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The SPUR


OLD BRYMORIANS ASSOCIATION



Brymore School – Diamond Jubilee
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Autumn 2012
Edition 7





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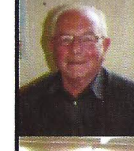
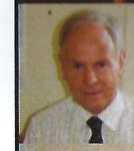
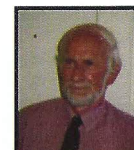
Website: www.teamgreengrowers.co.uk

(PHILIP WINTER BRYMORE 1980-1983)



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O.B.A. Website: www.brymoreoldboys.co.uk

Chairman's Report – Peter Harris

The Old Brymorians Association continues to thrive as you will learn from the various reports in this, the 7th edition of The Spur. It is very encouraging to have some younger "old boys" showing an interest in our activities.

This year, 2012, will be remembered for many things; namely the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the Olympics and Para-Olympic Games, and yes, of course, the weather!! As I sit in our cottage scribing these few lines it is raining yet again. Our dog, a Jack Russell terrier, has, as usual, taken the sensible option of getting as close to the Rayburn stove as he possibly can.

Luckily for the OBA and the school, the Open Day at the end of June was blessed with reasonable weather so there was a good attendance from the general public and Old Boys. This helped to make a happy day with a wonderfully relaxed atmosphere.

I think people were just glad to get out and enjoy the surroundings that Brymore has to offer. Well done and thank you to all those involved in making the day such a success.

The annual Pym's Night Supper was held towards the end of October, and although our guest speaker, Chris Rundle, Agricultural Correspondent for the Western Daily Press, had to cancel at short notice because of illness, the meal was a great success and much enjoyed by all those attending. Mark Thomas, Head teacher, gave an informative and inspiring update on Brymore which was delivered with much enthusiasm and passion. The evening was rounded off with Honorary Life Membership awards to Arfona Johnson, formerly Mrs Edwards and John Manning who is one of the founder members of the OBA as we know it today.

Brymore School is now in its 60th year and to mark the occasion in 2013, the OBA will be joining the school in celebrations to commemorate this event. All OBA members will be kept informed of any forthcoming events. John Manning has already held a most successful Class of 1952 reunion which was much enjoyed by all who attended. Well done John.

Finally, thank you Old Brymorians for your continued generosity and support.

It just leaves me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Head Teacher - Mark Thomas

I have recently had a number of letters from parents who have felt the need to tell me just how much Brymore has done for their son. Phrases such as 'transformed', 'thank you, I now have my son back' and 'I have never seen him so keen to go to school in the morning or so tired when he returns in the evening' are really heartening to hear. Anyone connected with the school will be well aware of the impact it has and how we work hard with boys so that they leave us prepared for the adult world.

I believe one of the secrets of the success of the school is that it has changed with the times, but it has retained the core values of hard work and respect which are still so important in today's world. The history of the school is full of stories of the boys helping clear the grounds, building facilities and setting up new clubs such as the goat department, rabbit and guinea pig club, drama club, dancing club and chess club. The picture today is no different, although the nature of some of the clubs has changed. Boys have recently been involved in building a mountain bike track, which has helped attract £10,000 worth of funding from Sport England to purchase new bikes. Clubs and activities now include karate, poultry club, blacksmithing, boxing, fishing and golf. However the emphasis on broadening horizons, getting involved and 'having a go' is still there.

Academic achievement is increasingly important in the competitive world we all now live in. I have always believed that Brymore boys were as capable as anyone of doing well, which has recently proved to be the case. The latest figures show that last year Brymore was ranked in the top three per cent of schools in the country for the progress boys made in achieving 5 A*-C grades, compared to the bottom fourteen per cent two years ago. With good teaching, the right curriculum and the right attitude from the boys, then anything is possible.

Treasurer's Report Mike Fry

Unfortunately the long term future of the school has been under the spotlight since my arrival, with a number of cul de sacs being visited before a clear path for survival can be mapped.

The latest news is that Brymore will apply to become an Academy in September 2013, with a view of extending its age range to accept boys from the age of eleven in September 2014. This will not only bring in much needed funding to the school, but it will also give us five years to work with the boys and improve them academically and socially rather than the three years we have currently. For me it is quite simple, Brymore does something special in creating young men who go on to be successful in life, whatever their starting point. Many people have benefited from the Brymore experience in the past, and we must ensure many more continue to do so in the future. What ever happens I can assure you that I am not planning to change the name of the school in any way.



My report this year could almost be a carbon copy of last year with membership again being stable in the 350 area and the general trend for some newer cash members who fail to renew. It was a painful decision to inform more than forty members that without positive response, further correspondence could not be expected from the OBA. We trust that the limited experience these Old Boys gained from the Association will prove worthwhile and we look forward to their eventual return at some stage in the future.

With the continued success of the Summer Draw [with thanks to Rex Steer and his team of merry helpers] and the continued level of membership [with thanks to the continued efforts of John Manning on Open Day and at the Agricultural Shows], we were again in the position to award three more bursaries to the value of £8,400. The running total in the first seven years since the re-launch now stands at £46,600. An obvious huge vote of thanks must go to ALL involved.

Despite the fluctuations at the top of this report and the general state of the current financial times, the generosity of certain members with cash donations, continues to overwhelm me. The policy of posting two draw books to every member each year could be said to be contentious. Not all members wish to be involved and again, if those members could please advise me of their wishes, no further books will be sent! However, on balance and taking into account the generosity of donations as above, the policy will continue.

A minor SOS from the Horticultural Department revealed that through budget restrictions, sufficient hand tools were in short supply for students to work their individual plots in the walled gardens. The committee approved a donation of £500 towards these needs as well as searching our garden sheds for any redundant tools with useful life still in them. If you have any such items surplus to requirements, Mr Willcocks would be delighted to receive them when ever you are back at Brymore.

The follow up regarding the six beehives being funded by the OBA and being made by six students in the workshops, concluded in three of the boys losing interest, thus three hives were completed and with the generous help of Ken Edwards and the Quantock Beekeepers Association, are now fully stocked and hopefully surviving these dreadful summer conditions!

One more request!!! Brymore has now entered its Diamond Jubilee Year. Please make every effort to join in these celebrations and to do your best to 'muster up' as many other OLD BOYS as possible...there is still a large number of lost contacts who could well be interested to be informed?

**Are you one of these boys?
What year was it?**



OLD BOYS ATTENDING OPEN DAY 2012

- 1952 Peter Wood; John Manning; Eldred Tucker; Fred Pocock; Martin Webber; Richard Morgan; Matthew Chubb; David Meade
- 1953 Michael Fry; John Durman; Brian Godwin; David Vickers; Gordon Suter; John Hill; Lionel Bagg; Mike Pettitt; Roger Ling
- 1954 David Young; Roger Hannam; Henry Williams; Philip George; Richard Pearse; Peter Perrett
- 1955 John Tewksbury
- 1956 Mike Perry; Martyn Ellis
- 1957 Rex Steer; Gareth Wilcox; Michael Mearns
- 1958 Rex Eastment; Dave Perrett; Francis Hunt; Jeff Hutchings; Martin Cox; Adrian Johnstone; Philip Pearse; Harold Hunt
- 1959 Peter Harris; Nick Hodgess; Bob Brice
- 1960 Keith Baker
- 1961 Duncan Hill; Steve Stoodly
- 1962 Martin Tapp
- 1963 John Marston
- 1964 Tony Bradford
- 1965 Mike Fackrell; Will Bowden; Paul Baker
- 1971 Patric Collins; Edward Nicholls;
- 1972 Trevor Sellick
- 1973 Graham Summerhayes; Tim Hurley
- 1974 David Speed
- 1976 Dave Clatworthy
- 1980 Malcolm Watts;
- 1982 Simon Archer
- 1983 Paul Williams; Philip White; Harvey Snook
- 1985 Jason Vincent; David Rowswell
- 1986 Tim Marsh; Simon Larkins; Chris Southcott
- 1988 Sam Piper; Ashley Piper
- 1989 Kevin Liddle
- 1993 Tim Brake; Jon Perry
- 1995 Phil Bowen; John Harrod
- 1996 Ben Ham
- 2000 Sam Toulson
- 2005 Brian Delany
- 2009 Lachlan Verry