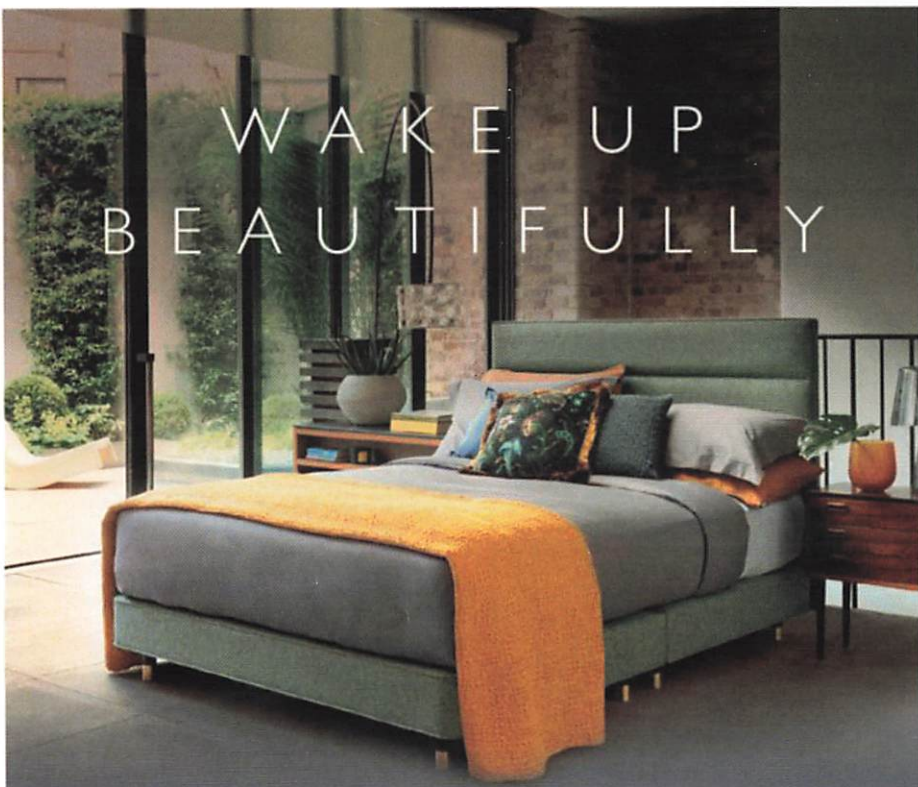


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Chairman's Report

By the time the 14th edition of The Spur goes to print winter might be moving towards spring.

At the time of writing these few lines autumn certainly holds sway. The colours of the autumn are something to behold even on a wet and dark November day. On a whimsical note I find that nature and the countryside put life into perspective. We as human beings are miniscule in the grand cycle of life as we know it: I digress.

I am happy to tell you that the Old Brymorsians' Association thrives. It was heartening to see "new faces" at events held throughout the last year. It is encouraging to meet younger old boys turning up now with families of their own. I still cannot explain what glues us Brymore boys together. Is it a shared experience, whether good or bad, or is it perhaps the "Esprit de Coeur" that Brymore life instils in us that lasts for ever? Other educational establishments with a far larger catchment of past pupils struggle to maintain contact, hold reunions and the like, so big is not always best! Perhaps it is down to the committee that I am proud to be part of? Who knows what the reason is, but I know it works, so we must be doing something right?

A very big thank you to all you Old Brymorsians for your continued support and friendship by generous donations, actions and kind words. On a different note I would appeal for more articles for the Spur from you. Yes, we do have our regular articles and contributors, but we do not want our magazine to become stale so do please try and help for the 2021 edition.

Let us look to another successful year of fund raising and our social gatherings and continue to be proud to be Old Brymorsians.

Peter G Harris



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Head Teachers Report

Much has happened at Brymore since the publication of the last Spur and I am pleased to say we have had a pretty successful year. The highlight was the opening of our new £600 000 farm building comprising of a purpose built classroom and milking parlour. Phil Vickery MBE, England rugby world cup winner and former captain, did the honours and gave a powerful speech about the importance of agriculture and how Brymore has had such a positive impact on his nephew. The building itself is the first phase of further re-developments including the building of an additional multi-purpose barn, pig housing and the resurfacing of the yard. There is also a planned re-stocking programme which means the overall investment into the land based provision at Brymore over the past three years amounts to over £750 000. This is a clear statement of the importance we place on agriculture and horticulture.

We also had another Ofsted inspection in March 2019 which resulted in the school being judged as good across all categories. The care standards inspection regime is tough and has caught out a number of state boarding schools, so I was delighted with the outcome. I think the comment below sums up how we have continued to develop our boarding provision and epitomises the ethos of the school.

'Staff have developed strong relationships with the boarders which are built on trust, honesty and respect. Boarders said that they really like the staff who care for them and confirmed that there is a large number of staff members who they could talk to about any worries or concerns. Boarders said that they love boarding'.

Finally, following the publication of the GCSE results in August 2019 we learned that we were the highest achieving school in Somerset which, in itself, is something to be proud of.

Head Teachers Report Cont.

More importantly, it shows that boys who come here have better life chances when they leave than they would have had if they attended any other school. Whilst this is clearly a result of excellent teaching in the classroom the Ofsted comment above also plays a big part. ALL staff here care about the boys and work exceptionally hard to give them the best possible experience both in and out of the classroom. Whilst it is only right that we focus on the achievement of the boys who out-performed all other students in Somerset, by definition I think it shows we must have the most effective staff in Somerset also. As the Head, I am proud of them all.

Mark Thomas

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From the Editor's Chair

A slightly different approach 'From the Editor's Chair' this year.

At the Annual Pym's Night dinner this year held at the Enmore Inn by host Mark Druit, I was presented by Rex Eastment, with a certificate of Life Membership of your association; I was so shocked and honoured that I was completely lost for words, which I suspect, members of the committee and the Head and Deputy Head Teachers of Brymore were all sure they would never experience.

Thank you all so much for this great honour.

School Remembrance November 2019

This year the procession of the Head Boy and his deputy and assistants were not only followed by representatives of the Old Boys but by two fathers of current boys who are Veterans. For the first time boys who are members of local cadet forces attended in their uniforms, Royal Naval Cadets, Royal Marines Cadets and Army Cadets, they looked splendid and it is hoped that this will become another tradition of the day.



Honorary Treasurer's Report

The Old Brymorians' Association has had another successful year and recruited even more members. It was particularly heartening to sign up more pupils at the Leaver's service at the end of May. They signed up to a 3-year membership for £30 whilst they continue with their full-time education or vocational studies.

Six pupils have been given financial help with their boarding fees this year amounting to £10,000. This amount is the most ever given in any one year and this has been made possible because of our increased membership and the generous donations from some of our current members.

Our Summer Draw raised £3015, and after expenses were taken into account, £2755 was added to the Association funds. A special mention must be given to Tim and Graham and their band of helpers on Open Day for their hard work in making our main fund-raising event so successful.

Two members of our committee, Ollie and Harry who are both past pupils at the Academy, are in contact with many leavers via Facebook. It would be so good to see some of these Facebook users become Association members. Please consider this as the more members we have then the more we can support the pupils and staff at the Academy, not only with financial help with the boarding fees but with special projects for the benefit of all.

Thank you for your continued support and for the words of encouragement given to me for all that I do for the Association. It makes the task worthwhile and I know that the Association will continue to flourish and grow with the dedication of all the committee members.

Jenny Harris

Over the Garden Wall

Once again I climb to my vantage point but it is so much easier this year as I clamber to the top of a pile of bricks in the North West corner of the garden. The reason is that on March 16th half of the North wall collapsed. This is the other half to that which fell down about 15 years ago. As a listed building the bricks had to be carefully collected, cleaned and piled up ready to reconstruct the wall. Bricks and capping stones which have disintegrated have to be replaced with similar materials and these have to be sourced before work can continue. So I sit, carefully, atop one of these brick piles and view the garden and consider the past year.

A gaggle of year 8 boys rush into the garden, with wheelbarrows and buckets in hand and accompanied by their HoD. It's duty time and these lads are picking up some of the windfall apples. They don't see me and I observe with some pleasure the way in which this particular HoD splits up his lads and gets them working, reminding them not to throw apples and so the work starts. I muse over the way in which these year 11 lads get such an opportunity to experience man management, responsibility and resourcefulness as they struggle to get the less affected young men to join in and take their share of the work to be done. Into the garden come three more lads, year 7's this time, armed to the teeth with almost every tool in the tool shed, it seems, as they head towards their newly allocated plots (what happened to the 'only two tools per person rule')? They quickly set to work, raking out the weeds and digging all over the place in their plot. I am tempted to intervene and give them some advice but that would blow my cover and I like to observe when I can. Up comes another HoD, this time with some less enthusiastic duty lads. Already he is having to encourage them to get the job done and they haven't started yet. The pea wires need to be cleared of pea haulm and then rolled up but trying to taste an apple is much more up their street. The HoD is firm and says they can but only once they have finished the task. How can three year 8's make such a big task of this? We end up with pea tops strewn all over the grassed area, wire very roughly wound up but not fully cleaned and sticks left around the place where ever they were dropped. I hope they clear up at the end. During duties this evening other lads are tidying up the potting shed, which now has roll up doors on the front to keep out dust in the summer and the wind and rain in the winter and still more are



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With my parents still in Stogursey I ran the Youth Club there for ten years. By now it was time to think about finishing my rugby career, so off I went to Lilleshall for a coaching award and then back to Bridgwater and Albion to be appointed Chief Coach for the next 5 years

It was then that I had a scan, only to be told that I had a heart condition which would require surgery. I went into hospital for a Quadruple Heart Bypass; this resulted in my retirement from teaching.

In my retirement I was involved with Somerset County Cricket Club, being on the committee, also Chairman of the Friends of Bridgwater & Albion Rugby Club, where I still do the announcements to this day!

My life goes onMy Thanks to Brymore for giving me the start to my Wonderful Life!

Robert (Bob) Payne 1956 - 1961



working on the greenhouse windows removing the shading material which was applied in the early summer. I think back to last autumn and the removal of the old soft fruit bushes and raspberry canes, then the digging over of the plot, the preparation of the soil and the replanting of the area. It took us a long time in garden duties to get the job done. We covered the surface in Mypex (a black woven material) to suppress the weeds and then we planted through it. We replanted rhubarb from the lower end of the demonstration plot, so that it will start growth earlier in the season and put in some new raspberry canes, which never really took root and so will need replacing again. That's the joy of gardening, you win some you lose some and there are always challenges to overcome.

There are still some empty plots this year and to help the lads, Mrs Stanley has started a Plots Club on Tuesday evenings, to encourage the plot holders and teach them how best to look after their little gardens. We have seen the worse take up and care of plots for many years and can only put that down to a lack of time, the school having now gone to a five day week. The breaks are shorter and there are fewer evenings available to the lads to come up onto their plots. Again, challenges to be overcome!

The light is dropping and the shadows lengthen over the garden and ahead of the boys I slip out unnoticed. I pop down to the sales area where lads are bringing the last few plants out of the polytunnel in preparation for us to repair the floor. This area looks very untidy at present but I think back to Open Day when the new pergola was festooned with hanging baskets and plants were neatly regimented where the old herb garden used to be. We had decided to revamp the whole area, allowing expansion of the sales area and the pergola allowed an improved watering system to be hung over the plants and enabled us to shade most of them too and so they were less affected by the heat of the summer. The construction of the pergola was aided by some very able year 10 lads and of course the site team were on hand to do some of the cutting. The solar powered water feature was designed and executed by two year 11s who came back to school, in the week leading up to Open day, just to help us in the department. We needed all hands on deck that week! On the morning of Open Day I was in the walled garden collecting produce to sell well before any visitors arrived but what a wonderful experience. The sun was shining, bees were buzzing, and there was bird song but no noise. I harvested quietly feeling SO privileged to be able to work in such an environment. It did my soul good and

for those of you who are still not convinced of the benefits of spending time in a garden, I recommend you find Gardeners World programme 29 which, explains the role gardens play in people's physical and mental wellbeing. I certainly know it was good that morning. Nearby the perennial bed has also been stripped out and will be left fallow for a year as we try to get on top of some pernicious weeds, another duty task!

Another area which is undergoing change are the beds outside the boarding houses. The wood surrounding them has been rotten for a while, to the point of becoming dangerous, as well as unsightly and so earlier in the summer one bed was removed and levelled but during the summer holidays the site team have worked hard to reinstate the walls, using sawn off sleepers This bed will now need to be refilled and then planted. We will use compost from the heap and again leave it unplanted for a while to enable us to manage the weeds.

As we walked around the school at the beginning of term. Mrs Stanley and I highlighted a programme of changes that will keep us going for at least the next five years and that is in addition to all the teaching we need to carry out. Gardens change and develop, shrubs and plants need to be pruned or removed, planting schemes need to be revamped and weeds kept under control. There is always so much to do and when the team is so small we have little slack to be able to implement some of the ideas we have. At least, with recent appointments we hope to have a full complement of TA and technician helpers (that is one full time TA and one technician for 11 hours per week!) which is not much when considering the area to be managed and the amount of boys who pass through the department each week.

"Yes but that's not fair, I did way more than he did" protested the year 8 pupil, "Well not from my perspective" said the HoD patiently, "How many times did I have to get you to come back and get on with the job?" "Yes, but..." "Oh how many times have I heard "Yes, but..." this year? The HoD was marking each of his group out of ten for their efforts. In the weekly meetings I have, as I train the HoDs, we talk about effort and fairness and how to give an accurate score and not to be swayed by personality. Hands washed and boots swilled and off they go. Mrs Stanley is left to clear up the inevitable mess and then she closes the roll down doors, this will help to keep the shed that little bit more secure from fiddling fingers!

She pops into her office between boxes of apple juice, once again being produced in lessons by the boys. One of the lads was labelling the bottles this evening during duties. She hands me the duty book so that I can enter the scores for the lads on a spreadsheet, which was designed by one of last year's year 11 lads and a year 10 then puts the scores on the computer for me. This will then generate certificates for those who average 9 or 10 out of 10 for the six weeks of half term. It's great to have all this

Stogursey to Brymore to University

My first School was at Stogursey in 1947. We lived in a small hamlet called Burton which was a mile away from Stogursey. My regular jaunt to school was either walking with my parents or on my own on a small scooter, one leg on the platform, the other leg pushing on the road!

It was a pleasant life, my Father was a builder and my Mother looked after the pigs and chickens on the smallholding.

Sadly at the age of seven I found a lump on my neck which turned out to be Tuberculosis. As a result of this I had two years off from my school. This meant I did not take the 11+ exam, but I did take the 13+ exam and as a result gained entry to Brymore.

This was one of the best early things that happened to me. When I arrived at Brymore Football had been my main game, but Brymore changed me to Rugby and cricket!

My Parents, together with Brymore suggested that I do an extra year to the normal 3, as that would be an advantage to me, but this was extended by a further year meaning that I actually spent 5 years at Brymore..... Has anyone else done 5 years?

After a brief spell at Hinkley Point I gained entry to Durham University to do a degree's in Mathematics and Physical Education.

Whilst at university I played rugby for the University 1st. Team and in 1969 was a member of the team who won the UAU British Championship, colours were gained and three of the team went on to gain International Honours. My thanks to Brymore for the introduction to Rugby!

After university I was employed as a teacher at Millfield School and my rugby played at Bridgwater and Albion.

My next teaching appointment was in Taunton and I moved to Taunton Rugby Club, it was there that the best thing to happen to me I met my wife Diana and a ready-made family, Nicholas and Sarah. We now have 4 lovely grandchildren!

Leone and Liberia (the worst bits!!!). After almost 6 years in Kenya we moved back to the UK and I took on full responsibility for Nigeria – where as well as sales and service, we opened a large truck assembly plant.

Its owners were the Military Government and we had lots of dealings with the Military brass at the highest levels (avoided being arrested but did get locked in during one of the military coups). Because of Nigeria's importance I was reporting directly to a Corporate VP and frequently visiting his office in the top floor of Ford World Headquarters (near Mr Ford's office) and that gave me executive dining, company plane travel, luxury cars, executive washrooms and the best Detroit hotels (ALL far above my pay grade – but that sort of thing can only happen in International).

When Nigeria's economy collapsed, I became involved in Turkey and was the first Ford resident within our partner "Otosan" - who built Ford Transit buses and Ford Trucks, plus the "Anadol" a local fiberglass bodied car. I lived in the Istanbul Hilton for a year and drove an Anadol (Great hotel – not so great car). We introduced the then new Cargo Truck and the Cortina/Taurus into Turkey and supported the Ford development and association – that today is an outstanding success

I then had a spell back in the UK as export parts and service manager before moving to Germany with "perestroika" starting to open up Eastern Europe and Russia. It was a wild ride and we appointed nearly 200 dealers in a little over 3 years (probably a company record but never tested!!). A highlight was working with one of Gorbachev's Prime Ministers on a special import program. We were provided with a Chika Limo – plus driver and armed guard to tour sites for workshops and that included a "secret" KGB workshop. At the end program was dropped when Yeltsin took over, but not before we were entertained in the "white house" the official government entertainment facility.

Finally, I returned to the UK and again was back in Africa appointing new dealers. A much more low key program and one that was moving to South Africa anyway. That led to my retirement by 2000.

One highlight before my retirement was a return to Turkey to initiate, design and help implement a new 30,000 Sq.M parts and service facility near Istanbul. Strangely, that had never been done in our area as a single standalone project and it gave me many sleepless nights and much chewing the end of a pencil. With much assistance from Europe and Turkey it came out right in the end.

Before moving to Suffolk, I worked for 5 years at an IT company that provided service and parts data to Ford and other motor companies. It was a good step between full on and full retirement.

Paul Taylor

willing help. Mrs Stanley also informs me how well Cannington did in the Britain in Bloom contest again this year, winning the Best Large Village in the South West and getting a silver/gilt award. Brymore, once again, grew all the plants and planted up all the barrier baskets placed through the village in the summer, two local pupils came in during the summer holidays to show the Judges around, and also this year we are covering the winter displays too.

I return to the walled garden to close the gate and find the year 7s still hard at it, I chivvy them up to go down with tools and weeds. The wild flower area has been a great success this year and has been buzzing (quite literally) with insect life. Maybe some will take up residence over the winter in the bug hotel and the bug boxes we have made and put into that area. Catching up with the year 7s we talk about their plot and I am reminded of the bags filled with produce and taken home before the summer holidays and some since we came back in September.

I think back over the trips to the local garden centre, Knightshayes Court walled garden, Westhay Moor peat regeneration area and also the Bath and West showground, where we spent an enjoyable day showing primary school children (600+) how to sow seeds. There was also the annual trip to the Toby Buckland Horticultural show at Powderham Castle where the lads were helping around the site and ferrying plants and other purchase back to the visitor's car park, which was quite a distance away.

I gaze, with measured pride, over the sea of potted plants, many of which would not look out of place in any commercial garden centre because of their quality and we have quantity and variety too, all produced by young men who are still learning how to grow plants, not seasoned gardeners.

On Harvest Festival Day, the display at the front of the church is resplendent with such plants and produce from the garden and during the Cross Country a small team of boys sell plants, produce and juice completely unaided by myself but then that is the true essence of this wonderful school. Boys are doing tasks which other schools are unable to offer and they rise to the challenge. These lads set up the stall, sold the produce and cleared away again, amazing.

"Have a good holiday, sir" They chorus as they head off, although one of them returns to the church after the afternoon service and helps me clear up and return it to its usual status. Yes, I intend to have a good holiday, but my mind is never far from planning the next lesson or activity in the department.

Reuben Willcocks – Head of Horticulture

Old Boys Attending Open day 2019

Allen	Chubb	1952-1955	Peter	Harris	1959-1963
John	Fry	1952-1955	Nick	Hodgess	1959-1963
Rob	James	1952-1955	Keith	Baker	1960-1963
John	Manning	1952-1955	Tom	Coleman	1961-1963
Fred	Pocock	1952-1955	Philip	Coombs	1961-1964
Paul	Taylor	1952-1955	Steve	Stoodley	1961-1964
Eldred	Tucker	1952-1955	Philip	Bond	1961-1965
Peter	Wood	1952-1955	Martin	Tapp	1962-1966
Michael	Fry	1953-1956	Frank	Yeo	1962-1966
Richard	Pearse	1953-1956	Stuart	Raison	1963-1965
David	Vickers	1953-1956	Peter	Hogan	1964-1967
Robin	Irvine	1954-1956	Christian	Lazenbury	1964-1967
Julian	Sheppard	1954-1956	David	Vigar	1964-1967
Roger	Hanham	1954-1957	Philip	Tipney	1964-1968
Henry	Williams	1954-1957	Mike	Fackrell	1965-1969
David	Young	1954-1958	Rob	Fowler	1966-1970
Mike	Chedgy	1955-1958	Keith	Larder	1967-1970
Roy	Masson	1955-1958	William	Bowen	1968-1973
John	Mogeridge	1955-1958	Mervyn	Brice	1969-1973
Mike	Sealey	1955-1958	Nick	Coombes	1970-1973
Martin	Ellis	1956-1959	Patrick	Collins	1970-1974
Mike	Perry	1956-1959	David	Norton	1970-1975
Rex	Steer	1957-1960	John	Riddle	1971-1975
Bernard	Saunders	1957-1960	Kevin	Barwick	1972-1975
Mike	Yeandle	1957-1960	Paul	Webber	1973-1975
Gareth	Wilcox	1957-1961	Kelton	Black	1973-1976
Martin	Cox	1958-1961	Graham	Summerhayes	1973-1976
Francis	Hunt	1958-1961	Tim	Hurley	1973-1977
Rex	Eastment	1958-1962	Bill	Slade	1973-1977
David	Perrett	1958-1962	Dave	Speed	1975-1979
Bob	Brice	1959-1962	Andy	Stevens	1975-1979
Leslie	Sprake	1959-1962	David	Pierce	1976-1979
Geoff	Webb	1959-1962	Martin	Watts	1980-1983

LIFE AFTER BRYMORE Paul Taylor 1952-55

Despite the title, I should start before Brymore as I had rather mixed schooling - for example Kings College Taunton one year and a Secondary School in Northampton next. My years at Brymore were what I needed – stability, a progressive curriculum and the school’s ethos of work and diligence.

Although I did not end Brymore with strong exam results, I was accepted into Ford’s Scholarship Scheme - which was then the top entry to Ford as a student and only took about 30 boys per year. This was all credit to Brymore (and not me), as the Manager of the scheme (Mr Tom Shaw) came to the school and in particular - talked to the staff. My lasting memory was his posh Zodiac with real gold plated lettering – if he could have that I wanted part of the action!!

The Ford Scheme concentrated on automotive training combined with engineering qualifications on block release. Ford also paid us during training and that was a great relief to my parents’ budget.

After that I was in “temporary” jobs as I was on National Service deferment and it was about to end (but that took time). So I spent time learning advanced machine shop practice, then working in manufacturing inspection and carrying that to the new truck plant at Langley (where the buildings still had bits of Hawker Sidley planes). All these jobs were hourly paid (paid well with overtime!!!!) and gave me great background experience for later in life (not appreciated then). Looking back everything has its place and all experience is valuable at some point in the future.

I then managed to get into Ford Tractors and the staff job that was my objective. After some time working at a desk I was offered a Field Service Representative and came back to the West Country and lived for 5 years in Taunton – covering territory from London to Lands End (I had Royal farms at one end and the Duchy farms at the other). This was a dream job for me - as I was combining my interests in agriculture, engineering, tractors!!! And the dealers.

In 1969 we had a personal loss and wanted to move from Taunton (and expected another UK job) so was greatly surprised to be called to the “big office” in Brentwood and asked if I wanted to move to Nairobi (easy today – but in those day’s where was Nairobi!!!!). Anyway, after halting the interview and calling Margaret, we agreed to give it a go and never looked back. That was the start of the rest of my 43 years with Ford and I remained with Export/International to the end.

From Nairobi Office we were responsible for East Africa, the islands of Seychelles, Mauritius, Reunion and Madagascar (the best bits!!!) and Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra

Looking Back to Brunel 200 by Helen Hillard, Project Manager

In 2006, the boys of Brymore cast plaques to Brunel's designs to place by his original trees in the grounds of Brunel Manor in Watcombe, Devon.



The boys were presented with a Monkey Puzzle tree to take back to school, but unfortunately it didn't survive. (I checked with Mr Wilcocks (Ed)).

Do you recognise yourself or one of the other boys from the group that produced the plaques?

Richard	Whewell	1981-1984	Lee	Millard	1994-1997
Richard	Trett	1982-1983	M	Saunders	1994-1998
Russell	Biggs	1983-1986	Max	Kallner	1997-2000
Dave	Chamberlain	1983-1986	Andy	Popham	1997-2000
Mark	Brookes	1985-1988	Benjamin	Cains	1999-2001
Andy	O'Brien	1985-1988	Philip	Lockyer	2002-2006
Andy	Bult	1986-1989	Chris	Ballard	2004-2007
Daniel	Maddocks	1986-1990	Oliver	Mahon	2008-2012
Russell	Coombes	1987-1990	Russell	Windows	2008-2012
Edward	Darch	1987-1990	Harry	Orr	2010-2015
Geoff	Harding	1987-2001	Charlie	Coleman	2011-2014
Lee	Ford	1988-1991	Henry	Mattocks	2011-2014
Andrew	Higgs	1989-1992	Chris	Birchall-Mann	2013-2016
Tim	Pierce	1992-2002	Callum	Harris	2013-2016
Mike	Bailey	1994-1997	Joe	Parkman	2013-2016

EPILOGUE

The School. The land, where is the link
 Twixt one and t'other. It is found
 Within the rigid form of books and pens and ink
 Or in the fields, the rough unfurrowed ground.
 The workshop bench, the use of scythes and hooks,
 The Scientific symbol, the field of sport and play.
 The form supreme of pig or cows, the books
 On the library shelves, the murmurs when we pray?
 Not one of these can stand alone and cry
 "Through me are these two fused, through me the answer found
 To that great question." No, the link doth lie
 Within the minds of those whose hearts abound
 With love of soil and learning, body and mind,
 Wrestling life from earth, God's gift to all mankind.

Written by a teacher – Mr H. Burnell-Jones as an Epilogue that typifies what
 Brymore is both in beginning, present and hopefully the future

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Head Boy – Jack Rigby

I'm very proud to be Head Boy at Brymore and we have a new student leadership team with my Deputy Will Kent and my three Assistant Head Boys: Ethan Carr, William Holter-Hovind and Louie Liddle. They have made a huge difference to Brymore whether that's helping out with duties or helping the younger boys; they are a great asset the school.

In my opinion this Brymore year has been a huge success whether that's in our academic subjects or our showing or even our boarding. We had a great set of GCSE results making us top in Somerset for progress and our Good boarding rating from Ofsted was great news for everyone.

Here at Brymore our boys try their best every day. Many visitors, employers and parents often comment that you can recognise a Brymore boy. Certainly I observed this during our open mornings for the new intake of boys for next year. We take pride in working with and developing the person as a whole by encouraging our own three 'R's - Responsibility, Resourcefulness and Resilience. I take huge pride in my school and all our boys try their hardest in everything they do. This is a brilliant school and I am proud to be a Brymore boy and even prouder to be Head Boy

Three vintage tractors even travelled down from Buckingham – the “Three Mad Birds and their tractors” – their 140-mile journey attracting sponsorship which they shared between us and their local cancer charity. At 14 mph their journey down took a mind and bum-numbing 12 hours!!!

Several of Ben's friends from Brymore came with their families for the whole weekend – and it was good to see Chris Adamson again. The pink baseball hats which have raised so much money and been seen at all the agricultural shows and at the school Country Fair in June were everywhere.

We had a weekend of fun and entertainment (all the helpers in fluorescent pink Hi-Viz vests!) with live music from local bands – we started on Friday night and finished on Sunday afternoon. The Valtra Mini-dragons provided tractor sledging competitions and there was a static lorry display including a particularly stunning American truck. There was a foam slide down the field for the young at heart, food, drink and ice cream wagons and a live auction.

The 40-mile run set off from our farm at Throop and was led by Jane's pink tractor. The route – much of it off road - took in some of the most scenic views of the Purbecks via Bovington, Wool and Kimmeridge along the hilltops of Corfe Castle to Stoborough and back home.



Purbeck Coast Tractor Run - August 3rd 2019

Phil and Ben Trim raising money for the Dorset Cancer Centre in memory of Jane.

Ben was one of the boys in the first year group to start Brymore in year 7 and the whole family have acknowledged the tremendous support everyone at Brymore, pupils and staff, have given to the whole family during the past 3 years. Sadly Ben's Mum Jane passed away at the end of 2018, but Phil has sent us this report of the amazing fundraising event held in her name this summer.

"Seeing first-hand how much support the NHS gave to Jane, myself and Ben, throughout her illness, we wanted to give something back to the people that cared for her and supported us so much as a family. Ben said to his Mum that he wanted to do a charity tractor run on her birthday and raise money for the Sandbanks ward. So, the idea of the Purbeck Tractor run was born!

On the weekend of the 3rd August, on what would have been Jane's birthday the Purbeck Tractor run took place. We had a lot of support from businesses and people pledging sponsorship and donations and offers of help to make the event happen.

The event was a great success. There was a super attendance given that it was harvest time with some 139+ tractors of all ages, makes and models on the run. Five of the tractors had large passenger trailers loaned to us from Kingston Mauward College.



First to represent Brymore School at the All England Athletics Championships 1960/61

I was fortunate enough to be selected to represent Brymore School at the Bridgwater area athletics championships in 1960 and then to represent Somerset in the South West Area Championships which were held at Sherborne Grammar School. The 100 yards final was speeded up as we were followed by a swarm of bees, needless to say we all dived to the ground after we crossed the finishing line. Following a win in the 100 yards, 4 x 100 yards and long jump I went on to represent Somerset in the All England Schools Athletics Championships that were held in Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

I was the first boy to represent Brymore at these championships so it was a great honour and privilege for me to represent the school.

Mr Adcock, the Head, called me out to the front of assembly and praised me for my achievement as the first Brymore boy to be selected to represent Somerset and wished me well. He stated that it was good that I would be showing off the Brymore uniform to the 'whole' of England, little did he know that in fact I didn't wear my school uniform but wore a check sports jacket, beige cavalry twill trousers, cream shirt, red tie and brown shoes!!

I had a fabulous time being billeted with a very nice couple who lived in an expensive area of Chesterfield. Mr Hall was the owner of a Sheffield Stainless Steel works in Sheffield producing very fine cutlery. I was treated to a great night out on the Saturday night at Mr Halls Working men's club. I remember he gave me 10 shillings to play the fruit machines, and then listened to a very good singing group before heading back in the early hours to Chesterfield.

The athletics track was not an oval but a round, black cinder track with the 100 yards on grass down through the middle of the track. I managed to get through the first two rounds of heats but got knocked out in the third round of the 100 yards in a time of 10.3 seconds. Whereas the 'Somerset quartet', which included me, did somewhat better as we got through to the semi-finals in the intermediate boys 4 x 100 yards. I didn't do any better in the long jump, I didn't manage to produce anywhere near my best jump!

Nevertheless it was a great experience and honour to represent both Brymore and Somerset.

I can remember being dropped back at the end of the drive by a boy's Father who I had teamed up with from Dr Morgan's School in Bridgwater. I had asked him

not to drop me off in the quad as I was still wearing my 'non' school uniform!! I entered the main building through the main entrance and crept up the front stairs, (which we were not supposed to use!), to dormitory 3, where I shared the responsibility of looking after 18 first year boys with Gary Denly. Gary said straight away "how did you get on Rexie?" to which I answered "I'll tell you in a moment or two once I have got these clothes off!"

I went down to the wash room and passed the Head's room, from where he emerged to greet me and stated that he would sign my exeat form!

Wow!! I got away with that one!! Once back in the dormitory I promptly told Gary of my experiences in the North Midlands.

The following year, 1961, after some hard training, we used to get up at 5.30 am on a Sunday morning, put on our tracksuits, hobnailed boots and weighted knapsacks and run to Spaxton and back before breakfast! I was again selected from Bridgwater area sports to represent Somerset in the South West Area Championships which was held on a brand new track at Devonport Services Sports ground. The oval track had just been completed and the surface was almost like concrete! I managed to bend a 'spike' on my running shoes as the surface was so hard.

I went on to represent Somerset and Brymore at my second All England Championships in Kingston upon Hull where I was accompanied by fellow Brymore boy Philip Pearce. The Athletics track at Hull was much newer and oval. I managed to get through to the third round of the 100 yards, but was beaten by a Millfield lad that prevented me from getting any further. However I teamed up with him and we again got through the semi-finals of the 4 x 100 yards. No prizes or cups, but a truly memorable experience and one that I will never forget. As far as I know I still hold the long jump record (in feet and inches) 21' 9.3/4". I think Berry Cross still holds the 100 yards record (he was older than me!) of 10.1 seconds, whereas my best was 10.2 seconds

In my final year at Brymore I was fortunate to be selected to attend an Athletics Course at my old school, Ralph Allen near Bath with the English elite athletes Mary Rand nee Bignal (1964 Olympic Long Jump Champion), Davy Jones – 100 yards champion and Coaches Ron Pickering and Geoff Dyson, to name but a few! Unfortunately my career prevented me from continuing to a higher level in athletics, which I often look back and regret, but Brymore gave me that opportunity in the first place, I will always be grateful to Colin Munro my athletics coach at Brymore.

Rex Eastment 1958 - 1962

The Long-Lasting Impact of a Brymore Education

In our household the 'Brymore effect' is still felt with fondness some twenty years on. As the wife of an Old Brymorian (Nick Carr, 1995-97), I have heard frequent stories recounting the valuable experiences offered by Brymore, both in and out of the classroom, albeit only for a couple of years. That my husband chose to follow a career leading on from his time in the metal and wood working workshops at the School is both testament to the education Brymore provides, but also the affectionate memories he holds of those who taught and looked after him.

I have worked in education for many years, specialising in Land Based vocational training, and know only too well the value of a mixed curriculum and the delivery of 'employability skills' while pupils are in their teenage years. Much like the school I work in as Director of Land Based Studies, Brymore delivers just that – a healthy mix of a traditional GCSE curriculum alongside a vastly important set of life skills. The farm, gardens and workshops at Brymore are an invaluable resource and, as I have become acutely aware, can help set the scene for future careers and businesses.

My husband has run a successful agricultural engineering and steel erecting business in North Dorset for the past 20 years. After leaving Brymore he continued his education with an agricultural engineering apprenticeship and then set up his own business welding and fabricating. Many of the skills he has fostered began at Brymore. Stories are often recounted of GCSE metalwork projects and farm duties, as well as impeccably laid out vegetable plots! Our sons, age nine and three, are already showing an interest in practical hands-on skills and there are many an occasion when Nick will tell a story from his school days that directly links with a job or task we are completing at home – from the vegetable plot through to the construction of new livestock housing. Our eldest son has his own herd of pedigree British Saddleback pigs, with a successful breeding, showing and pork sales mini-business blossoming, all supported by his dad who was inspired by the farm livestock when at Brymore. We enjoyed seeing the Brymore 'show team' out and about over the summer and look forward to seeing them when we ourselves are showing this year.

In recent years we have managed a couple of visits to the annual Brymore Open Day, most recently with both our boys who found it all very exciting. Nick enjoyed showing his boys the boarding houses, vegetable plots and recollecting the horrors of the Chads Hill run! Many of Nick's family and friends also attended Brymore and, as we all reach the age where our own children are old enough to be Brymore pupils, I anticipate many more will follow.

Elisabeth Carr

Beginnings – The Spur

The original “SPUR” magazine was produced by the ‘school’ and contained articles from all aspects of ‘school’ life i.e. from reports from the various farm departments, sports (in those days namely cricket and rugby) various after school clubs and records of various visits and trips that the boys and staff had made during the year.

There was always a section on ‘News of old Boys’ and ‘Salvete’ – “Greetings” (names of boys who had started in the September of that year) and ‘Valeté’ – “Good-bye” (to those boys who had left the previous July)

Together with many other articles that were written by staff and supporters of Brymore.

One such article – “The Progress of Brymore’s Farm.

It is very surprising, yet true that in four years, after starting from scratch with two billy goats and small gilt, we have now got such a flourishing and prosperous farm as we have. The different sorts of animals that are split into department as illustrated on previous pages, and to each department or club is put a head and a second head, who are in charge and responsible for its departmental health and well-being.

Each year new heads of departments are put forward by the current heads and then passed by Mr. Edwards. (Then Head of Agriculture) It is a great event when the new heads are elected and I am sure a happy one for those “second years” who are successful.

The arable side of our farm consists of only five acres, but can I assure you a very well managed five acres! We follow a Norfolk four course rotation which runs as follows: Wheat, Roots, Dredge Corn under sown and a one year ley. All this ground has been reclaimed by the boys of Brymore, and in places we still see the “first years” doing their share of “stone picking.” There are also thirty-three acres of grass and woodland, of which five acres is very kindly lent to us. On reaching this point of success we must not be content, but keep the traces tight and our heads to the front and still better our hard-earned thirty-eight prosperous acre farm. It certainly goes to show that “where there’s a will, there’s a way” It has been proved!

Provided by
Rex Eastment
Secretary OBA

Rugby World Cup Winner Opens New School Farm Building

On a cold but thankfully dry day, Rugby World Cup winner Phil Vickery officially opened Brymore’s brand new £600.000 farm building, Phil spoke with passion about his background in farming and how the relentlessness of it helped form his career as a professional sportsman.

The former England star and winner of Celebrity Master Chef, was shown around the school by boys and spoke to staff and guests before unveiling a plaque.

Mr Vickery's nephew, Ethan, attends Brymore, and the rugby star said he had seen how the school had given him a sense of belonging and purpose during his education

Phil spoke of his ties to the farming community, having grown up on a dairy farm and remaining a qualified cattle inseminator, and how he still feels close to his roots. Even mentioning how the schools’ 1 acre walled garden bought back happy memories of his grandfather’s own garden from his youth – a nod to the holistic approach to land based that Brymore teaches.

"I think it is fantastic that the boys here have access to a facility like this - not everyone thrives in a purely academic background so it is important we give our young people a variety of opportunities," Phil said.



Phil Vickery, nephew Ethan Lane and Head Teacher Mark Thomas

The New Farm Building

January saw the official opening of the new milking parlour and bespoke teaching space at Brymore. Probably the only capital investment project in the country to open a dairy facility in a school, the Trust submitted a successful bid for £600,000 in 2018 to develop a new facility to replace the old and life expired milking unit at Brymore. This forms the first part of a series of planned developments into the farm at Brymore. In the coming months we expect to see a re-stocking of the animals as the herd transitions into a Dairy Shorthorn herd. We also expect to build a new facility for our pigs, chickens and introduce state of the art technology allowing the Boys at the school to track the well - being of the animals using an app on their phones.



The New Building which incorporates a modern milking parlour and classroom



Year 11 Rugby Lift the Cup

Boys from Brymore were all smiles as they lifted the Year 11 Sedgemoor Area Rugby Cup.

This rugby team have now won the area cup for three years in a row and it was a delight to them all that they have done the unimaginable and lifted it during their final year at Brymore.

The final, against Haygrove, was played at North Petherton Rugby Club and in great spirit both teams performed with their hearts on their sleeves but with Brymore coming out as the victors with a 24-10 win.

With tries from Jamie Veale (2), Louie Liddle and Ben Rexworthy keeping the crowd entertained along with two conversions by Ethan Carr it was a relief for the boys when the final whistle blew and they were crowned champions.

Head Teacher Mark Thomas, says 'I have never been so proud of how these boys conducted themselves on the pitch. It is great for the school and them to win but their attitude towards the referee and the whole manner in which they went about the game said everything about what great boys they are and how resilient'.



The winning year 11 squad with Coach, Lloyd Williams, Head Boy 1995



The calf of the 100% Dairy Shorthorn, Ruby

Farm Report

What a busy year! Myself and the farm team are now very pleased to see the farm gradually returning to 'normal' with the exception of a brand new parlour and handling system. We have been milking in the new building for just over a month and already we are seeing a vast improvement in the herd as well as it being a fantastic teaching facility for both boys on duty and in agricultural lessons.

We have had a number of cows calve in the last month, including two of our Rare Breed Trust 100% Dairy Shorthorns Ruby and Pansy, who have both produced 100% heifer calves. This is a great result in preserving the breed and we are very fortunate to be adding to the population of 100% cows.

With the herd now settled into their brand new milking parlour we made the decision to invest in a herd monitoring system called Smaxtec. This comes in the form of a bolus that's given to our dairy cows and allows us to see information such as temperature, heats, calving and enables us to keep electronic records. The real selling factor for this technology was that the boys are now able to download the App that allows them 'read-only' access to the cows' data. They are able to monitor the dairy herd and check for any updates so they have 24-hour access to happenings on the farm.

Farm improvements continue to unfold and our next venture is designing a multi-purpose livestock shed. The dairy herd are beginning a transition to block calving and when fully underway, we expect to have all our calves being born within a 2-month window. The purpose built shed will enable us to make the very best of young stock rearing in batches and further facilitate the boys learning. After calving we aim to use the shed for lambing and generally relieve the pressures over space during the winter.

As well as improving on all things dairy, our handling system has also allowed us to run practical lessons with our flock of sheep and our beef cattle with great ease. The boys have been involved with many routine procedures for this time of year. These include scanning the breeding ewes and Heptivacing them before lambing. We are pleased with a scanning percentage of 160% and look forward to a busy lambing.

Last year's lambs have all sold well at Sedgemoor Market and we have kept six replacement ewe lambs. This brings the flock total to just over 80 as we purchased 12 North Country Mules and two new rams last summer.

Our two Beef Shorthorn cows are in calf and we have been selling our beef cross stores over the winter in batches. The boys have been monitoring their daily live weight gain and we've seen a great return from sales.

All stock is now housed and we are hoping for some dryer weather to allow the grass to grow ready for turn out come spring. We re-seeded a grass field at Ashford in late summer last year and the ewes have already had a quick bite on that before they came in. With the significant amount of rain over the winter, our other fields have been left to recover and field work will resume after lambing. This has been a great opportunity for the boys to clean and service the machinery as well as get some tractor driving practice in!

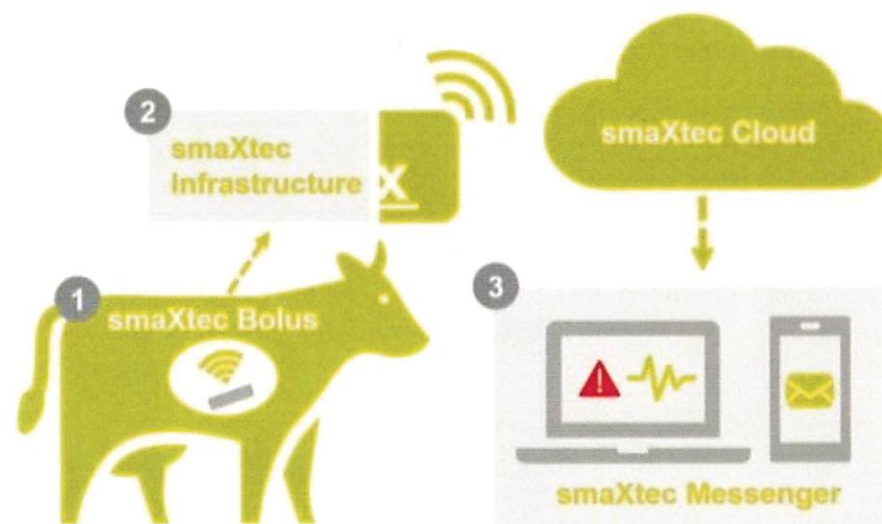
Looking forward, the team are gradually returning stock numbers to where they were before the farm development started. We are in the process of purchasing two new breeding sows as well as re stocking our chickens to ensure the boys are receiving a varied experience of farming.

We are extremely grateful for everyone's patience and support, particularly through this winter, and we look forward to sharing more exciting news with you over the next few months.

Meg Lawrence – Assistant Farm Manager



Kerry Marks – Head of Agriculture, Beth Parker – Agri TA, Phil Vickery – Guest of Honour, Meg Lawrence – Assistant Farm Manager, Paul Kingston – Farm Manager



The Smaxtec App