

Chairman's Report – Peter Harris

Welcome to this, the 8th edition of The Spur. When I last wrote a few words to you Old Brymorian in 2012 we had been experiencing appalling weather. Well what a turnaround in 2013, a delightful summer, and at the time of writing a reasonable start to autumn.

The Old Brymorian Association continues to thrive and with your annual subscription, together with fund raising, has been able to provide bursaries again for boys of less fortunate means, to attend Brymore School.

Your support has been magnificent, not just by purchasing tickets for the Summer Draw on Brymore Open Day and Country Fair, but in some very generous donations made by you Old Boys – so thank you very much. It is very much appreciated. Mike Fry, our Treasurer and Rex Steer, our Fund Raising Co-ordinator, will provide you with more information in their articles included in this magazine.

The OBA Committee continues with its good works and we meet up 4 or 5 times a year.

It is made up of a wonderful bunch of chaps, plus of course Helen Bradford, Learning Resources Manager, who not only liaises between the OBA and Brymore School, but also edits this magazine, mainly under duress, caused by a man called Fry!!! Seriously, they all do a grand job, and I must take this opportunity to welcome our newest and youngest committee member, Tim Hurley. I have it on good authority that he is known in his locality as Tidy Tim, not that Brymore School had anything to do with it.

Brymore School became an Academy on 01 September 2013 and now comes under the umbrella of Bridgwater College. I realise that we Old Boys are not particular lovers of change, but I think we have to embrace these changes and go with the flow. After all, it is the pupils who will benefit from these new challenges, the latest technology and new experiences in this fast moving world in which we live.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and we will wait to see what the New Year, 2014, brings to us.

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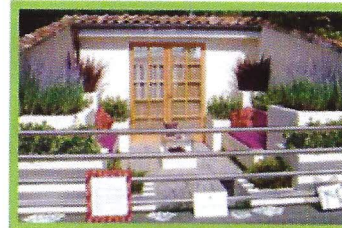
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Last year I said that Brymore has had to continually adapt and change over the years whilst striving to maintain the core values that have served many Brymore boys so well in the past. From September of next year, Brymore will face one of the biggest changes the school has ever faced, when we will admit boys as young as eleven for the first time. To me, this is an exciting challenge and an opportunity for us to foster the 'Brymore way' of doing things for five years rather than three. It is a chance for boys to make even more progress than they do already academically, socially, practically and on the sports field. I am determined that we need to face the challenges that having younger boys will bring but that we must not shy away from developing resilience, responsibility and resourcefulness from the very beginning and the boys must embrace the motto 'Diligentia et Labore'; the importance of hard work applies equally to eleven year olds as it does to the older boys.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the class of 2013 on their excellent results, which placed Brymore in the top 2% of schools in the country for progress. These boys performed better in English than in any school in Somerset, coming top in county and placing in the top 1% of schools nationally. 23% of boys gained an A or A* in English and the DT results were equally impressive, with Brymore boys proving that hard work and diligence are the keys to crossing boundaries, be they academic or practical. Naturally, results in Agriculture and Horticulture were outstanding and 100% of students passed ICT. This is the blending of old and new, the confirmation that the cornerstones provide the backbone, which enables boys to flourish in the modern world. We can prove that a Brymore boy can turn his hand to anything, provided he is given the right tools.

With regard to the wider context, I see the strengthening of the relationship with Bridgwater College as an opportunity for Brymore, rather than a threat. It gives Brymore the best of

both worlds. Working with the college provides the stability, buying power, political strength and resources that only a large organisation can provide, coupled with the personal approach, sense of belonging and pride that has typified Brymore over the years. It is this sense of history and belonging which I am sure led to so many Old Brymorians supporting the school in its national campaign to challenge the dropping of land based studies from the league tables last year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their efforts. We were inundated with offers of support from all areas of the country and as a result, the campaign reached not only local MPs but gained the backing of David Laws and through him, reached as far as Michael Gove himself. There has been significant revision to the consultation document, not least of which the delaying of the changes in school measures until 2016. While we will be affected for the next two years, as Agriculture and Horticulture will not count on the leagues tables in 2014 and 2015, we know that the new BTECs will come into place earlier than was planned and this should enable us to weather the storm as best we can. Brymore may be a small school but we have a large following – and I was humbled by the number of Old Boys who were happy to support the cause. Thank you.

As I have no doubt you are more than aware, it is the Brymore boys of the future who will benefit most, not to mention the country as a whole, as we continue to develop a disciplined, well trained work-force for the land based sector.

Victoria Davis, Mark Thomas & Nicola Anstice

The Senior Leadership Team who successfully led the school to the best GCSE Results ever!



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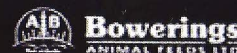


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Duncan Hill – Brymore 1961 - 1964



It is with great sadness to report the death of old boy Duncan Hill who died in January this year aged 64 after battling bravely with cancer.

Duncan and his wife Maggie were great supporters of Brymore, attending many Country fair open days, AGMs and Pym's Dinners. He enjoyed returning to Brymore to reminisce over his time spent at the school

and meeting his fellow Brymorians. Duncan had a great interest in tractors and plant machinery and soon carved a lifelong career in this industry.

With his knowledge and confidence learnt at Brymore Duncan went on to run his own businesses and when he married Maggie they set up D M Contractors in Wellington, a digger plant hire business along with a busy low loader haulage service.

Duncan loved his work and spent all hours organising the jobs ahead and would always be available day or night for an emergency call out, never letting anyone down.

He was a great believer in employing Brymorians, including Nick Baker, Dan Carey and myself. His step son Jason also went to Brymore and he joined the business when Duncan set up a new work shop for plant machinery servicing and repairs.

One of Duncan's hobbies was Steam Trains, and he could often be found on a Sunday waiting by a railway line to see them pass with his Grandchildren (his other great joy).

Duncan was a larger than life character and was always willing to help anyone, he will be sadly missed. We extend our deepest sympathy to Duncan's wife Maggie and family.

Good friend and ex-employee, Graham Summerhayes.

Also lost this year

Graham Withers	1952 – 1955
Norman Howard	1952 – 1955
Tony Cook	1954 - 1957

Treasurer's Report Mike Fry

Once again, the strength of our organisation continues to grow. Membership is now in the mid 380's and the donations received throughout the year, have again, been most generous. Through the untiring efforts of Rex Steer and his band of 'merry men and women', the Summer Draw saw an all-time profit of £2,800. Well done and our extreme thanks go to every person who 'chipped in' through returning sold tickets; cash donations; donated prizes or help on the day!

The cost of a year's boarding at Brymore has now increased to £8,790 and I am pleased to announce that, for the reasons stated above, we will be supporting **FOUR** more students this year to the tune of £2,930 each. Our running total for the eight years bursaries since re-launch now stands at **£58,320**. This, for a new organisation, has to be an amazing achievement but with further enquiries for bursaries coming in on an all too regular basis, just how much more help could we give if only more fund raising was available?

The question of raising the annual subscription is a possible option. However, past experience has proven this possibility to be counterproductive as undisturbed S/Os can be withdrawn. My own thoughts are that to preserve the current rate of £20 per year maintains an affordable rate for our younger members, while the option to make donations to the cause, as times permit, is a perfect example of what is currently happening. There is always the, not unprecedented, possibility of small legacy to the OBA when considering the beneficiaries of your will?

I make no apologies for 'banging-on' about bursaries. Bursaries can make the difference of 'bums on seats' or not; and it's 'bums on seats' that determine the success of Brymore's future or not. While, as I have stated above, the OBA has made an amazing contribution to the cause in a very short period, there must be organisations, companies, and individuals etc., out there who could be sympathetic towards the cause if approached. Are any of these possible options known to you? If so, please let us or the school know.



Remembrance Day Tribute 11.11.2013



A collage advertisement for Notaro Windows. At the top right, a banner reads "THE BIG SALE". The central logo features a sun rising over mountains with the text "NOTARO WINDOWS". Below the logo, the phone number "01278 662298" is displayed. A red banner at the bottom of the collage contains the website "www.notarowindows.com" and logos for "BBA", "FENSA", and "NHBC". The collage itself is composed of numerous small images showing various window and door installations, including conservatories, patios, and garage doors. At the bottom of the collage, a list of services is provided: "WINDOWS • DOORS • BI-FOLD DOORS • CONSERVATORIES • PATIOS • GARAGE DOORS • SOLAR PANELS • DRIVEWAYS • FASCIAS". The Notaro Windows logo is repeated in the bottom right corner of the collage.