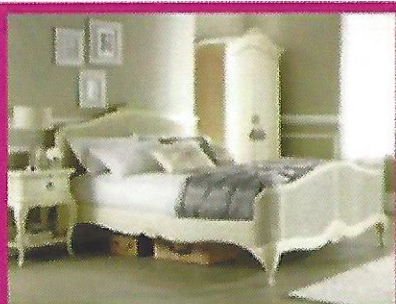


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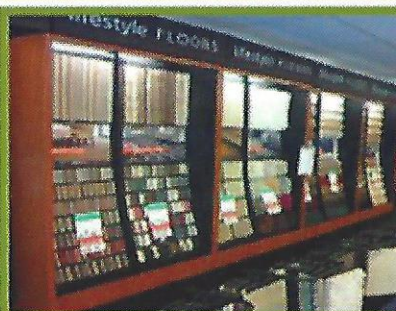
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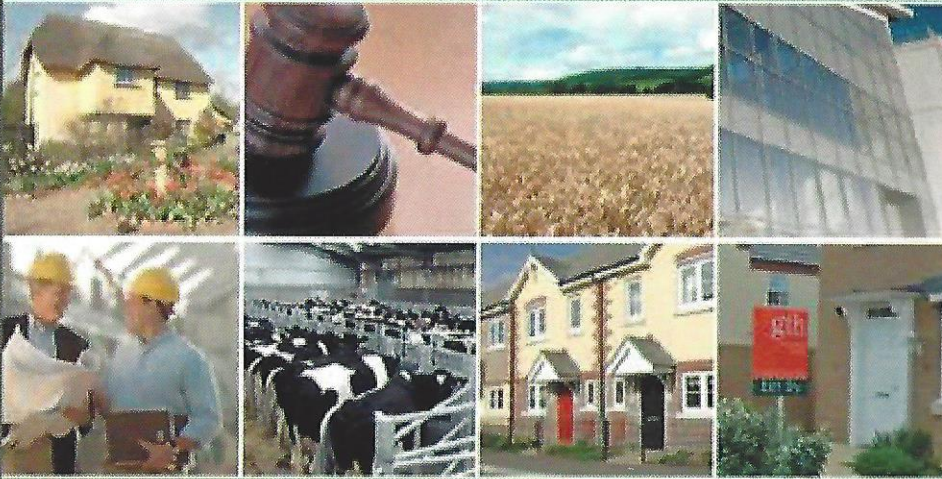
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Autumn 2014 Edition 9

Old Brymorians Committee

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Chairman's Report – Peter Harris

Welcome to this, the 9th edition of The Spur. This article is not so much a Chairman's report but more the musings and thoughts of your Chairman, and it is being written whilst on a short break in Cornwall, about 6 miles from Land's End. We are staying on a farm specialising in beef together with a small acreage of arable land, growing seasonal potatoes and cauliflowers for Sainsburys, Marks and Spencer and Morrisons.

It is now early October and it is still very warm and the sun is shining brightly in a cloudless, blue sky.

After the terrible weather of last winter, which perhaps is best forgotten, I think that you would agree that we have had a pretty good summer. Travelling down to this part of the West Country and observing agricultural operations, farming seems to be in pretty good fettle. Maize harvesting is just beginning here and the stock in the fields look well, although there would seem to be more horses about than ever, which I suppose one must accept as the agricultural industry changes and evolves. Another observation from one brief visit here is that everyone is related in some way, so we are in a very close knit community. One could say that this also relates in a way to the Old Brymorsians' Association.

Your continued support and commitment as an Old Brymorian is very much appreciated by the Committee, as we strive to fulfil the aims as was laid down when the Association was started up again in its present form some years ago now.

The Old Brymorsians' Association has, I think, exceeded everyone's expectation in its fundraising for bursaries; from members' subscriptions, the Summer Draw on Open Day, social functions and some very generous donations. Thank you all so much.

Please enjoy this edition of the Spur.

Head Teacher - Mark Thomas

I am sure all former Brymore boys can remember their first days at the school and I know many will reflect on how difficult it was to learn all of the routines and expectations placed on them at the tender age of thirteen. Imagine therefore, how many of our new Year 7s have felt, with many living away from home for the first time, at the age of eleven. Indeed many were ten when they were first interviewed which must have been a daunting prospect. Neil Parish MP recently spoke at the annual Pym's night of his memories of rushing across Bridgwater in his Brymore uniform, including shorts, and facing a few comments as he went. Now the year 7s face different challenges, with many taking on twelve hour days. It is vital that the boys engage with Brymore life, take the most they can from the experience and learn the value of hard work, early on.

I often talk about traditions which are different, depending on your generation. Pym's night will hold great resonance for the earliest Old Brymorsians, whereas I suspect it is Chad's that dominates the thoughts of those who have attended in the past thirty two years. Unfortunately, due to the construction of the Cannington by-pass, Chad's as we know it will soon come to an end. However, the tradition certainly will not - and Mr Spridgens is already researching alternative routes so that physical fitness will continue play a key role in the life of a Brymore boy.

Brymore's reputation continues to grow, with numerous features on Radio 4, including 'Farming Today' and 'Gardener's Question Time', an article in The Guardian and appearances in other national publications

It was pleasing to hear Prince Charles ask after the school when he met Charlie Herbert, one of our Year 11s recently and locally our reputation is such that we now have many more applications than we have places. Brymore will continue to grow again next year until our maximum capacity of 250 boys is reached. This is large enough to ensure more choice for the boys and financial security for the school, but small enough to maintain what Brymore stands for – individual care and attention, where all boys are given the opportunity to thrive.'

In just under five years' time the first year 7 boys will be going out into the world as resourceful, resilient and responsible young men, not afraid of hard work, with good manners and strong moral values, treading the path that generations of Brymore boys have created before them.



Brymore boys showing a keen interest in a clamp of arable silage at the Somerset Institute one-day silage demonstration – January 1956

Treasurer's Report Mike Fry

It is an annual privilege to make this report as positives always make things easier. Membership now exceeds 400; we are supporting three more students; and for reasons set out below, we have a little more cash reserves in the bank than at this time last year.

The John Perham fund closed with £1000.00, and as you may remember, this money was raised to retain the top quality furniture now used daily in the Library. This furniture was handmade, and carved, by John's son Tony, who in turn, has now made the two Trophy Cabinets in the foyer of the main Teaching Block. The funds raised were used to assist Brymore with Tony's cost.

A further initiative by Staff Members -- Patrick Coll, Oliver Mahon, Helen Hill and Jo Rundle, raised just over £ 900 with their part in the Torbay Half Marathon. Many thanks to them and to the many generous donations from OBA members.

Despite heavy storms affecting extended attendance on Open Day, the Summer Draw proved most successful as usual. Our thanks again go to the efforts of Rex and his team as well as the tremendous support of the membership.

During the past twelve months, I have written to several well-known local businesses, and dare I say, local celebrities, appealing for support, to assist in any way with our efforts to fund extra bursaries. To date we have received the most generous donations of £1000 from one local farmer, and £150 for a full page advert in the 'Spur'... I remain committed to making further approaches along these lines...any ideas welcome!!

Boarding Fees have now risen to £9020 this year, so our nine year running total stands at £67,380. Wonderful achievement and well done to all. However, the one concerning point to highlight in this report, is the loss of renewed subscriptions, both from cash payers, and through standing orders not being processed. The cash members will get a reminder with their next 'SPUR' in November, followed by a FINAL reminder with the Open Day mailing. If you are a S/O member, and you have changed your banking details, would you please see if the OBA is still included in your instructions. Unfortunately, unpaid members on 1-9-2015 will be deleted from our Data Base...

1952 Richard Stephens, Martin Webber, John Manning, Peter Wood, Richard Morgan, Eldrid Tucker, David Meade, Fred Pocock
 1953 Michael Fry, David Vickers, John Start, Brian Godwin
 1954 Robin Irvine, Roger Hanham, Philip George, John Mogridge. David Young
 1956 Mike Perry; Martyn Ellis, Chris Fuller, John Field
 1957 Rex Steer; Mike Yeandle; Gareth Wilcox
 1958 Rex Eastment; Dave Perrett (Sparky)
 1959 Peter Harris; Bob Brice; Edward Lockyer, Michael Lyons, John Blachard
 1960 Keith Taylor
 1961 Tony Horler, Steve Stoodley, Terry Ayre
 1962 Jeremy Hayes
 1963 David Dagger (Staff)
 1964 Peter Hogan, Phil Tiprey, Reg Mildon
 1965 Mike Fackrell; Norman Collins, William Brown
 1966 Chris Chapman
 1967 Ken Kingcott
 1968 Trevor Coombes, Ian R Ford
 1969 David Hitchens
 1970 William Bolland
 1971 Patrick Collins, Edward Nicholls
 1972 Paul Goddard
 1973 Graham Summerhayes; Tim Hurley
 1975 Martin Butt, Mark Lambert
 1978 Ian Chedzey
 1980 Malcolm Watts;
 1982 Roy Norris
 1983 Christian Lazenbury; Ryan Payne
 1984 John Hendre
 1985 Andy O'Brien
 1986 Nat Sully
 1987 J Burnell
 1989 Ben Horler,
 1990 Brian Bennett, Chris Govier
 1992 Richard Walton
 1993 Jon Perry
 1994 Ian Parrish
 1995 Richard Fryer, Martin Middleton
 1997 Craig Channon, Richard Parsons, Wayne Sauway
 1998 Ian Patch, Ed Coombes
 1999 Dan Berry
 2005 Charles Percy-Raine
 2006 George Barrow
 2007 Luke Hendrie, John Martin, Josh Fox, Leighton Ormerod, Ashleigh Johnstone-Smith, Ross Morgan
 2008 Chris Wand, Michael McGuinness, Russell Windows
 2009 Stephen Harding
 2011 Jordan Hobbs, Jed Kerkin, David Lukins, Henry Mattocks

Old Boys Attending Open Day 2014

Summer Draw 2014 – Rex Steer

On an overcast day we set up our stall a bit apprehensively as to how the day would pan out.

We got off to a brisk start when Mike Yeandle came and handed in monies for his tickets of a £123, didn't he do well, added to this the tickets I myself sold of a £110 giving us a £233 start inspiring confidence to do well.

This day we had plenty of help in fact a bit too much as other years this has been lacking.

Once again there was a vast array of prizes (39) including a print of Porlock Bay by Maurice Bishop (an old boy)

There was the donation of mountain bike and again a prize from Harold Bult of a ride on tractor and trailer.

We had a steady flow of customers but had to dodge the heavy down pours scrabbling to cover everything up, although the crowds were not as big as usual trade was steady throughout the day with lots of old boys reminiscing with us and reliving old memories.

At 3.30 with a big crowd in attendance the draw took place, the main prize (print) going to old boy Martin Webber.

If you are in North Devon at any time call in to see Maurice Bishop in his art gallery on Lynmouth sea front he is always there painting, let him know you are an old boy, have a look at his wonderful art work it is an amazing collection you won't be disappointed.

This year we raised £2495 and I must thank all who made this achievable, next year will be my last as fundraiser so I would like to go out with a bang and with your help I would like to break the £3000 barrier.

Please support our sponsors if you can.
The following old boys give prizes every year and we thank them:-

Peter Woods Harold Bult, Mike Fry, Peter Harris, John Field, Lionel Bagg, Rex Eastment, Rex And Pat Steer, Mike Fackrell & Maurice Bishop

Thank you also to:-

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Puxton Park

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The above support us every year

See you all again last Saturday in June 2015

REX STEER.

Ben Williams receives the Best in Agriculture Trophy, on behalf of the Old Brymorsians from Chairman Peter Harris at this year's Leavers Service



Brymore Boys Excel

Congratulations to the Brymore boys of 2014! Once again, our boys have proven that with hard work and diligence, they can achieve beyond expectations. We are proud to report that 63% of students gained 5A*-Cs and this is a reflection of the commitment they have shown at Brymore. The boys battled innumerable odds, despite being the lowest ability intake on entry, to match last year's results in English and Maths, with 74% making 3 levels progress or more in English and 58% gaining 3 levels of progress or more in Maths. English results look set to be in the top 4% of schools nationally for progress for the third year running. While KS2 results indicated that the highest grades would be C grades, in fact, 15% of the boys achieved B grades and 10% achieved As and A*s. Particular congratulations go to Kieran Duru for A* in English and Nick Bretherton, Charlie Coleman and Richard Warwick, who achieved A grades, with Charlie making 6 levels of progress to achieve this. Similarly, Chris Harris made 5 levels of progress in both English and Maths to achieve a B and A grade respectively. Ash Alom, Adam Warren and Tom Vining both made 5 levels of progress to achieve B grades in English, alongside Luc Welch and Tod Purcell. Again, our boys have surpassed themselves and have proven that there is no ceiling to achievement, provided you set your mind to it.

Results in other areas were also outstanding, in line with last year. The Science Department ran the highly rigorous NQF qualification for the first time this year and are pleased to report 100% pass rate. Meanwhile, core GCSE Science results were 5% above target, at 40%. Horticulture results have soared in the last two years, to reach a record 94% pass rate. Agriculture has maintained its high success rate with 90% of students achieving pass and beyond. Progress measures in both subjects were astronomical, with several boys making 6 or 7 levels of progress to achieve these grades.

Meanwhile, Design Technology looks set to maintain its position as one of the highest performing departments in Somerset, with 73% of students achieving C grade or above. In addition, 18% of students achieved a distinction (A* equivalent) in Agriculture and 25% of students achieved a distinction in Horticulture; proving their ability to perform well in these subjects.

Our thanks go to all the dedicated staff at Brymore who have worked tirelessly with the boys, both in and out of school, to ensure their success. Once again, well done boys! We wish you every success in the future.

Lorraine Warren, Marketing Manager

Remembrance Day 2014

Remembrance Day was honoured by all the boys and staff as they lined the main drive. At 11am as the school clock ceased its chimes the Last Post sounded out over the school. Following two minutes silence the music again was played and then Mark Thomas, Head Teacher read a verse from 'The Fallen' by Laurence Binyon before the procession led by Head Boy Silas Lawson, carrying a wreath and flanked by Deputy Head Boys Bertie Mountford and Daniel Holter-Hovind moved slowly to the front of school house, where the wreath was placed in memory of all who have lost their lives over the last 100 years. Peter Harris and Mike Fry representing the Old Brymorians also laid a wreath on behalf of your organisation. Members of the Senior Student Leadership Team placed wood crosses alongside. As the procession passed the wreaths many removed their poppies and placed them in a repository.



Easter came and we sold some store cattle at Sedgemoor Auction Centre, they always seem to sell really quite well for a traditional breed, we then turned out the beef for the summer. They have grown on really well with some now ready to sell before Christmas. A couple of heifers are finished and some good size steers for the store market.

Pigs are doing well with a lot of weaners being sold to private customers. We also have 6 finished pigs to sell for Christmas – four and a half are spoken for – the rest to sell at the end of term.

We have recently bought a boar pig (Landrace x Large White) to breed with our British Lops, looking for a quicker finishing leaner pig, we shall see what the outcome is next year.

Obituaries

It is with deep sadness that we record those Old Boys who have passed away over the last year.

Bruce Brewer	1953 – 1956
Jim Duckett	1955 – 1958
Kenneth Hawkins	1957 – 1960
Jake Bowles	2011 – 2014

'Over the Garden wall'
A Year in the Horticultural department
Reuben Willcocks

So once again I climb to my vantage point. The strains of "We plough the fields and scatter" are a fleeting memory now and the boys have pounded around the cross country course, collected their medals and headed off to their homes for half term. I have brought back the trolley (with the help of two stalwart lads), which just a couple of hours ago was a hive of activity as parents and friends bought produce and plants. Now the school is falling strangely silent, just a few staff remain, tidying up and the long autumn shadows stretch across the walled garden as I look and reflect.

What a busy term and whole year, in fact. Last winter saw us making good use of the fallen trees and now we have logs in store to be bagged and sold, we made charcoal from some of the wood (one group even made their own charcoal burner) and we coped quite well with all the rain, but our sandy loam really helps us there.

In the spring the plants grew fantastically well, we have never had such luscious looking shrubs and perennials and the summer bedding did well too.

The vegetables have produced well, especially the squashes and the plums and pear were laden but there are not so many apples to turn into juice or cider. In raised beds on the far side of the walled garden I can still see a few flowers remaining, the remnants of the cut flowers which were used for the first wedding at Brymore. Recently the boys have been collecting the blooms and harvesting (pulling off!) the petals to dry and make confetti, as we're trying to diversify and make the most of all we have. Another sign of this were the bottles of elderflower cordial, the spiced apple juice and the even wider selection of plants from which to choose. We certainly saw a lot of people visit the department during Open Day and select purchases. That was a good day, in between the showers!

I think back over this last half term with its many changes, not the least being the introduction to Brymore of year 7s. Their pillar box red overalls brighten up any practical and a small bevvy join me every Saturday afternoon for Activities on their plots. These lads' plots look great, planted with onions, broad beans and even kale, but there are a few who will need encouragement to tidy their plots! Of course we had the usual intake of year 9s as well, who will be able to choose the courses which they want to follow. I was glad that 20 boys (nearly 50% of the year) chose horticulture last year and maybe we can get more this year. Of the lads who took the BTEC last year

(everyone in year 11 had to take Horticulture BTEC) 95% gained at least a Pass (equivalent to Grade C GCSE) and many achieved Merit or Distinction. I remember, with pride that our department had the best results and how grateful I am to my team. Mrs Stanley continues to run the practical side of the department on a day to day basis and especially keeps the walled garden in order. She also keeps charge of the duties, along with help from the HoDs, a brilliant group of year 11s who take groups of boys and get the jobs done. Ms Nash comes along two days a week and keeps the beds and borders tidy and teaches the lads at the same time. Mrs Richards helps in the classroom, as a TA and then comes out during practicals, a quick change, wellies on and she's ready to take a group of boys and teach and assess them in a variety of tasks. What would I do without these dedicated and skilled ladies? I hear the compact tractor spring into life and it reminds me that Mr Mahon (ex-student and now part-time grounds man) is still working and he has been such a willing and effective member of the team, but I've just heard he is moving on to a full time job elsewhere. I feel a tinge of sadness and yet how pleased we are to see our young men moving on and developing their skills and abilities. He has been excellent when working with the lads and they loved taking turns to work with him. He will be missed!

Another reason for pride was the Britain in Bloom Award, given to the students at school because they raised and planted plants which adorned Cannington village throughout the year.

Earlier in the year we took year 9s on trips to garden Centres, National Trust properties and a local strawberry farm (now THAT was a highlight!! Full tummies and brains expanded with more knowledge!). A blackbird sitting in the nearby crab-apple tree (is that a Wurzel Tree?) strikes a note or two and suggests he would have loved that trip too, mind you he's had a good graze on the plentiful Autumn raspberries in both of the soft fruit cages! A squirrel scampers along the top of the wall with a nut in its mouth (that IS a nut isn't it and not one of the boys' broad beans?). The bell tower clock chimes and tells me time has gone. I must stop my musings and get down; put the trolley away, (it will be out again at the end of each week with plants and produce to sell) and close up the glasshouse, polytunnel and tool shed. As I go about my tasks I collect up a pair of overalls, one steel toe capped boot, a gardening glove and a fork... boys(!!) when will they learn?

Open Day Photographs



Open Day demonstration in the Forge



Staff Tug of War Team – In borrowed boots!



Raffle Tent



Forrester Woolacombe and Mr Kingston

A Big Thank You to Brymore School

I was among the second intake of boys so was able to see the school develop. It should be remembered that this was not so long after the war and there was limited availability of clothes etc. but the clothing list included collar studs, six soft white collars and three stiff ones for church and special days. I have very fond memories of a very happy school, approachable staff and very friendly fellow students and looking back I can see that it was a very well-rounded education.

On leaving school I worked on a dairy farm in Wiltshire for a year before doing my NCA at Lackham followed by a year working on a MAFF hop and bull progeny testing facility in Hereford. I was asked to return to Lackham to work with the two dairy herds (one Friesian and one Shorthorn) and very much enjoyed working with the students but not so much the 05.00 start to get the cows in. After two years a member of staff persuaded me to apply to Agricultural College in Lancashire to study for the two year NDA course as a mature student. My grant was tiny so I worked at a transport cafe near Blackpool washing up and Ushers brewery in Trowbridge each vacation and feel I really benefited as a more rounded person.

On receiving my NDA I realised that I still wanted a career in agriculture but was not a farmer's son so looked for related jobs and was lucky enough to join HRC (Huntingdon Research Centre now Huntingdon Life Science) which offered a contract research service to a wide range of industries, I was particularly lucky in that it was a very rapidly growing industry so was able to change within the company. I worked at HRC for 40 years with the first 10 years working mostly with farm animals on a range of new compounds for safety and efficacy. In addition HRC maintained various animal species to work with local specialist hospitals on organ transplant development including liver, kidney and then heart. These are now standard medical services with very high levels of success.

I was then asked to establish an ecotoxicology dept. to respond to growing public concern about the potential dangers of pesticides and industrial to the environment. Studies included safety and reproduction in Quail, pheasant or Mallard duck, a wide range of studies in fish, algae etc. earthworm safety and reproduction and insects with of course particular concern about honey bees. I was very lucky to be involved at the start of an area where now public concern mandates a full package of safety studies to meet the requirements of regulatory authorities around the world.

My next 10 years were concentrated on crop residues and efficacy studies around the world. If for example a company intends to market a product for use on citrus then studies have to be undertaken in Brazil with the spraying done to a very high standard and then approx. 10 tonnes of oranges flown to laboratories for either analysing whole fruit or processing as oil, juice, marmalade etc. then analysed for residues to determine safety to the consumer using standard consumption levels. Over the years I worked at HRC the equipment used for analysis meant that it was possible to go for ever lower levels of detection. A very large study to determine residues of a fungicide in grapes and wine to meet USA requirements meant working in 7 European grape growing countries and Australia with the crop sprayed 5 times as per the label, harvested and then either analysed as grapes or shipped to an experimental winery in South of France to be made into wine and raisins. With careful planning it was possible to get grapes from Australia to winery within 48 hours packed in dry ice

The final 10 years resulted in a change of jobs to maximise my experience by working with companies in, India, China Korea etc. as a growing number of companies developed new compounds for intended world-wide registration. All studies had to be to what is known as Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) which is a worldwide standard of work with frequent inspections in the field or laboratory by teams of inspectors and some of the inspections of studies in which I were involved went back twenty years concentrating on data, record keeping and how the studies were reported. During this period the company was the largest laboratory in Europe with pharmaceutical research to world-wide regulatory requirements with the species used resulting in protests by animal rights demonstrators. A number of demonstrations resulted in arrests and a rather difficult time for the staff but this is now finished

It could be said that my career was not really related to Brymore but I would argue that it was the first part of a development schedule with the school encouraging me to have a wide range of interests greatly helped by a very supportive staff and in my case probably being a border which for me was a totally happy experience. The weekly high light was listening under the bed clothes to Radio Luxembourg Top 20 on Sunday nights !!!!. When thinking of a career keep all your options open.

'I always think my only claim to fame was to give a presentation on earthworm reproduction at Las Vegas'

Nick Roberts – 1953 - 1956

Stone Picking, An amorous sow and Saturday night films

Life was always full at Brymore with classes scheduled during the day, animals to feed before breakfast, the routine hand and nail inspection before entering the dining hall, prep time in the evening and the requirement to engage in the ritual of 'stone picking' in the field behind the metal-workshop. When all this was done we could relax in the hobbies/model room in the basement amid the sound of model aeroplane engines with their typical fuel smell alongside the aroma of dope used to paint the tissue covered model plane wings. And when bedtime came in the top floor dormitory, secret listening to Radio Luxembourg on a transistor radio under the bedclothes was the perfect way to end the day.

Stone picking could be a different matter. I recall how cold it was during winter evenings when the bitter easterly wind would seem to cut through whatever clothing I could layer myself with and the stones themselves felt like lumps of ice that were frozen into the ground. In the summer though, it was much more pleasant. It's funny that I don't recall any feelings of resentment about having to do such a task, but I do have fond memories of the way that 'chore' and other activities nurtured friendships and a sense of togetherness.

My encounter with an amorous sow occurred one evening when I had entered the pig pen with a bucket of feed. Initially the rather large sow seemed otherwise occupied at the other end of the pen but soon after I entered she noticed me, took a distinct fancy to my left leg and endeavoured to show her affection by vigorously nuzzling my thigh with her massive tusk. At first I only noticed the pressure of her head on my leg but then felt a distinct wetness running down my leg. I looked down and was surprised to see a growing blood stain spreading across and down my entire leg. There was imperceptible tear in my dungarees where the sows tusk has pierced my skin. After a hasty retreat out of the pig pen I was given first aid to control the bleeding and then ushered off to hospital to have the wound sutured. The scar remains to this day as proud evidence of my youthful battle with a raging wild pig...well what's wrong with a little literary exaggeration...it sounds much more exciting than saying a pig fancied me!

The staff at Brymore were, I like to think a rather splendid collection of very talented, kind and caring people. I remember Reginald Adcock with much affection. In my second year at Brymore I was the film projectionist in the Film Society and had the responsibility for operating the 16mm Bell & Howell film projector, changing the film reels and operating the rheostat when the lights needed to be dimmed or turned back on. Films like 'The 39 Steps' and 'A Night to Remember' (an early account of the Titanic sinking) were real epics and were only enhanced by the sense of occasion that went with film nights. One evening when I was getting ready for the evening film show I noticed the rear projector arm seemed to be squeaking as the reel was turning. So I decided to remove a large screw in the centre of the pulley housing, thinking that I could find the source of the squeak and fix it. To my utter dismay as I removed the plate covering the pulley shaft, what seemed like thousands of tiny ball bearings suddenly sprayed out of the housing and scattered all over the floor. At that moment Reg came in the room. It was clear to him what had happened and he calmly advised me to find what bearings I could, replace the them in the housing and see whether the take up spool would still work, I did this but unfortunately the drive belt would not function so for the rest of the film show I had to manually operate the rear take-up reel with my index finger. I think Reg had to order a replacement take-up arm but I so appreciated how he never told me off or chastised me in any way for my ill-fated repair efforts.

These and other precious recollections say a lot about the very special features that characterised Brymore, its staff and the rather unique learning that we students gained there. I have no doubt that much of what I learned back then has served me so well in all areas of my life. I sense that spirit remains to this day.

Tony MacCulloch
1958 - 1960

Remembrance Day 2014

Remembrance Day was honoured by all the boys and staff as they lined the main drive. At 11am as the school clock ceased its chimes the Last Post sounded out over the school. Following two minutes silence the music again was played and then Mark Thomas, Head Teacher read a verse from 'The Fallen' by Laurence Binyon before the procession led by Head Boy Silas Lawson, carrying a wreath and flanked by Deputy Head Boys Bertie Mountford and Daniel Holter-Hovind moved slowly to the front of school house, where the wreath was placed in memory of all who have lost their lives over the last 100 years. Peter Harris and Mike Fry representing the Old Brymorsians also laid a wreath on behalf of your organisation. Members of the Senior Student Leadership Team placed wood crosses alongside. As the procession passed the wreaths many removed their poppies and placed them in a repository.



Primary planting for the future Lorraine Warren, Marketing Manager Brymore Academy

Brymore and Sedgemoor Tree Services have been working closely with Somerset Bridge Primary School to spark an interest in horticulture and to enhance their outdoor space.

Somerset Bridge were looking for ways in which to make the most of their outdoor area and with the help of local secondary state boarding school Brymore, have been able to add foliage to their garden area and playground. Brymore were really keen to help out the school by ensuring a number of bushes and trees were donated. Sedgemoor Tree Services, who already work closely with Brymore, came forward to supply wooden stools for the areas which offers seating areas for the children.

Kizzy Coll-Catts, Learning Mentor at Somerset Bridge, says that 'the children are delighted with the additions to the garden and playground; it just adds a new dimension to the outside space we had.'

Pictured are Mofi, Kwame and Bethany, from Somerset Bridge, with Patrick from Brymore Academy and Lawrence from Sedgemoor Tree Services.



The Sport of Kings

Just prior to arriving at Brymore I discovered that my father ran an illegal bookmaking enterprise from the cash office of his butchers shop in Winscombe.

When I got to Brymore I soon discovered a 'Bookies Runner' in Cannington so it was easy to pass small wagers via the Bakers Tuck Shop Van and the Children's Room in what I recall as the 'Globe' pub near the church; as we passed it every Sunday it was easy to leave the crocodile and slip in.

This pub became the scene of the 'infamous' beer drinking episode when celebrating the end of the 1957 term some of us were caught. Thanks to Reggie Adcocks efforts we were spared the resulting 'Bridgwater Court Case' but not six of the best.

Later in life when our family had grown up and finances took a turn for the better I joined various Horse Racing Owners Syndicates without much success; but in recent times leasing horses from stud farms have proved to be a better bet as we receive all winnings less deductions.

Currently 2 two year olds are the centre of attention, both fillies, one called CLOUD REST who was second first time out and has since won both her last two run outs. This filly is trained by Richard Fahey near my home in Malton. Our other filly was sired by SEA THE STARS who won over £5 million when racing; CAELLICA may have run in July but is expected to be more successful as a three year old.

It is very satisfying to link Brymore as the starting point from which has been and continues to be, a thoroughly enjoyable pastime and reflects the great time I had a Brymore.

Mike Stephens – 1955 - 1958



**New Trophy Cabinets
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From the Editors Chair

Thank you for all the positive responses to last edition of The Spur. Without your feedback and input it is exceedingly difficult to produce; however, input is becoming hard to come by. If you have any stories of your time at Brymore that you would like to relate to your fellow Old Brymorians or news of what you've been doing since that last day at school, **please** let me know. You can email me at hbradford@educ.somerset.gov.uk or write to Miss H Bradford, LRC, Brymore, Cannington, TA5 2NB. Whichever way you choose be assured it will be most welcome.

With regards to this edition, whilst typing out Tony MacCulloch's entry I was reminded of a spell working with the First Submarine Squadron & one day receiving from a submarine after a 6 month deployment, three hessian postal bags full of knotted 16mm film, their rear take up arm had also failed but rather than wind on with an index finger they had played the film directly into the sacks. Three days later and we had untangled, cut and spliced back together a film that in the late 70s was in no way produced by Hollywood but rather had arrived on board via mail order or a trip to Soho!

Head boy


As head boy of Brymore I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to be an encouraging role model and to represent the school in many positive ways by working towards making the school a better place.

Since I have been in post I have built the school a strong and dedicated team of senior prefects and prefects, as well as making the duty rotas and listening to the views of the boys but this could not have been done without the SLT and the two deputy head boys Daniel and Bertie who have contributed a lot towards making the school even better.

My aim for my time as head boy are to give every boy the best experience of the school, to give everyone a voice in changing the school for the better and most of all to inspire a confident attitude around the school. The reasons for my choosing to come to Brymore was because of the many subjects that we do here that are practical and especially the agriculture, where it will help with my future because I want to work within the agricultural industry. **Silas Lawson**



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