they did when they see curtains and carpet in the dorms. I hope the Old Boys agree that the buildings are first class and I really hope that the new boys like their new home.

There has been much change at Brymore of late. The new buildings have altered the landscape and, when we have finished the work, all boarders will live on the school site. Common rooms have been relocated and even the Headmaster will have moved office! There have also been changes in the staff room. With the retirement of Pearl Compton (Finance), Pauline Moss (School Secretary), David Hatherley (DT), and Phil Walker (Deputy Head) the school has lost exactly 100 years of service, they had all made a significant contribution to the school. I am sure that Linda Bindon (Bursar), Julie Beasley (Head's Secretary), Chris Standford (DT), and Beverley Knox (Assistant Head) have no intention of accumulating 100 years between them but you never know, Brymore gets into the blood.

The year ended with some wonderful events – the Leavers Service saw Mr Walker perform a rap that was without equal. Sports Day brought out the best competitive instincts and the Swimming Gala brought the remarkable result of 48, 49 and 50 points for the final scores (Taylor House winning). Two boys in Year 12 represented England at Athletics - Ben Gibb in Multi-events and Alex Wright in Race Walking. Alex competed at the final Olympic trials in Birmingham on the last weekend at school – and won a fantastic Bronze Medal. It would be nice to see him representing GB in 2012 – no pressure Alex!!

The Old Brymorsians gave a prize this year for Excellence in Practical Agriculture. The first winner, Ed Squire, was a really deserving recipient. It is so good to see the OBA contributing to school life – the bursary that is awarded to a student each year is life changing – and to see the Old Brymorsians Committee gathering for lunch after their meetings, chatting to current students and passing on their enthusiasm for the school is part of the day to day contribution that goes unsung – but not un-noticed.

It is sad to hear of the death of Reg Adcock at the age of 88. I never met Reg, but Old Boys of a certain generation always mention his name when returning to the school and my predecessor, Tim Pierce, described him as “the nicest gentleman you could wish to meet”. Old Boys may have seen a different man as Headmaster but with twenty eight years in charge he clearly had the most significant input into how Brymore developed. I am sure that he enjoyed his retirement to the full and all at Brymore are grateful for his time here.

With so much going on it is perhaps timely that we remember our past as well as look to the future. I look forward to seeing you on Pym's Night to hear about the past and to show you the plans for the future.

FARM MANAGER'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2008

DAIRY

The herd seems to be doing very well and we are milking 17 cows at the moment averaging 7,500 litres /cow with one of our older girls doing 10,000 litres in 305 days! We have one pre- 1996 cow to get rid of. Unfortunately she is yielding very well and she only needs to sniff the bull and she is in calf but must go by mid-September. You may also remember the two Jersey cows that were donated 18 months ago. One is yielding really well doing 17 litres /day after 287 days and in-calf but the other didn't yield and we could not get her in calf despite numerous attempts with AI and natural service and visits by the vet so unfortunately she had to go. The three homebred heifers that came into the herd last Christmas are still milking well giving 26 litres /day after 180 days with two in-calf and the other is yet to be confirmed. Two out of the three Ayrshire heifers that we bought are confirmed in-calf and due to calve early in the spring and with these additions it will make it a fairly young herd. We needed the heifers as our dairy calves have mostly turned out to be bulls!

BEEF

We sold some beef animals back in the spring, some bought in as calves and some homebred. They sold very well bringing back around £1000 each, they were sold through the organic producer group Graig Farms. We have some really good Hereford store cattle to take through the winter and finish next summer along with some reasonably good Friesian steers. Our suckler calves are doing very well having been weaned in the early summer. I should imagine they will be finished over the winter. We have just had twins born to one of our suckler cows and both are doing well.

SHEEP

Lambing was later this year. Starting in March made it a lot easier both for us and for the sheep as most of them lambed outside. We had to bring them in to 'mother-up' but that wasn't the end of the world even though we were using our not quite so easy sheds. The ewes were fed a little at lambing but other than that it was just good spring grass. The lambs have done really well with no creep being fed. The first lambs to be sold graded really well with U3L and some U2 as well, this is probably due to the 2 Texel / Beltex rams we borrowed, we are hoping to borrow them again this year. Unfortunately with the wet summer and unsuitable fields to graze we have had to worm some of the lambs and as the autumn comes we may have to creep to get rid of the lambs as we don't really want to keep the lambs all winter .

PIGS

We now only have three sows which are more than enough as they keep having litters of 14. We sold a lot of 'wearers' by just advertising them in a newsletter. Most of the people wanted gilts which left us with the boar pigs which are just finishing now. We bought a young boar pig at Christmas for breeding purposes and after a few months of growing he was ready to work which we were all excited about but not half as much as the pig. He did the job a treat and his first litter of 14 has just arrived with the next due in three weeks. As you already know we try to sell all of our finished pork through the school so if any of you need to stock up your freezer you know where to come. The pigs are looking forward to a move off grass on onto the fodder beet ground after harvest. The land is free draining so that shouldn't cause any problems however I am a little worried about them being so far from the farm with just an electric fence to keep them in and boys a little afraid of checking it is working!

POULTRY

Egg sales are still going strong. We are producing three dozen a day which are sold either to staff or at the shop (shed) at the end of the drive. We will carry on with a few meat chickens as we still have enquiries for them and we also have the traditional Christmas turkeys. This year we are trying a true organic variety that have a bit more leg and a little less breast. We only have forty so orders may have to be placed quickly to avoid disappointment.

FORAGE/FODDER

We have decided to grow fodder beet to feed the stock over the winter. It was drilled and up within a week. The dry weather that followed meant that no weeds came for the early part of the summer but then they came. We borrowed a steerage hoe which worked very well and Steve gave 110% on the manual weeding front but they still got ahead of us. Despite that they look really well and ready for the year nines to harvest this autumn. The plan is to grow spring barley after the beet. This seems to be the best option for us as it is quick to establish and hopefully overcome the weed problem. Speaking of which we would be grateful if anyone who has a set of drag harrows that need a new home please point them in our direction as we could find a good use for them.

We made our silage in the nice dry weather and also some hay but the 2nd cut is proving very difficult to pick up in between the showers (I mean constant rain).

BRYMORE SCHOOL OPEN DAY AND COUNTRY FAIR

28 June 2008

For those of you who are not familiar with this event, what becomes immediately apparent on arrival is the high degree of organisation put into it by the boys, staff and many others involved with the school. Everyone is greeted and guided politely to the parking field and then directed towards the school and all the many and varied events.

This year the weather was kind which was reflected in the number of people who attended – parents, prospective parents, friends of Brymore, Old Boys and a huge number of the general public. In the early afternoon visitors were still arriving and more car parking space had to be found on the 'old sewage field'.

The activities throughout the day certainly provided enough interest for all ages to enjoy, from tractor handling, working gun dogs, and a parade of livestock, tree climbing and many, many more, in fact there were in excess of 40 activities to watch or take part in. Craft stalls and commercial outlets were much in evidence and the various refreshment stands did a roaring trade, especially the ice cream!! All this took place with a wonderful backdrop provided by over 100 interesting vehicles and stationary engines on the playing fields.

The classrooms all had various displays of work and demonstrations to view, with Malcolm Lloyd, Headmaster, giving guided tours of the new teaching and boarding accommodation which is nearing completion and will be opened by HRH Princess Ann in early January 2009.

From an Old Boy's perspective the annual raffle organised yet again by Rex Steer, raised in excess of £2000 and all the Old Boys were made most welcome in the Quiet Room throughout the day. The Old Brymorians' Association AGM took place at the end of the day followed by a buffet supper.

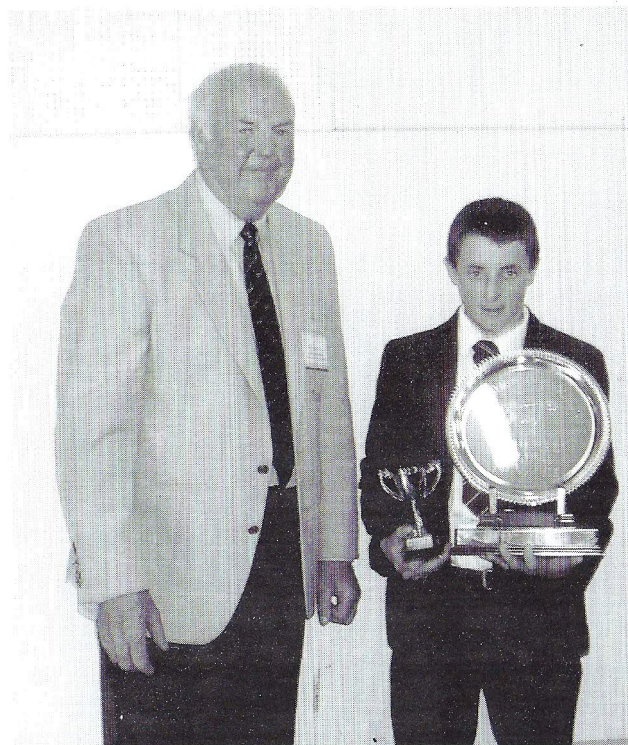
So a good day was had by all – well done Brymore – and if you have not been to this event before, do come next year, put Saturday, 27 June 2009 in your diaries now. You will not be disappointed.

Peter Harris
Vice Chairman, Old Brymorians' Association

OLD BRYMORIANS' ASSOCIATION 2008
SUMMER DRAW PRIZES

'Shock Wave' 18 gear Mountain Bike	OBA
1 Tonne Animal Feed	BOCM Pauls
½ Tonne Animal Feed	Crediton Milling Co.
Dairy Hamper Yeo Valley Organics	
1 Year National Trust Subscription	Peter Wood
Vouchers Mole Valley Farmers	
4 Family Passes for Puxton Park	Derek Mead
Electric Shaver OBA	
Model Tractor John Lang	
Model Tractor John Lang	
Gentleman's Watch OBA	
£30 Garden Voucher	John Manning & Michael Fry
BBQ Tool Set OBA	
6 Bottles of Wine	Peter & Jenny Harris
A Bottle of Brut John Field	
Set of Paper Weights	OBA
A Bottle of Spirits Rex Eastment	
£10 Countrywide Voucher Countrywide Stores	
£15 Voucher Flower Shop Cannington	
£10 Meat Voucher Brymore School Farm	
Watch Pat & Rex Steer	

A big thank you to all contributors of the raffle prizes which enabled us to have another successful Summer Draw.

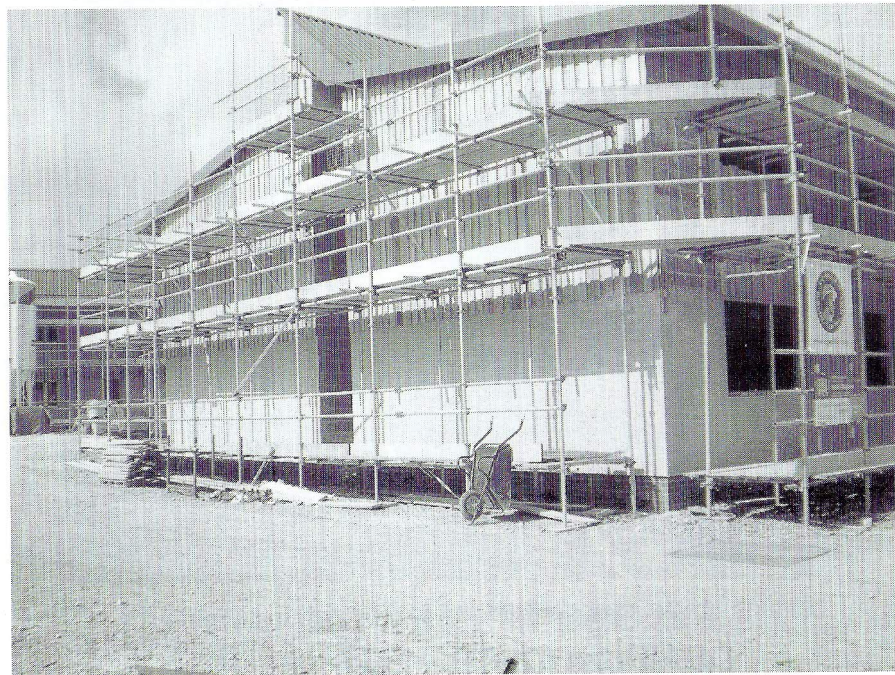
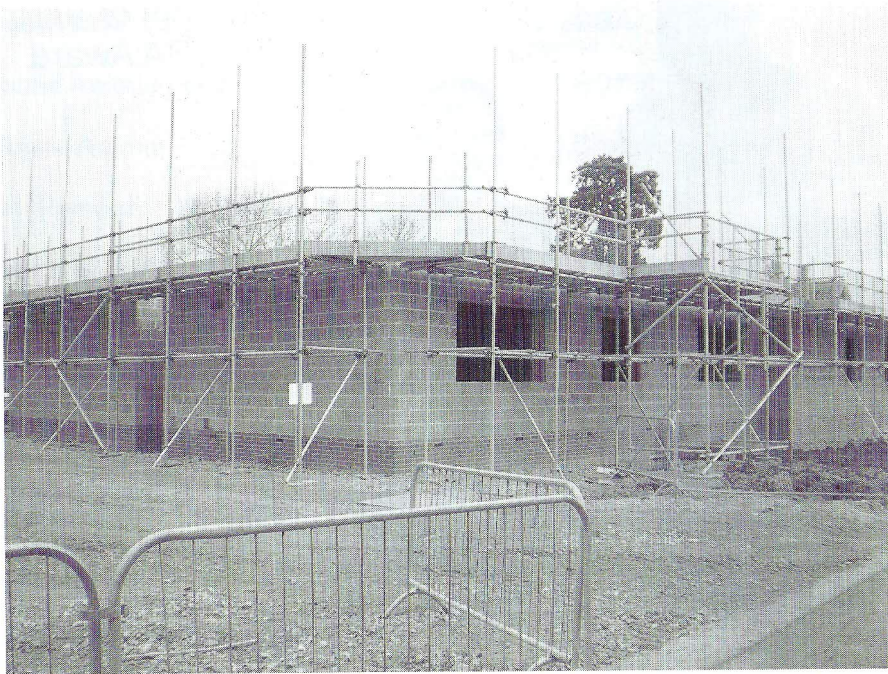


Chairman with Ed Squires, recipient of the OBA Award



Rex Steer with the winner of the OBA Prize from the Summer Draw

Construction work well underway
on the new teaching facility and boarding house



Rex Eastment presents John Riddle with his
Brymore plaque for his efforts on our behalf for
developing and maintaining our website



Devastation following the gale in the walled garden

Old Boys Attending Open Day 2008

- 1952 J. Manning, F. Pocock, M. Webber, P. Wood, E. Tucker.
1953 J. Hill, M.D. Fry, B. Godwin, N. Roberts.
1954 R. Norman, H. Williams, R. Hannam, D. Young, P. George,
R. Pearse.
1955 M. Snook, D. Edwards.
1956 J. Field, M. Perry, C. Fuller, B. Elliott, M. Ellis.
1957 R. Steer, G. Wilcox.
1958 M. Cox, D. Perrett, R. Eastment.
1959 P. Harris, H. Bult, R. Price.
1960 K. Taylor.
1961 S. Stoodley, T. Coleman, T. Ayre, D. Hill.
1962 M. Tapp, D. Cudlipp
1965 M. Fackerell, W. Bowen, T. Bradford.
1966 I. Ford.
1969 J. Anderson.
1970 P. Vaux
1971 P. Collins.
1972 R. Druitt, C. Sawyer, A. Ford, B. Alford, M. Bennett
1973 P. Betty, T. Hurley, G. Pike, N. Baker, G. Summerhayes.
1975 M. Druitt
1976 H. Gibbons.
1977 A. Grove.
1978 I. Chedzoy.
1979 D. Edwards, P. Steer, T. Heal, A. Salter, T. Perham.
1980 P. Winter, M. Watts.
1982 D. Holton.
1983 T. Bartlett, C. Lazenby, M. Rogers.
1984 D. Holton, M. Delahay, J. Hendry, C. Rust, N. Smith, J. Vincent.
1986 S. Coates, R. Pearce, M. Smart, T. Wickens.
1987 C. Moncur.
1989 B. Horler, J. Devine, P. Nicholson, D. Devine.
1990 M. Matrevers.
1992 N. Pollington.
1993 P. Moate.
1994 P. Gibbins.
1995 S. Salvage, T. Bugdale, P. Bowen.
2000 T. Williams.
2001 M. Knox.
2002 L. Waite, J. Allen, M. Ganfield, M. Lindsey, H. Williams.
2008 E. Squires.

No Date given : Jason Scriven, Adrian Fisher.

Old Brymorian's Association: Annual Dinner December 2007

The Old Brymorian's Association held there Annual Dinner at Brymore School when over 100 Old Boys and their guests enjoyed Christmas Fare, thanks to the excellent catering provided by the school catering staff and the very polished waiting skills of the students.

The evening began with a sherry reception hosted by the Old Brymorian's Committee. Chairman John Manning welcomed the Old Boys and their partners, the speakers and former members of staff Alan Hemming, Philip Walker, Colin Munro, Afona Johnson, and Nick Whiteley and retired former matron, Jane Hill.

Neil Parrish, a former pupil, now Conservative Member of the European Parliament for the South West, and Chairman of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, was the Guest of Honour and gave the after dinner speech, which concluded with him proposing a toast to 'Brymore School', with great affection and humour.

Mr. Brian Edmunds, Assistant Headmaster, replied on behalf of the school. He spoke with great enthusiasm regarding the new developments of the new boarding house and classrooms. He also highlighted the achievements of the boys and of the school over the past year.

Mr. Alan Hemming, former deputy head from 1952 until 1982, proposed a toast to 'The Old Brymorian's Association' which included recollections of his thirty years at the school.

Vice Chairman, Peter Harris, replied on behalf of the OBA during which he highlighted the strong link between the school and the association. He also indicated that a three year bursary would be available in 2008. Peter reminded those present that the Brymore School Open Day held in June is a great reunion occasion.

Any Old Boys who have lost contact with the school and would like information about the OBA should contact Gina Bryant at Brymore on 01278 652369 or visit our website at www.brymoreoldboys.co.uk

JHM