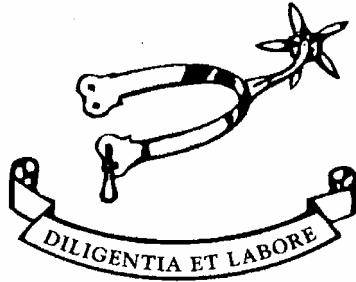


# BRYMORE SCHOOL



Old Brymoriens Association

SPUR NEWSLETTER

No. 3

# Old Boys Association

## Introduction from your Chairman

For those who attended the OBA AGM thank you for your comments – they have been minuted. At the AGM our then Chairman, John Manning, suggested that the committee should remain as it is, the floor agreed. Since then John has asked to be relieved of the post of Chairman but to remain on the committee. It is with regret that we have agreed to his request. We are all very grateful to John for his drive and enthusiasm in getting the OBA to where it is now. I look forward to his continued help and assistance as a committee member. As from 5<sup>th</sup> July your committee have asked me to act as Chairman. With the help of our very active committee I intend to move the OBA toward the targets set by John.



The aim of the OBA has now been achieved – we offered the school a bursary. This has been achieved at an earlier date than expected due to the exceptional work done by Rex Steer in organising and running the OBA Summer draw. Thank you Rex and family. We continue our search for Old Boys who wish

to join the association. Our current membership has risen to 151 paid up members following our promotional work at various agricultural shows. We would appreciate any help you can give in finding interested Old Boys. Please pass their names to the school or any of the OBA committee.

Rex Eastment, our scribe, continues to keep a full and accurate record of our deliberations and is working toward creating our own OBA web site and database of members and potential members with the help of another old boy, John Riddle, who now teaches IT in London.

Thanks also goes to Peter Woods and our newest committee member John Field for their invaluable advice.

*Ian Pay 1955/59*

## Greetings sent from the Old Brymorians Association to The Veterans of The 535.

Brymore School of Agriculture as it was known started in 1952, at which time the first pupils were well aware that US servicemen had been based in the house and grounds, at various times, they found tank mines. Luckily, the only explosions were when the Bomb Squad blew them up. We were too young to understand the significance of your short stay at Brymore House.

The oldest Brymore School old boy is now 67 years old. Many of the early pupils, like myself, have fond memories of their time at Brymore and wish to put something back into the school that gave them so much. With this in mind we have re-started the OBA, to bring like-minded Old Boys together.

18 months ago we formed a committee of interested Old Boys and elected a founding old boy, John Manning, as our first Chairman. The intension is to provide a number of Bursaries for pupils to study at the school. We achieved the first bursary this year. In addition we are trying to locate Old Boys throughout the UK and the World.

The subject of who was in Brymore House before the school opened was investigated and we soon discovered a limited amount of information about The 535, and with the help of Mr Child and Mr Edney in Cannington village we have found you.

Although you only had a short stay at Brymore House we all agreed you are the original 21<sup>st</sup> century Old Brymorians.

We, the committee of the Old Brymorians Association ask you to accept Honorary Membership of our Association in recognition of your time spent at Brymore House and your actions in WW2.

Ian L Pay, Chairman,  
Old Brymorians Association.  
6<sup>th</sup> July, 2006



## Open Day 2006

A great day for both the School and the Old Boys. A magnificent display of Yesteryear in the field and an excellent pictorial display of the old Boys and School activities in the Common Room – sorry, Quiet Room.



**The treeless drive**

Old Boys came back to the School, many as Members attending the first OBA Annual General Meeting for twenty years. A superb supper was enjoyed in the evening in the marquee.

The Old Boys are indebted to the Headmaster, Malcolm Lloyd, and Gina Bryant and all other school staff for their help in making the day so successful for

our Association.

Your Committee looks forward to seeing you at the Open Day on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2007.

*John Manning.*



**Are you in this picture?**

## Does anyone remember?

Getting the promised cream tea in Bridgwater for having the largest pile of stones in the Sewage Farm Field at the end of the month?

When the Allen Scythe majestically disappeared into the top pond under its own 'steam', was rescued by boy divers and stripped down and put back together by the late Geoff Tucker and others?

When rounds of 303 ammunition were found in one of Jack Shipp's sheds? They were dismantled and the cordite removed and set on fire?

Tony Edwards saying how bees were really very friendly and didn't attack unless provoked, and how you should remain calm if one pitched on you and his reaction when he got one down his trousers?

When Roland (Taffy) Taylor was teaching us how to calculate the weight of a steer by butcher's weight whilst standing in a deep litter pen with four Devons? Everything went well until one stood on him.

## The Big Bang!

It was during the time when the school swamps were being turned once again into ponds with the appearance of a large digger, supported on railway sleepers, which lurched from one dangerous angle to another whilst removing the silt which had built up over decades. The air was perfumed with spearmint and other smells derived from the mud or aquatic plants. Eventually it was time to climb down into the hole to dig out the last residue of mud and use it to plaster the sides of the pond and ourselves into the bargain.



It was during this activity that two rusting squat cylinders were exposed, identical in size and shape; they had a diameter of some eight inches. During a period of rest it was decided to use these objects as 'bowls' and roll the first as the marker and then try and hit it by rolling the other. Sounds of enjoyment were heard by Reg Adcock who was strolling down by the old tennis course.

"What have you boys got there?" he asked.

"Found them in the pond sir" we replied.

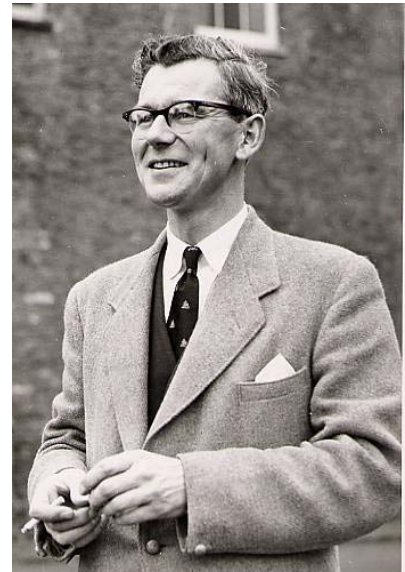
Reg advanced onto our impromptu bowling green and immediately ordered us to clear the area and bring him a blackboard and chalk. This done Reg wrote on the board 'Unexploded Bomb' and declared what we have come to know as an exclusion zone which was then taped off and '**Keep Away**' added to the message on the board.



Reg had served in North Africa during the war and was therefore able to identify our new 'toys' as anti-tank mines. By their existence they were unexploded even we could see that!

The Army were called and the Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal Squad arrived with pennant flying and complete with officer and men and coils of cables and boxes. After careful inspection, the devices were moved to the top field and placed behind a very large stump. Of course we were not allowed to watch the proceedings and were unwillingly herded into our technical drawing lesson in a classroom which is the present day headmaster's office. We had hardly laid a line on the paper when there was what we now call a controlled explosion, a loud bang followed by a shower of debris, mainly small stones and earth, which travelled as far as the main building. Needless to say we were very impressed but never dwelt on what the consequences of our actions might have been; but then, like now, we all thought we were indestructible.

*David Young*



**Unforgettable Reg Adcock**

## **MEMORIES OF BRYMORE**

I arrived at Brymore early in September 1956. There were about 30 – 35 of us and for most of us it was the first time away from home. After a week or so we had settled into our new way of life and had made new friends.

Brymore's livestock consisted of 4 milking goats, a flock of fifteen breeding ewes, 3 sows (whose litters were fattened and sold to the old Highbridge Bacon Co.), chickens and rabbits. The farm buildings were old and in 1957 – 1958 the school had 6 milking cows, store cattle and new farm buildings, a far cry from the old buildings.

After school activities consisted of general farm duties, stone picking – yes in those days there were a lot of stones to be picked up (a relic from the U.S. Army during the 1939-45 war) and other various jobs in the walled garden.

The ponds were dug out and cleaned using only the pupils' labour, and on occasions hand grenades and landmines were found as you can see from the previous article.

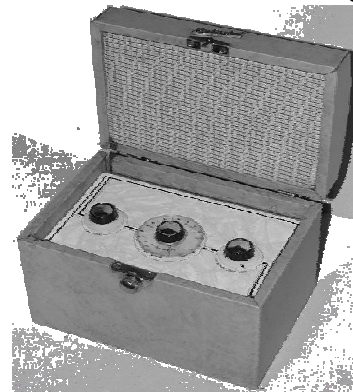
During my last term eight of us were asked by the Headmaster to dig out a swimming pool with the promise of a meal in Bridgwater if the project was completed before the end of term. We completed the small pool with a month to spare – had our complimentary meal and then began clearing the cellar which is now the large pool.

Life was lived to the full and good friends were made. On our last day of term Mr Wilkinson (Music Master) gave us a talk on preparing for the outside world ending with this advice ‘always play the game’ – sound advice which I have always remembered. Thank you Brymore for many happy memories.

*John Field 1956 – 59*

## **Who’s a naughty boy then?**

I was sick but as there was no room in sick bay I had to stay in my dormitory, Dormitory 1. After being in bed for a day and on my own, apart from the occasional visit from the nursing staff, I decided that I needed something to while away the hours. I managed to get a message through to Roger Fisher to ask him if it would be possible to borrow his radio. He came to see me and brought his radio with him, expressing the wish that I took very great care of it and only use when allowed to, this I agreed, readily. The radio was an Ever Ready Sky Queen, it was housed in a square box and was switched on and off by opening and closing the lid. Needless to say, I was kept amused by the radio and the hours seemed to pass by much more quickly listening to it.



However, that evening problems were lurking, as my fellow dormitory occupants came up to prepare for bed, comments were passed on my use of the radio and my ‘life of luxury’ whilst ill.

I put the radio away in my bedside box, being a ‘good boy’. Everyone settled down and the Head Boy put the lights out. A few minutes later the boy in the next bed to me asked me to put on radio Luxemburg. I said that if he wanted it he had to put it on himself, which he did, very loudly. The next thing I could hear was the Duty Master coming up the back stairs four at a time. The door opened, the lights came on illuminating two boys pillow fighting. “Right” he said “I will see you two in the Staff Room before breakfast for detentions”. Turning he looked directly at me and said “Where is that music coming from? Is that your radio? I thought you were supposed to be sick!” Although the lid of the radio had been hurriedly closed

the music had continued. "I'll see you in the Staff Room with the other two before breakfast".

In the morning he gave the pillow fighters' one unit of detention each and I received two units for supplying the music. However, it didn't end there, the Headmaster summoned me to his office and pointing at the detention book he asked "What does this mean?" I told him the truth but despite that all radios and tape recorders were confiscated until the end of the term. My name was 'mud' throughout the school and more especially with Roger.

*Rex Eastment 1958 – 62*

## **Not so perfect prefects all for the sake of Music**

Several of us, as Prefects, had tried to record some current 'popular' music on tape in the Senior Common Room, but there was so much noise that we were unable to record anything properly, so we decided to go to what is now the Quiet Room and try recording there. I set the tape recorder up and we started to 'tune our voices' before starting the recording session with 'My Old man's a dustman.' We were in full voice when the door opened and who should appear but the Head. Those of us who saw him stopped singing but those with their backs to him continued to sing at the top of their voices. He shouted

"What the bloody hell do you think you are doing?"

We made a feeble excuse about not being able to record in the Senior Common Room because of the noise but were promptly told that we were all Prefects and should be setting a good example. He asked whose tape recorder it was. I stated that it was mine and he said he was confiscating it and would yet again be confiscating all radios and tape recorders at assembly in the morning. This was becoming a habit as was my unpopularity.

At half term I went to collect my tape recorder and on receipt from the Head made my way back to the Senior Common Room, followed by my fellow Prefects who had recorded that evening. We couldn't wait to play back our recording if only to hear the Head swearing at us, but guess what? He had wiped the tape clean.



*Rex Eastment*



## School News from the Headmaster

After all the good news reported in the May Newsletter, things have gone slightly 'flat' as we do the preparatory work for the new buildings. The architects (Stride Treglown) are putting forward designs for the new boarding house. This is (at the time of writing) likely to include two wings, each housing fifty boys, with fifty boys staying in School House. Initial thoughts make this a neat fit with our three houses of Galsworthy, Taylor and Walker. Construction work is not envisaged to start until late summer 2007 – why do building projects take quite so long?

The classroom project is slightly ahead of the boarding one. The builders, Spillers, hope to start work around Easter next year. If you have fond memories of the American buildings next to the farm, come and see them before they go! Rooms 1 – 4 will be demolished and rooms 5 and 6 moved, to make way for the new building. Once the new build is complete, rooms 7 (Art), 8 (History/RE/MFL), 9 (Geography), 10 (Physics) and 11 (Biology) will then be removed.



A Brymore boy of the future at the Open Day 2006

The Open Day was a wonderful day, especially for Old Brymorians. Over 150 'signed in' during the day at the Old Boys Lounge (formerly The Quiet Room/Library/Common Room depending on your age) and a buffet supper was well attended by Old Boys and their partners.

Open Day in 2007 will be on June 30<sup>th</sup> with the dinner (possibly) being an 'Old School Lunch' with favourites such as Liver and Bacon (Brymore liver, of course) and Spotted Dick and Custard – served in the Dining Room. Sounds too good to miss! Similarly, it is amazing just how many Old Brymarians you bump into or hear about. The committee members who helped at the publicity vehicle during the summer were busy all day, every day – talking to old boys! The school goes to the major shows (Bath and West, Royal Welsh, Three Counties etc) and many county and one day shows. Having Old Boys on the stand certainly meant it was busy. Do look out for it next summer, go and have a chat or, better still, volunteer to help! The stand won 'Best in Show' at The Dunster Show – all down to the 'gift of the gab' displayed by the Old Boys on the stand at the time! This is a tradition still adhered to at Brymore. The Somerset Young Farmers held their Public Speaking Competition here in November and the Brymore team won 'The Brains Trust' and now go on to represent Somerset in the South West Regional Finals in March.

Finally, enjoy the Festive Season and may your New Year be as exciting as we hope ours is going to be!

Malcolm Lloyd  
Headmaster

Photo Alain Lockyer



Summer 2006